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in procedures for any month of 2020 compared with previous years based on referral source. We identified significant increases in March by indication (patient choice only [40 vs mean 25 for 2017–2019] and not for pregnancy loss or anomaly). Procedure volume increased significantly in gestations of 15 weeks or more in March and April 2020 (mean 60 in 2017–2019 vs 97 in 2020; 61% increase), mainly from procedures at 20 weeks or more (mean 26 compared with 63, respectively; 145% increase). Of 105 patients (all in April and May) who had COVID-19 testing, none had a positive result.

**CONCLUSION:** During the initial COVID-19 surge, our Northern California tertiary reproductive health referral center experienced a significant increase in abortion referrals in February and March 2020, correlating with a significant overall increase in procedures during March and April 2020, the initial peak months of COVID-19 cases in the United States. These data come from a region with relatively low COVID-19 infection rates during the months analyzed; it is possible that service availability in areas with higher infection burden was affected differently. The increase in referrals and procedures during the initial surge of this pandemic may just be an extreme of the normal variations we experience from month to month and year to year; we will not be able to discern this limitation until we have data for another 1 to 2 years. At a minimum, for now, we can conclude that the need for tertiary-level abortion care does not decline during the pandemic. Legislation aimed at restricting abortion access during the pandemic are contrary to patient need. ■

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The authors report no conflict of interest.

The project described was supported by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, National Institutes of Health (NIH), through grant number UL1 TR001860 and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, through grant number NIEHS ES023513. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NIH.

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## Prioritization of pregnant individuals in state plans for coronavirus disease 2019 vaccination



**OBJECTIVE:** The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers pregnant people to be at high-risk for severe disease and death from coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that pregnant individuals should be prioritized for vaccination in Phase 1c of vaccine allocation.<sup>1</sup> However, various state vaccination plans have not been uniform in the adoption of the ACIP priority group recommendations. Prior research found 15 states included pregnancy among other COVID-19 priority groups,<sup>2</sup> but planning has been highly dynamic in recent weeks. The objectives of this study were to determine how many states prioritize pregnant individuals for COVID-19 vaccination and assess the current eligibility of pregnant people to receive COVID-19 vaccinations across the United States.

**STUDY DESIGN:** We searched for information about the priority groups for COVID-19 vaccinations from all 50 states

in the United States and the District of Columbia on March 6, 2021. Our analysis included information from official government websites. This study did not require institutional review board approval because it examined data from publicly available sources and used no patient information.

**RESULTS:** As of March 6, 2021, most states (36 of 51; 73%) classified pregnant individuals as a priority group for COVID-19 vaccination; in just under 50% of the states (24 of 51), pregnant people are currently eligible for vaccination (Table). The 36 states prioritizing pregnancy encompass 76% of the US population. Of these states, 23 refer to the CDC's classification of pregnant people as being at an elevated risk for severe COVID-19 illness. Several states (9 of 51; 18%) prioritize groups at elevated risk for severe COVID-19 illness because of preexisting health conditions but have not specifically enumerated pregnant people as a priority group. Four states have designed their prioritization plan around an

