Information Bulletin for Healthcare Providers

COVID-19 Vaccination in Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women

Version date: January 19, 2021

INTRODUCTION

This information bulletin provides relevant information on COVID-19 vaccination in pregnant and breastfeeding women. It also includes a link to the most recent Canadian data which provides evidence to support that pregnant women who are infected with COVID-19 are at an increased risk of hospitalization and admission to ICU. In a metaanalysis of 77 studies of pregnant and immediate postpartum women, increased maternal age, high body mass index, chronic hypertension, and pre-existing diabetes were associated with severe COVID-19 in pregnancy. Pre-existing maternal comorbidity was a risk factor for admission to an intensive care unit and invasive ventilation (Allotey et al). For 2019-2020, approximately 33% of pregnant women in New Brunswick had one or more of these comorbidities.

COVID-19 information and data are rapidly evolving and changing as the pandemic continues. For pregnant and breastfeeding women, it is important that they have the most up to date information and data in order to make an informed decision regarding the COVID-19 vaccination and whether to receive while pregnant or breastfeeding.

PerinatalNB supports pregnant and breastfeeding women being able to access the vaccine without barriers such as a letter from a health care provider.

Documents and reports are available by clicking on the hyperlinks.

CANADIAN REPORT


Infographics- Canadian Surveillance of COVID-19 in Pregnancy: Epidemiology, maternal and infant outcomes

CURRENT STATEMENTS

Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada:

Statement on COVID-19 Vaccination in Pregnancy 11 JAN 2021

Consensus Statement: Women who are pregnant or breastfeeding should be offered vaccination at anytime if they are eligible and no contraindications exist. This decision is based on the women’s personal values and an understanding that the risk of infection and/or morbidity from COVID-19 outweighs the theorized and
undescribed risk of being vaccinated during pregnancy or while breastfeeding. Women should not be precluded from vaccination based on pregnancy status or breastfeeding.

Public Health Agency of Canada- National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI)

Recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines 12 JAN 2021

NACI recommends that a complete vaccine series with a COVID-19 vaccine may be offered to pregnant individuals in the authorized age group if a risk assessment deems that the benefits outweigh the potential risks for the individual and the fetus, and if informed consent includes discussion about the absence of evidence on the use of COVID-19 vaccine in this population.

NACI recommends that a complete vaccine series with a COVID-19 vaccine may be offered to individuals in the authorized age group who are breastfeeding, if a risk assessment deems that the benefits outweigh the potential risks for the individual and the infant, and if informed consent includes discussion about the absence of evidence on the use of COVID-19 vaccine in this population.

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Vaccinating Pregnant and Lactating Patients Against COVID-19 - 21 DEC 2020

ACOG recommends that COVID-19 vaccines should not be withheld from pregnant individuals who meet criteria for vaccination based on ACIP-recommended priority groups.

COVID-19 vaccines should be offered to lactating individuals similar to non-lactating individuals when they meet criteria for receipt of the vaccine based on prioritization groups outlined by the ACIP.

While a conversation with a clinician may be helpful, it should not be required prior to vaccination, as this may cause unnecessary barriers to access.

Society of Maternal Fetal Medicine

Statement: SARS-CoV-2 Vaccination in Pregnancy 01 DEC 2020

Provider Considerations for Engaging in COVID-19 Vaccine Counseling 21 DEC 2020

CDC

Interim Considerations for COVID-19 Vaccination of Healthcare Personnel and Long-Term Care Facility Residents

Evidence suggests that pregnant women are potentially at increased risk for severe COVID-19-associated illness and death compared to non-pregnant women, underscoring the importance of disease prevention in this population. Given the predominance of women of child-bearing potential among the healthcare workforce, a substantial number of HCP are estimated to be pregnant or breastfeeding at any given time. Currently, there are no data on the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines in these populations to inform vaccine recommendations. Further considerations around use of COVID-19 vaccines in pregnant or breastfeeding HCP will be provided once data from phase III clinical trials and conditions of FDA Emergency Use Authorization are reviewed.
REFERENCES


