
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility for Pregnant Individuals
Date: April 22, 2021
Pages: 2
To: Primary Care Providers, Obstetricians, Midwives
From: Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health & CEO

Background:

Evidence has shown that COVID-19 infection has a disproportionate impact on the health of pregnant women. Pregnant women with COVID-19 are more likely to be admitted to the intensive care unit or need invasive ventilation than non-pregnant women.¹ Compared to pregnant women without a COVID-19 infection, COVID-19 infection in pregnancy is also associated with preeclampsia, preterm birth, and stillbirth.²

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) supports [the consensus statement from the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada \(SOGC\)](#):

Women who are pregnant or breastfeeding should be offered vaccination at any time during pregnancy if they are eligible and no contraindications exist. This decision is based on the women's personal values and an understanding that the risk of infection and/or morbidity from COVID-19 outweighs the theorized and undescribed risk of being vaccinated during pregnancy or while breastfeeding. Women should not be precluded from vaccination based on pregnancy status or breastfeeding.³

In anticipation of a Provincial announcement to prioritize pregnant women for vaccination, WDGPH is now accepting referrals for COVID-19 vaccination appointments for individuals who are pregnant to prepare to operationalize this change.

The SOGC has also issued a [statement and recommendations for pregnant workers during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).⁴ All physicians, midwives and prenatal care providers are encouraged to review the recommendations within this statement to ensure that an individualized care plan for working during the pandemic is created for each pregnant worker in the context of the local epidemiological picture and vaccination status of the worker.

Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada Statements
[SOGC Statement on COVID-19 Vaccination in Pregnancy](#)
[SOGC Statement on Pregnant Workers during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Decision-Making Tools

[COVID-19 Vaccination in Pregnancy & Breastfeeding Decision-Making Clinical Support Tool](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccination in Pregnancy & Breastfeeding Patient Decision-Making Tool](#)

Physician Referral Process

If you have any patients in your practice who are pregnant and would like to receive a COVID-19 vaccination, please notify WDGPH by completing the attached form and faxing it to WDGPH's reportable disease fax line at **1-855-934-5463**. For multiple patients, you may submit a list directly from your EMR. Please include:

1. Name and contact information for patients **including pregnancy due date**
2. Contact name and number from the referring health care providers for follow up
3. Indicate "Vaccination Referral"

References

1. Qin Wei, S., Bilodeau-Bertrand, M. Liu, S. & Auger, N. The impact of COVID-19 on pregnancy outcomes: A systematic review and meta-analysis. CMAJ 2021 April 19. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1503/cmaj.202604>.
2. Allotey, J. et al. Clinical manifestations, risk factors, and maternal and perinatal outcomes of coronavirus disease 2019 in pregnancy: Living systematic review and meta-analysis. BMJ 2020 Sept 1. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.m3320>.
3. Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada. SOGC Statement on COVID-19 vaccination in pregnancy. December 18, 2020 (Reaffirmed: March 12, 2021). Available at: https://www.sogc.org/common/Uploaded%20files/Latest%20News/SOGC_Statement_COVID-19_Vaccination_in_Pregnancy.pdf.
4. Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada. SOGC Statement on pregnant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. November 19, 2020. Available at: [https://sogc.org/common/Uploaded%20files/Covid%20Information/SOGC%20Statement%20on%20Pregnant%20Workers%20during%20the%20COVID-19%20Pandemic%20\(November%202019,%202020\).pdf](https://sogc.org/common/Uploaded%20files/Covid%20Information/SOGC%20Statement%20on%20Pregnant%20Workers%20during%20the%20COVID-19%20Pandemic%20(November%202019,%202020).pdf).

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