



Dear Early Years and Child Care Operator,

I am reaching out on behalf of Halton Region Public Health to request your support in promoting COVID-19 vaccination among people of reproductive years.

What we know:

- Most pregnant individuals who become infected with SARS-CoV-2 will have mild-to-moderate symptoms and many can be asymptomatic
- Canadian and international data from large studies demonstrate that approximately 7-11% of pregnant women will require hospitalization for COVID-related morbidity and between 1-4% of pregnant women require admission to an intensive care unit (ICU)
- Pregnant women are at increased risk of admission to hospital, critical care and invasive ventilation
- The risk of severe morbidity from COVID-19 in pregnant women appears to be associated with risk factors including age ≥ 35 years old, asthma, obesity, preexisting diabetes, preexisting hypertension and heart disease
- Canadian and US data show an increased risk of preterm birth associated with COVID-19 infection in pregnancy
- The Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Ontario (SOGC) recommends that pregnant individuals should be offered vaccination against COVID-19 at any time during pregnancy or while breastfeeding if no contraindications exist

[\(Ref: SOGC Statement on COVID-19 Vaccination in Pregnancy, May 25th, 2021\)](#)

How can you make a difference?

You are a trusted service provider in our community. You play a significant role in supporting and protecting the well-being of people in their reproductive years. We are looking for your support in raising awareness of the impact of the COVID-19 and promoting vaccine related resources to assist clients make an informed decision about getting vaccinated.

Please consider:

- Engaging in conversations with your clients about the importance of getting the COVID-19 vaccine
- Sharing the resources below with your clients
- Joining the campaign: #RollUpYourSleevesHalton. Share and promote key messages related to COVID-19 vaccinations for pregnant and breastfeeding people.

Key messages for people in their reproductive years:

- Vaccines are a routine standard of care for adults and children in Canada and are safe (whooping cough and flu vaccines)
- Infection from the COVID-19 virus is preventable with vaccination
- Pregnant people are at increased risk of complications, including premature birth, from COVID-19

Regional Municipality of Halton

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- While pregnant people were not included in the COVID-19 original studies, many have now received the vaccine without evidence of harm
- The Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Ontario (SOGC) recommends that pregnant people should be offered vaccination against COVID-19 at any time during pregnancy or while breastfeeding if no contraindications exist
- The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends a complete two-dose vaccine series with an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine
- The COVID-19 vaccine is free and available to anyone over 12 years+
- We all have a collective responsibility in stopping the spread of COVID-19
#RollUpYourSleevesHalton!

Resources

These resources aim to raise awareness about COVID-19 vaccination and its benefits, and help service providers respond to questions.

1. Preconception, Pregnancy and Breastfeeding COVID-19 Vaccination Resources
 - Halton Region fact sheet: COVID-19 Vaccine: [Preconception, Pregnancy and Breastfeeding](#) (available in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [French](#), [Punjabi](#), [Spanish](#) and [Urdu](#))
 - The Ministry of Health: [Vaccination in Pregnancy & Breastfeeding Patient Decision-Making Tool](#)
2. Halton Region Social Media Resources: COVID-19 Vaccine in pregnancy and breastfeeding graphics - Instagram, Facebook & Twitter
3. Halton Region Testimonial Videos: [#RollUpYourSleevesHalton-Videos](#)
4. Halton Region Testimonial Posters: [#RollUpYourSleevesHalton-Posters](#)
5. Additional COVID-19 Vaccination Resources
 - Halton Region fact sheet: [COVID-19 What you Need to Know](#) (available in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [French](#), [Punjabi](#), [Spanish](#) and [Urdu](#))
 - Halton Region fact sheet: [Myth vs Fact](#)
 - Halton Region fact sheet: [What to expect after getting the COVID-19 vaccine](#) (available in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [French](#), [Punjabi](#), [Spanish](#) and [Urdu](#))
 - Halton Region fact sheet: [Get Your Second Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
 - Halton Region FAQs: [COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions](#)
6. Reminder messages for newsletters and emails
 - **COVID-19 and pregnancy concerns? [Pregnant and breastfeeding individuals should be vaccinated!](#)** Pregnancy may increase your risk of serious illness from COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines have not been linked to infertility or

miscarriage, and may protect breastfeeding babies. For more information, visit: halton.ca/COVIDvaccines.

- **Vaccines are our best shot at beating COVID-19!** All approved vaccines were authorized by Health Canada after many tests to make sure they are safe and effective. For more information, visit halton.ca/COVIDvaccines
- **Don't delay, get your COVID-19 vaccine!** All authorized COVID19 vaccines are safe and effective in preventing serious illness, hospital visits and death. Make sure to get both doses to protect yourself, your family and our community from the virus. For more on vaccine safety: halton.ca/COVIDvaccines
- **Haven't received your COVID-19 vaccination yet?** You can book an appointment at any one of Halton's vaccination clinics. The vaccines are authorized by Health Canada and were tested for safety and effectiveness on thousands of people. Visit halton.ca/COVIDvaccines for more information and to book your appointment.
- **Worried about COVID-19 vaccine side effects?** Mild symptoms are common after you get the COVID-19 vaccine. Pain at the injection site, muscle soreness or headache are normal signs that the vaccine is working. Serious side effects are very rare - vaccines are safe and the best way to protect yourself from the virus. For more information, visit: halton.ca/COVIDvaccines
- **COVID-19 vaccines are safe; all safety procedures were followed!** The vaccines were developed and approved quickly because of technology, funding, and scientists, governments and industry working together. Health Canada has approved COVID-19 vaccines because they are safe, effective, and of good quality. For more information, visit: halton.ca/COVIDvaccines

*To order print materials, please email covidresources@halton.ca with the following information:

- Contact and Organization Name
- Mailing Address
- Type of material
- Number of prints requested per material

The materials will be mailed directly to you and should arrive within seven days

Thank you for working with us to address vaccine hesitancy and increase vaccine uptake in individuals in their reproductive years.

Sincerely,

Halton Region Public Health