

## Statement by Dr. David Prentice, VP and Research Director, Charlotte Lozier Institute

The warnings about excluding pregnant women from vaccine trials is standard operating procedure for ANY vaccine trial, not just Pfizer-BioNTech.

Pregnant women are routinely excluded from ALL vaccine trials, as are infants. Period. That is out of an abundance of caution, not because of any known risk.

There is another scare story circulating. A couple of doctors in Europe filed a claim with the European Medical Agency to stop the Pfizer trial because of potential fertility concerns. This story and its claims are simply not credible.

It started with a statement by Oxford Prof John Bell, who said: “These vaccines are unlikely to completely sterilize a population. They are very likely to have an effect which works in a %, say 60 or 70%.” By “sterilize” he means to rid the population of the virus and make the people immune, but the phrase was seized on by scaremongers who went looking for any connection to sterilization in terms of fertility, and voila, thought they had found a protein similarity.

They claimed a supposed similarity between the virus spike protein (the virus protein against which most of the COVID-19 vaccines are raised, not just Pfizer’s) and a protein that is expressed in the developing placenta called syncytin-1. They theorized that if the vaccine caused antibodies against spike, those might cross-react with the placental protein and inhibit placenta formation, causing infertility. But their evidence is faulty and claims unfounded.

We did our own protein database check on similarity of the two proteins and found that it was minimal. And the region of the proteins where the supposed similarity was found is actually buried in the protein structure, covered up so that it can’t cause an antibody reaction. The region of the spike protein against which antibodies are formed has no similarity to the placental protein.