



## COVID-19 TESTING IN CLIENTS

**Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing and Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) is available at pharmacies for those who are eligible.**

- Midwifery Practice Groups (MPGs) can [access free RAT kits from the Provincial Antigen Testing Program \(PATP\) here](#).
- Clients who are pregnant or who have been recently pregnant are eligible for testing as they are at risk for severe COVID-19.
  - Smoking, mental health disorders, and obesity are also considered conditions eligible for testing.
- Find your [closest testing site here](#).

## COVID-19 TREATMENT FOR CLIENTS

**Guidance Updates:**

- Immunization remains recommended. [Clients can book appointments here](#)
- Recommendations for antivirals are mixed; [ACOG](#) and Ontario Health's [Infectious Disease Advisory Committee \(IDAC\)](#) advise weighing risks and benefits of antiviral use in pregnant populations, while [SOGC](#) does not include guidance on the use of antivirals.

**Antivirals can be accessed through a physician, nurse practitioner or pharmacist.**

- Consultation is available through [eConsult](#) or [VaxFacts+ Clinic](#).
- Remdesivir may be administered at home through [Ontario Health AtHome](#).

## COVID-19 AND CLIENT CARE PLAN

**Pregnancy, intrapartum and postpartum [guidance continues unchanged](#), and the care pathway may include:**

- Testing and coordinating antivirals for clients in the community and in hospital.
- Hospitalization based on severity of COVID-19 symptoms.
- Management of potential preterm labour or stillbirth.
- Monitoring fetal growth and/or additional fetal surveillance.
- Considering thromboprophylaxis.

## RESEARCH

**Research evidence relevant to COVID-19 disease and pregnancy:**

- RAT may be [negative if done immediately after symptom onset](#); viral load may not have risen sufficiently to meet the sensitivity threshold.
- COVID-19 during pregnancy [has been associated with an increased risk of post-COVID-19 Condition](#) (also called long-COVID).
- Comorbidities such as [hypertensive disorders or diabetes may be increased](#) in clients with COVID-19 disease.
- CDC [resources for clients on using antivirals](#) even if they are not hospitalized can support informed choice for clients.

# Routine Practices During Respiratory Virus Season



Provide masks to clients and families



Hand hygiene



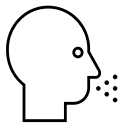
Masking and/or personal protective equipment



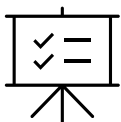
Point-of-care assessment/screening of clients



Cleaning and sterilization measures in clinic



Respiratory etiquette when coughing or sneezing



Maintain IPAC policies and procedures



# Additional Guidance & Resources

Most  
Recent

ACOG offers a recorded webinar from Aug 2024 on how to [Prepare Your Clinics and Pregnant Patients for Fall and Winter Respiratory Virus Season](#), including COVID-19 guidance and [time stamped FAQ on COVID-19 management](#).

Dynamed has summarized guidance on [COVID-19 and Pregnant Patients](#) from a variety of sources. (Updated August 2024)

The Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) has included a chapter on [COVID-19 and Pregnancy](#) (Chapter 4) in their 2024 recommendations for the management of obstetric emergencies.

Royal College of Midwives & Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists have published guidance on [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Infection in Pregnancy](#) with an algorithm for management on page 2. (Published March 2022)

The Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine has developed guidance on [Management Considerations for Pregnant Patients with COVID-19](#) (2021) and [COVID-19 and Pregnancy: What Maternal-Fetal Medicine Subspecialists Need to Know](#). (2022)

The SOGC webpage with resources on [COVID-19 in Pregnancy](#) was last updated in 2023 while the [Committee Opinion No.400: COVID-19 and Pregnancy](#) was reaffirmed in 2021, with guidance on management on page 6 -8.

