

IMPORTANT UPDATES ON COVID-19

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

Important information on VIPIT is included in this alert. It is important to be aware of this rare but serious reaction as the Astra-Zeneca vaccine is now being given locally. Also, Covid-19 Vaccinations for Cancer patients in Northeast Ontario documents are attached to this alert.

Please find attached relevant information as well as testing and treatment algorithms relating to Vaccine-Induced Prothrombotic Immune Thrombocytopenia (VIPIT) as presented to public health on April 2, 2021. **Please note, there is no evidence at this time that people with pre-existing clotting disorders or risk factors are at higher risk of VIPIT as this is an immune-mediated reaction. VIPIT-induced blood clots occur 4 to 20 days after vaccination and they are associated with low platelets.** The article referenced in the slide deck can be found [here](#).

Other relevant information on COVID-19 Viral Vector-Based vaccines are included:

1. New Focus on: [COVID-19 Vaccines: Viral Vector-Based Vaccines](#)

Also attached are the Northeast Cancer Centre procedures and recommendations for Phase II of the Covid-19 vaccine rollout that includes HIGHEST RISK patients (post stem-cell transplant, hematologic malignancy diagnosis **within a year**) and HIGH RISK patients (any patient on immunosuppressive therapy such as immunotherapy, chemotherapy etc.):

1. *Covid Vaccine Recommendations NECC (April 3rd)*: This document (specifically the 3rd page) is an algorithm used by their nursing team to guide patients. Any patients with questions are encouraged to call 705-522-6237 x2900. In order to use this algorithm, the responder needs to understand which treatment a patient is taking, whether that treatment is chemotherapy/immunotherapy/targeted therapy/hormonal therapy/other and also understand the schedule of receiving the drug. For this reason, their team is best suited to help patients navigate these complex questions.
2. *Vaccine handout – Phase II NECC COCN sites*: This document will be given directly to patients to guide them and ensure they are prepared when they call to book their vaccines. The handout is available in both French and English.

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.

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