**TABLE**  
**State prioritization of pregnant individuals for coronavirus disease 2019 vaccination**

State	Priority (phase) <sup>a</sup>	Current eligibility <sup>b</sup>	Population <sup>c</sup>	Source
Alabama	Yes (1c)	No	4,903,185	<a href="https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19vaccine/distribution.html">https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19vaccine/distribution.html</a>
Alaska	Yes (1b)	Yes	731,545	<a href="http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/epi/id/pages/COVID-19/vaccine.aspx">http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/epi/id/pages/COVID-19/vaccine.aspx</a>
Arizona <sup>d</sup>	No	No	7,278,717	<a href="https://azgovernor.gov/governor/news/2021/03/state-adopts-unique-hybrid-model-covid-19-vaccine-prioritization">https://azgovernor.gov/governor/news/2021/03/state-adopts-unique-hybrid-model-covid-19-vaccine-prioritization</a>
Arkansas	Yes (1c)	No	3,017,804	<a href="https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/covid-19-vaccination-plan">https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/covid-19-vaccination-plan</a>
California	Yes (1c)	No	39,512,223	<a href="https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines/#California's-vaccination-plan">https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines/#California's-vaccination-plan</a>
Colorado	Yes (1b)	Yes	5,758,736	<a href="https://covid19.colorado.gov/for-coloradans/vaccine/vaccine-for-coloradans">https://covid19.colorado.gov/for-coloradans/vaccine/vaccine-for-coloradans</a>
Connecticut	No	No	3,565,287	<a href="https://portal.ct.gov/vaccine-portal/COVID-19-Vaccination-Phases">https://portal.ct.gov/vaccine-portal/COVID-19-Vaccination-Phases</a>
Delaware	No	No	973,764	<a href="https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/vaccine/vaccination-timeline/#phase-1b">https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/vaccine/vaccination-timeline/#phase-1b</a>
Florida	No	No	21,477,737	<a href="https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/covid-19-vaccines-in-florida/">https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/covid-19-vaccines-in-florida/</a>
Georgia	No	No	10,617,423	<a href="https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-vaccine">https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-vaccine</a>
Hawaii	No	No	1,415,872	<a href="https://hawaii-covid19.com/vaccine/#first-vaccines">https://hawaii-covid19.com/vaccine/#first-vaccines</a>
Idaho	No	No	1,787,065	<a href="https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/covid-19-vaccination">https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/covid-19-vaccination</a>
Illinois	Yes (1b+)	Yes	12,671,821	<a href="https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccine-distribution">https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccine-distribution</a>
Indiana	No	No	6,732,219	<a href="https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/vaccine/index.htm">https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/vaccine/index.htm</a>
Iowa	Yes (1b)	Yes	3,155,070	<a href="https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus/Vaccine/Information-for-the-Public">https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus/Vaccine/Information-for-the-Public</a>
Kansas	Yes (3)	No	2,913,314	<a href="https://www.kansasvaccine.gov/157/Availability">https://www.kansasvaccine.gov/157/Availability</a>
Kentucky	Yes (1c)	Yes	4,467,673	<a href="https://govstatus.egov.com/ky-covid-vaccine">https://govstatus.egov.com/ky-covid-vaccine</a>
Louisiana	Yes (1b)	Yes	4,648,794	<a href="https://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/faq/category/138">https://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/faq/category/138</a>
Maine	No	No	1,344,212	<a href="https://www.maine.gov/covid19/vaccines/phases">https://www.maine.gov/covid19/vaccines/phases</a>
Maryland	No	No	6,045,680	<a href="https://covidlink.maryland.gov/content/vaccine/">https://covidlink.maryland.gov/content/vaccine/</a>
Massachusetts	Yes (2)	Yes	6,892,503	<a href="https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccinations-for-individuals-with-certain-medical-conditions">https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccinations-for-individuals-with-certain-medical-conditions</a>
Michigan	Yes (1c)	No	9,986,857	<a href="https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/MI_COVID-19_Vaccination_Prioritization_Guidance_2152021_716344_7.pdf">https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/MI_COVID-19_Vaccination_Prioritization_Guidance_2152021_716344_7.pdf</a>
Minnesota	Yes (1b)	No	5,639,632	<a href="https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/phase1b1c2.pdf">https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/phase1b1c2.pdf</a>
Mississippi	Yes	Yes	2,976,149	<a href="https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,22816,420,976.html">https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,22816,420,976.html</a>
Missouri	Yes (1b)	Yes	6,137,428	<a href="https://covidvaccine.mo.gov/priority/Phase1b/#phase1b-2">https://covidvaccine.mo.gov/priority/Phase1b/#phase1b-2</a>

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(continued)

