

- Vaccination / Breast feeding / Immunity

## Get the jab, breastfeeding mums urged

New Straits Times · 11 Aug 2021 · 25

JAKARTA: Breastfeeding women should get themselves vaccinated to reduce the risk of contracting Covid-19, the health authorities here urged.



Head of the Public Health Division of the Jakarta Health Office Fify Mulyani said this during a discussion on breastfeeding here on Monday, Antara News agency reported.

“If you look at the current conditions, considering the risk of not being vaccinated against being vaccinated, of course, the choice is getting vaccinated,” Fify said.

Breastfeeding women were more likely to experience severe symptoms if infected with Covid19, she said.

The side effects of being inoculated would be the same as those experienced by people who are not breastfeeding, such as fever, soreness around the injection area, sleepiness and other common post-immunisation complaints, she said.

“The benefits of being vaccinated for breastfeeding women are greater than the risks.”

Earlier, Indonesian Pediatric Society official Wiyarni Pambudi said increased immunity and antibody levels had been seen in breastfeeding mothers who had received the Covid-19 vaccine.

“In mothers who had been vaccinated against Covid-19, it was found that levels of specific antibodies in breast milk increased rapidly within 14 days after the first dose of vaccination, getting stronger after week four and measurably higher at weeks five and six,” Wiryani said.

She also said mothers who were Covid-19 positive could still breastfeed their babies.

Research had shown that breast milk in Covid-19-positive mothers had a high antibody content, she said.

“In mothers who are confirmed positive, their breast milk contains immunoglobulin A and G, lactalbumin, lactoferrin, which can give protection.

“This is what is called natural passive immunisation, which Covid-19-positive mothers give to their babies,” Wiryani added.