

IMPORTANT UPDATES ON COVID-19

To: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Nurses, and Midwives
Hospital Infection Control Departments and Emergency Departments

Important updates are included in this alert.

Variants of Concern

Attached you will find a presentation prepared by Ontario Public Health on Variants of Concern.

Screening Form

We have created a fillable version of our COVID-19 screening form (attached). If you choose to use this model, we ask that you please print and fax to THU or your nearest Assessment Centre as you have been doing. The form will be available on our [website](#) shortly.

Pregnancy and vaccination

All pregnant individuals, regardless of gestation, are now eligible to register for vaccination appointments under the highest risk health conditions in the Phase 2 prioritization guidance. They can call THU at 1-866-747-4305 ext 6 or register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DBZ7FSB>.

It is recommended, but not required, that pregnant individuals have discussion with their treating health care provider, or with a health care provider familiar with their pregnancy, that includes:

1. a review of the potential risks and benefits of the vaccine,
2. a review of the risk of acquiring a COVID-19 infection during pregnancy,
3. a review of the potential risks /consequences associated with a COVID-19 infection during pregnancy, and
4. an acknowledgment of the limited evidence from clinical trials of COVID-19 vaccines in the pregnant population.

Please see the COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations for Special Populations for further details on COVID-19 vaccination for pregnant individuals.

Please Note:

- A letter from a health care provider is not required for vaccination.
- The extended dose interval of 16 weeks remains appropriate for this population.

Background:

- An increased number of critically ill pregnant individuals have been observed in Wave 3. During waves 1 and 2 most pregnant patients with moderate to severe COVID-19

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your local Timiskaming Health Unit:

Monday to Friday

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

New Liskeard

Tel: (705) 647-4305

Toll Free: (866) 747-4305

Fax: (705) 647-5779

Kirkland Lake

Tel: (705) 567-9355

Toll Free: (866) 967-9355

Fax: (705) 567-5476

**After-Hours or Weekend
On-Call Number**

(705) 647-3033

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HEALTHCARE PROVIDER ALERT

April 23, 2021



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associated disease had a pre-existing comorbidity; however, reports from clinicians indicate in wave 3 younger pregnant individuals with no co-morbidities are developing moderate to severe disease. Recent data from the UK, where the B.1.1.7 variant is dominant, confirm pregnant women with COVID-19 had greater likelihood to require respiratory support.

- This recommendation aligns with a Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (SOGC) request to prioritize pregnant individuals for COVID-19 vaccination, as they currently require intensive care at a rate higher than their non-pregnant cohort. Additionally, ventilator support in pregnancy is challenging, with greater risks to both mother and child. Finally, pregnant individuals with COVID-19 have an increased risk of premature delivery, caesarean delivery, and admissions of their babies to a neonatal unit.