Less  
Recent



# Links to Guidance & Resource



Association of  
Ontario **Midwives**  
*Delivering what matters.*

<p>Dynamed has summarized guidance on COVID-19 and Pregnant Patients <a href="#">COVID-19 and Pregnant Patients</a> from a variety of sources. (Updated August 2024)</p>	<p><a href="https://www.dynamed.com/condition/covid-19-and-pregnant-patients#GUID-2EF0C81C-3C99-4D06-A8C4-D7B8AE223C73">https://www.dynamed.com/condition/covid-19-and-pregnant-patients#GUID-2EF0C81C-3C99-4D06-A8C4-D7B8AE223C73</a></p>
<p>Royal College of Midwives &amp; Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists have published guidance on <a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection in Pregnancy</a> with an algorithm for management on page 2. (Published March 2022)</p>	<p><a href="https://www.rcog.org.uk/media/xsubnsma/2022-03-07-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-in-pregnancy-v15.pdf">https://www.rcog.org.uk/media/xsubnsma/2022-03-07-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-in-pregnancy-v15.pdf</a></p> <p>Algorithm for management (page 2) <a href="https://app.magicapp.org/#/guideline/LqgJ3E">https://app.magicapp.org/#/guideline/LqgJ3E</a></p>
<p>The Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine has developed guidance on <a href="#">Management Considerations for Pregnant Patients with COVID-19</a> (2021) and <a href="#">COVID-19 and Pregnancy: What Maternal-Fetal Medicine Subspecialists Need to Know</a>. (2022)</p>	<p><a href="https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn.smfm.org/media/2734/SMFM_COVID_Management_of_COVID_pos_preg_patients_2-2-21_(final).pdf">https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn.smfm.org/media/2734/SMFM_COVID_Management_of_COVID_pos_preg_patients_2-2-21_(final).pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn.smfm.org/media/3559/COVID19-What_MFMs_need_to_know_%286-21-22%29_final.pdf">https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn.smfm.org/media/3559/COVID19-What_MFMs_need_to_know_%286-21-22%29_final.pdf</a></p>
<p>The Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) has included a chapter on <a href="#">COVID-19 and Pregnancy</a> (Chapter 4) in their recommendations for the management of obstetric emergencies.</p>	<p><a href="https://iris.paho.org/bitstream/handle/10665.2/60343/9789275128510_eng.pdf?sequence=5&amp;isAllowed=y">https://iris.paho.org/bitstream/handle/10665.2/60343/9789275128510_eng.pdf?sequence=5&amp;isAllowed=y</a></p>
<p>The SOGC webpage with resources on <a href="#">COVID-19 in Pregnancy</a> was last updated in 2023 while the <a href="#">Committee Opinion No.400: COVID-19 and Pregnancy</a> was reaffirmed in 2021, with guidance on management on page 6 -8.</p>	<p><a href="https://sogc.org/en/content/COVID-19/COVID-19.aspx?WebsiteKey=4d1aa07b-5fc4-4673-9721-b91ff3c0be30&amp;44b78f3d10f1=1#44b78f3d10f1">https://sogc.org/en/content/COVID-19/COVID-19.aspx?WebsiteKey=4d1aa07b-5fc4-4673-9721-b91ff3c0be30&amp;44b78f3d10f1=1#44b78f3d10f1</a></p> <p>Page 6 -8 <a href="https://sogc.org/common/Uploaded%20files/Latest%20News/Committee%20Opinion%20No.%20400%20COVI">https://sogc.org/common/Uploaded%20files/Latest%20News/Committee%20Opinion%20No.%20400%20COVI</a></p>
<p>ACOG offers a recorded webinar from Aug 2024 on how to <a href="#">Prepare Your Clinics and Pregnant Patients for Fall and Winter Respiratory Virus Season</a>, including COVID-19 guidance.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.acog.org/education-and-events/webinars/prepare-your-clinics-and-pregnant-patients-for-fall-and-winter-respiratory-virus-season">https://www.acog.org/education-and-events/webinars/prepare-your-clinics-and-pregnant-patients-for-fall-and-winter-respiratory-virus-season</a></p>