**TABLE****State prioritization of pregnant individuals for coronavirus disease 2019 vaccination** (continued)

State	Priority (phase) <sup>a</sup>	Current eligibility <sup>b</sup>	Population <sup>c</sup>	Source
Montana	No	No	1,068,778	<a href="https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi/diseases/coronavirusmt/covid19vaccineavailability">https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi/diseases/coronavirusmt/covid19vaccineavailability</a>
Nebraska	No	No	1,934,408	<a href="https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/COVID-19-Vaccine-Information.aspx#SectionLink2">https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/COVID-19-Vaccine-Information.aspx#SectionLink2</a>
Nevada	Yes	Yes	3,080,156	<a href="https://www.immunizenevada.org/county-specific-covid-19-vaccine-plan">https://www.immunizenevada.org/county-specific-covid-19-vaccine-plan</a>
New Hampshire	Yes (1b)	Yes	1,359,711	<a href="https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/covid19-vaccine-allocation-plan-summary.pdf">https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/covid19-vaccine-allocation-plan-summary.pdf</a>
New Jersey	Yes (1b)	Yes	8,882,190	<a href="https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/slowing-the-spread/who-is-eligible-for-vaccination-in-new-jersey-who-is-included-in-the-vaccination-phases">https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/slowing-the-spread/who-is-eligible-for-vaccination-in-new-jersey-who-is-included-in-the-vaccination-phases</a>
New Mexico	Yes (1b)	Yes	2,096,829	<a href="https://cv.nmhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021.1.28-DOH-Phase-Guidance.pdf">https://cv.nmhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021.1.28-DOH-Phase-Guidance.pdf</a>
New York	Yes (1b)	Yes	19,453,561	<a href="https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/phased-distribution-vaccine#phase-1a—phase-1b">https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/phased-distribution-vaccine#phase-1a—phase-1b</a>
North Carolina	Yes (group 4)	No	10,488,084	<a href="https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines/providers/covid-19-vaccine-management-system-cvms">https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines/providers/covid-19-vaccine-management-system-cvms</a>
North Dakota	Yes (1b)	Yes	762,062	<a href="https://www.health.nd.gov/covid-19-vaccine-priority-groups">https://www.health.nd.gov/covid-19-vaccine-priority-groups</a>
Ohio	Yes (1c)	Yes	11,689,100	<a href="https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/covid-19-vaccination-program">https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/covid-19-vaccination-program</a>
Oklahoma	No	No	3,956,971	<a href="https://oklahoma.gov/covid19/vaccine-information.html">https://oklahoma.gov/covid19/vaccine-information.html</a>
Oregon	Yes (1b)	Yes	4,217,737	<a href="https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le3527A.pdf">https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le3527A.pdf</a>
Pennsylvania	Yes (1a)	Yes	12,801,989	<a href="https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Vaccine/Pages/Distribution.aspx">https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Vaccine/Pages/Distribution.aspx</a>
Rhode Island	Yes	No	1,059,361	<a href="https://health.ri.gov/publications/guidelines/COVID19-underlying-conditions.pdf">https://health.ri.gov/publications/guidelines/COVID19-underlying-conditions.pdf</a>
South Carolina	Yes (1b)	No	5,148,714	<a href="https://scdhec.gov/covid19/covid-19-vaccine">https://scdhec.gov/covid19/covid-19-vaccine</a>
South Dakota	Yes (1d)	Yes	884,659	<a href="https://doh.sd.gov/documents/COVID19/Vaccine/COVIDVaccineAvailability_Distribution.pdf">https://doh.sd.gov/documents/COVID19/Vaccine/COVIDVaccineAvailability_Distribution.pdf</a>
Tennessee	Yes (1c)	No	6,829,174	<a href="https://covid19.tn.gov/covid-19-vaccines/vaccine-phases/#1c">https://covid19.tn.gov/covid-19-vaccines/vaccine-phases/#1c</a>
Texas	Yes (1b)	Yes	28,995,881	<a href="https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine.aspx#eligible">https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine.aspx#eligible</a>
Utah	No	No	3,205,958	<a href="https://coronavirus.utah.gov/vaccine-distribution/#eligibility">https://coronavirus.utah.gov/vaccine-distribution/#eligibility</a>
Vermont	Yes (5A)	No	623,989	<a href="https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/about-covid-19-vaccines-vermont#conditions">https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/about-covid-19-vaccines-vermont#conditions</a>
Virginia	Yes (1b)	Yes	8,535,519	<a href="https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine/#phase1b">https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine/#phase1b</a>
Washington	Yes (1b)	No	7,614,893	<a href="https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/VaccineInformation/AllocationandPrioritization">https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/VaccineInformation/AllocationandPrioritization</a>
Washington D.C.	Yes (1c)	Yes	705,749	<a href="https://coronavirus.dc.gov/vaccine">https://coronavirus.dc.gov/vaccine</a>

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(continued)

TABLE

## State prioritization of pregnant individuals for coronavirus disease 2019 vaccination (continued)

State	Priority (phase) <sup>a</sup>	Current eligibility <sup>b</sup>	Population <sup>c</sup>	Source
West Virginia	Yes (2a)	Yes	1,792,147	<a href="https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/Vaccine.aspx#timeline">https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/Vaccine.aspx#timeline</a>
Wisconsin	No	No	5,822,434	<a href="https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-about.htm">https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-about.htm</a>
Wyoming	Yes (1b)	Yes	578,759	<a href="https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/immunization/wyoming-covid-19-vaccine-information/">https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/immunization/wyoming-covid-19-vaccine-information/</a>

Results of the review of state prioritization planning for pregnant individuals. Data were collected on March 6, 2021, and may not represent recent changes in planning or eligibility.

COVID-19, coronavirus disease 2019.

