

Pregnant worker and worried about TB and COVID-19

Pregnant and breastfeeding women may be exposed to diseases such as TB and COVID-19 which are passed from person to person through the air including at work. TB and COVID-19 in particular, can lead to various complications for the pregnant woman, foetus and the newborn (including breastfeeding implications) if the workplace does not have control measures and the pregnant worker is left untreated as indicated below:



Untreated TB and COVID-19 disease represents a greater hazard to a pregnant woman and her foetus. Pregnant woman who has COVID-19 and or TB is more likely to have severe diseases and deliver prematurely.



Infants born to women with untreated TB or COVID-19 may be of lower birth weight and, in rare circumstances the infant may be born with TB or COVID-19. Most information shows that it is safe to feed breast milk to your baby when you have COVID-19 or TB. Remember that breast milk is the best source of nutrition for babies.



The workplace should assess the risk associated with exposure to COVID-19 and TB. Employers should implement the controls in line with the risk assessment and provide education and training to pregnant workers.