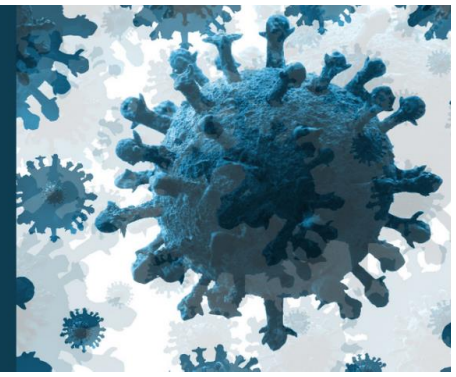


COVID-19 Immunization Update

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