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CMOH Memo - pregnancy priority third dose

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Ministry of Health

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Date: January 4, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: Medical Officers of Health and Associate Medical Officers of Health
Hospital CEOs
Provincial Pregnancy Stakeholders (Provincial Council for Maternal and Child Health, Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada, Association of Ontario Midwives, College of Midwives, Better Outcomes and Registry Network)
Sarah Hobbs, Alliance for Healthier Communities
Kavita Mehta, Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario
Caroline Lidstone-Jones, Indigenous Primary Health Care Council
Katie Hogue, Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic Association
Kim Moran, Ontario College of Family Physicians
Allie Kinnaird, Section of General and Family Practice-OMA
Allan O'Dette, Ontario Medical Association
Dr. Jim Wright, Ontario Medical Association
Justin Bates, Ontario Pharmacists Association
Sandra Hanna, Neighbourhood Pharmacy Association of Canada

RE: *Prioritization of booster vaccines in pregnancy*

As the Omicron variant is spreading rapidly in Ontario, we have accelerated the roll out of booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine to adults aged 18 years and older who are now eligible to receive their booster three months after their primary series.

Pregnant women are recommended to receive COVID-19 vaccine and are also recommended to receive a booster dose. Pregnant women in Ontario are also eligible to receive their booster dose at three months after their last dose. We know that vaccine uptake among pregnant women is not as high as in other populations, despite their risk for severe illness if infected with COVID-19.

We are asking clinicians caring for pregnant women to **strongly encourage** their patients to get vaccinated, including their booster dose to prevent risk of severe outcomes with Omicron.

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We are also asking vaccine clinics in primary care and acute care to prioritize appointments for pregnant women to facilitate their timely receipt of their booster vaccine due to the current epidemiology in the province.

Additional information and resources on [COVID-19 vaccines in pregnancy](#) is available on the Government of Ontario website.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support to keep Ontarians safe.

Sincerely,

Kieran Michael Moore, MD, CCFP(EM), FCFP, MPH, DTM&H, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chief Medical Officer of Health

