



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 information [regarding testing here](#).

COVID-19 TREATMENT FOR CLIENTS

Guidance Updates:

- Immunization remains recommended. [Clients can book appointments here](#). The [VaxFacts+ Clinic](#) is available for supplementary client counselling.
- Recommendations for antivirals are mixed; ACOG [recommends antivirals be prescribed for those at high risk of progressing to severe disease](#), while Ontario Health's [Infectious Disease Advisory Committee \(IDAC\)](#) recommends an individualized approach with a multidisciplinary team for pregnant and chest/breastfeeding populations. [SOCG](#) has not issued guidance on the use of antivirals.

[Antivirals can be accessed](#) through a physician, nurse practitioner or pharmacist.

- Consultation is available through [eConsult](#) or your local consult pathways.

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 or 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.

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.

Routine Practices During Respiratory Virus Season



Provide masks to clients and families



Hand hygiene



Masking and/or personal protective equipment



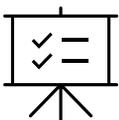
Point-of-care assessment/screening of clients



Cleaning and sterilization measures in clinic



Respiratory etiquette when coughing or sneezing



Maintain IPAC policies and procedures

