

January 25, 2021

COVID-19 Vaccine: Enhanced Consent for Clients who are Immunosuppressed, have an Autoimmune Condition, are Pregnant &/or Breastfeeding

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends that the COVID-19 vaccine may be offered to people who are immunosuppressed due to disease or treatment, to people who have an autoimmune condition, or to those who are pregnant and/or breastfeeding providing certain conditions are met. Persons in these special populations may be immunized if a risk assessment deems that the benefits outweigh the potential risks for the individual and if informed consent includes a discussion about the lack of, or limited evidence pertaining to, the use of COVID-19 vaccine in these groups.

A suite of evidence-based documents are available for persons in these special populations that are considering getting the COVID-19 vaccine, as well as for immunizers and health care providers. This includes:

- COVID-19 Vaccine Public Health Factsheet
- COVID-19 Vaccine Public Health Factsheet for Pregnant &/or Breastfeeding Individuals
- COVID-19 Immunization Standard Consent Form
- COVID-19 Immunization Enhanced Consent Form

The above resources are available at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/resources.html> and are subject to change based on evolving evidence.

Patients/clients who fall into one or more of the following categories must complete the **COVID-19 Immunization Standard Consent Form** AND the **COVID-19 Immunization Enhanced Consent Form**:

1. Immunosuppressed due to disease or treatment
2. Autoimmune disorder
3. Pregnant and/or breastfeeding

The **COVID-19 Immunization Enhanced Consent Form** must be signed by both the patient/client and, the immunizer or health care provider who is obtaining enhanced consent.

For immunizers and health care providers, the **COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Practice Guidelines for use in Special Populations** is available online at:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/healthcare-professionals.html> and is subject to change based on evolving evidence. These **Clinical Practice Guidelines** contain pertinent information about the enhanced consent process, including:

- Stepwise information about the two pathways for clients to provide enhanced consent, including:

1. At the point of immunization in discussion with the immunizer; or,
 2. At a virtual or in-person appointment with a health care provider before the immunization appointment.
- The risks and benefits for pregnant &/or breastfeeding clients.
 - The risks and benefits of vaccination for clients who are immunosuppressed and/or who have an autoimmune condition.
 - Individuals who should NOT be immunized and require further consult.
 - Links to a multitude of resources and professional societies for more information (e.g., National Advisory Committee on Immunization, the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada, Canadian Rheumatology Association, etc.).

Information about Manitoba's COVID-19 Immunization Program including vaccine eligibility criteria, immunization clinics, questions and answers and a summary statistics chart can be found at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/index.html>.

Sincerely,

"Original signed by"

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