

# COVID-19 Immunization Update

For Health Care Providers in Oxford County, Elgin County,  
and the City of St. Thomas



Week of April 22, 2021

## An Update from Dr. Joyce Lock, Medical Officer of Health

*Please share with staff as appropriate.*

### Special Edition: What You Need to Know

- **Today, April 23**, the Ministry added all pregnant individuals as eligible to register for vaccination appointments under highest risk health conditions. Important guidance to share with pregnant patients:
  - Individuals may choose to receive the vaccine at any time during their pregnancy. However, essential consideration should be made for those in the later stages of their pregnancy.
  - 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.
  - Review:
    - [COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations for Special Populations](#)
    - [Statement to support health care-patient and vaccinator-patient discussions regarding risks and benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine](#) (Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada)
  - **Notes:**
    - A letter from a health care provider is **not** required for vaccination.
    - The extended dose interval of 16 weeks remains appropriate for this population.
    - The Province's Prioritization Guidance and website will be updated in the coming days to reflect this change in prioritization for pregnant individuals. **Appointments can be booked as of April 23.**
- For individuals who are eligible due to a highest-risk or high-risk health condition – including those eligible for pregnancy - we have updated verbiage to clarify primary essential caregiver eligibility:

- If the individual requires regular and sustained assistance and support for personal care and/or activities of daily living, then their one (1) primary essential caregiver is also eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- The Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table has developed guidance for vaccine-induced prothrombotic immune thrombocytopenia (VIPIT) (or, vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenic, VITT), particularly as it relates to the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. Patients may present with cerebral sinus vein thrombosis, or with other arterial or venous clots.
  - Review:
    - [Emergency Medicine/In-Patient Settings](#) guidance
    - [Outpatient Settings](#) guidance
    - A [lay summary](#) is for use when speaking with patients