

# IN FOCUS

## COVID-19 IN PREGNANT WOMEN

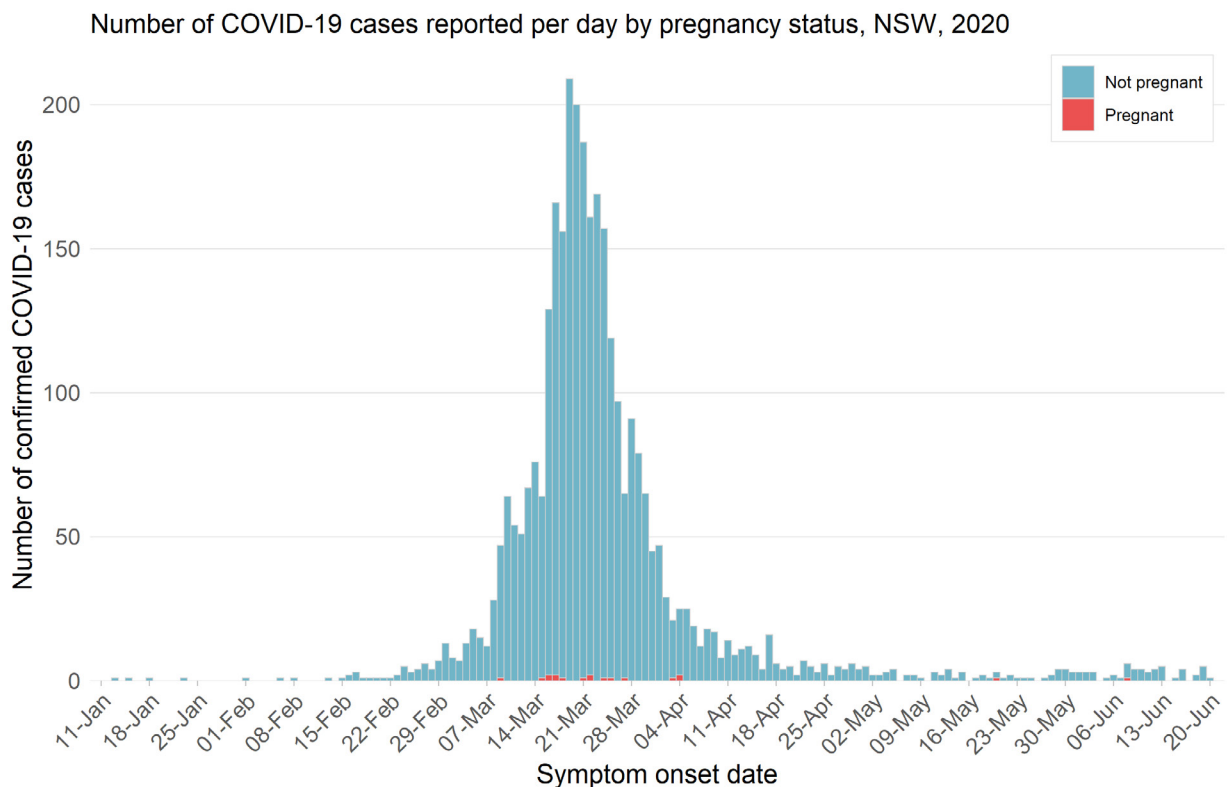
Reporting period: 1 January to 21 June 2020

This is a summary of all COVID-19 infections in pregnant women in NSW (including those who were infected overseas and those infected in NSW) in the period 1 January to 21 June 2020.

### How many pregnant women have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in NSW?

In total, 18 pregnant women have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in NSW, with six women in each trimester.

Each bar in the below figure shows the number of new cases in pregnant women based on the date of symptom onset.



**Interpretation:** Pregnant women were a very small proportion of all COVID-19 cases diagnosed to 21 June. The first pregnant woman diagnosed with COVID-19 developed symptoms on 9 March and the most recently diagnosed case developed symptoms on 8 June.

## How much testing is happening in pregnant women?

As pregnancy status is not routinely collected on test requests and people who test negative are not interviewed by public health staff, information on testing rates in pregnant women is not available. The below table shows the cases and testing in all females aged 15 to 45 years.

### COVID-19 cases and testing in females aged 15 to 45 years

Age group	Cases in females		Tests in females	% Positive tests (all females)
	Pregnant	Total		
<b>15-19</b>	0	32	14,818	0.2%
<b>20-24</b>	1	178	25,369	0.7%
<b>25-29</b>	6	196	34,103	0.6%
<b>30-34</b>	7	155	37,611	0.4%
<b>35-39</b>	4	108	38,956	0.3%
<b>40-45</b>	0	77	33,608	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>184,465</b>	<b>0.4%</b>

**Interpretation:** The low proportion (0.4%) of all females of child bearing age tested who were diagnosed with COVID-19 suggests low rates of infection among women of child bearing age.

## How are pregnant women getting infected?

All cases of COVID-19 are investigated by public health staff to understand the source of the infection. The table below shows the likely source of infection for cases among pregnant women.

### COVID-19 cases in pregnant women by source of infection to 20 June

Source of infection	Number of cases
Locally (in NSW)	11
- Household member/s	2
- Confirmed case/s outside the home	6
- Source not identified	3
Overseas	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>

Two cases were likely infected by adult household members. Of the six women likely infected outside the home, two were likely infected by a workplace colleague and the remaining three were part of known outbreaks in the community.

The three cases with an unknown source resided in metropolitan Sydney.

**Interpretation:** Approximately 60% of cases were acquired locally. Of those cases who acquired their infection in NSW, most have been linked to a known confirmed case or part of a known outbreak.

## Have pregnant Aboriginal women been infected?

No infections have been reported in pregnant Aboriginal women.

## What are the symptoms in pregnant women?

One case had no symptoms but was tested while in hotel quarantine after returning from overseas. Testing is not recommended for those without symptoms except in returning travellers or special settings when a case has been identified.

The table below shows the most commonly reported symptoms.

### Frequency of symptoms reported in pregnant women with COVID-19 prior to diagnosis, to 20 June

	Pregnant women (17 cases)	
Symptom	Number	Percentage
Headache	10	59%
Runny nose	9	53%
Sore throat	8	47%
Cough	8	47%
Fatigue	8	47%
Malaise	7	41%
Fever	7	41%
Body pain	6	35%
Shortness of breath	4	24%
Diarrhoea	3	18%
Joint pain	3	18%

**Interpretation:** The majority of the cases in pregnant women had respiratory symptoms prior to diagnosis. The 10 cases who reported headache as a symptom also reported respiratory symptoms and/or fever.

## How severe has the COVID-19 infection been in pregnant women?

None of the pregnant women required admission to hospital and no deaths have been reported.

## How many cases have recovered?

All 15 cases with information available have recovered.