<sup>a</sup> Phase listed refers to the first phase or subphase in which pregnant individuals are prioritized for vaccination. These have been rounded to the nearest subphase when divided into subphase tiers. States which do not follow a clear, phased approach to vaccination but still prioritize pregnant individuals are listed only as "Yes." When pregnant individuals are prioritized across multiple phases, they are listed here under the earliest phase in which they are enumerated; <sup>b</sup> Eligibility varies in some states at the county level. Results here refer to eligibility of pregnant individuals in at least some counties within a state, even if there are additional requirements such as multiple, high-risk health states or an age threshold. States were not enumerated if they rely on reference from a physician to determine vulnerability to COVID-19 without specific mention of pregnancy; <sup>c</sup> Population counts obtained from 2019 US Census Bureau Data (<https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2019/national-state-estimates.html>); <sup>d</sup> At the time of plan analysis, Arizona was transitioning toward an age-based approach to COVID-19 vaccine eligibility and not all government resources had been updated to reflect this policy adjustment. Our analysis reflects the anticipated age-based approach.

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age-descending strategy, and 2 states list only current or near eligible groups, and pregnant people are not included.

**CONCLUSION:** Most states classify pregnant individuals as a priority group for initial COVID-19 vaccinations, and in almost 50% of the states, they are currently eligible to receive vaccines. These results differ substantially from previous findings published in early February 2021, which found that 15 of the 51 jurisdictions had prioritized pregnant individuals.<sup>2</sup> The increased prioritization of pregnant people for COVID-19 vaccination marks important progress—it is both ethically imperative and supported by recommendations from professional US obstetrics societies and the CDC.<sup>3,4</sup> Continued efforts to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines for pregnant people require, at minimum, that all states prioritize pregnancy as equal with the CDC-listed, high-risk health conditions based on the available, objective data.

Even where pregnant people are eligible for COVID-19 vaccinations, personal decision making is complicated by the overall lack of pregnancy-specific safety data. Vaccine studies among pregnant people are underway and early registry data are reassuring. To date, pregnancy outcomes among nearly 2000 vaccinated pregnant people are no different from those in the general population, suggesting that the messenger RNA vaccines have no adverse effects on pregnancy.<sup>5</sup> Pregnant people deserve the clearest possible guidance from public health agencies about their eligibility for COVID-19 vaccinations and whether the likely benefits of vaccination during pregnancy outweigh the risks. ■

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The authors report no conflict of interest.

This study received no financial support.

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# Polycystic ovary syndrome and breast cancer subtypes: a Mendelian randomization study



**OBJECTIVE:** Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is a common disorder among reproductive aged women and is characterized by hyperandrogenism, oligo-ovulation, and polycystic ovaries. PCOS is associated with health conditions such as obesity and diabetes mellitus. Regarding its effect on breast cancer, epidemiologic studies have yielded inconsistent results. Mendelian randomization (MR) is an approach that uses genetic variants as instrument variables to investigate the causal relationship between risk factors and diseases. Compared with observational studies, MR can overcome confounding and reverse causation because genetic variants are randomized at conception. Here, we conducted a 2-sample MR study to estimate the causal effect of PCOS on breast cancer subtypes.

**STUDY DESIGN:** We obtained 14 independent single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) from a genome-wide meta-analysis of 10,074 PCOS cases and 103,164 controls of European ancestry.<sup>1</sup> A palindromic (A/T) SNP rs853854 with an allele frequency of ~50% was excluded. We included SNP rs2349415, which was initially identified in a Chinese genome-wide association study (GWAS) and was significantly ( $P = 9.6E-06$ ) associated with PCOS in the European meta-analysis.<sup>1</sup> GWAS summary statistics on breast cancer subtypes were obtained from the Breast Cancer Association Consortium with 133,384 cases and 113,789 controls of European ancestry.<sup>2</sup> The primary MR analysis was conducted using the random-effect inverse-variance weighted (IVW) method. Sensitivity analyses included MR pleiotropy residual sum and outlier (MR-PRESSO), weighted median, and MR-Egger. Cochran's Q test was used to test the heterogeneity of the causal estimates. Additional sensitivity analyses were performed with exclusion of 2 PCOS SNPs (rs9696009 and rs2271194) associated with

body mass index (BMI) at  $P < .0001$  in a large GWAS for BMI.<sup>3</sup> Analyses were performed using R 3.6.3 (R Foundation, Vienna, Austria) and “TwoSampleMR”<sup>4</sup> and “MR-PRESSO” packages.<sup>5</sup> An institutional review board approval was not required because this study used publicly available data.

**RESULTS:** According to the primary MR analyses by IVW, genetically predicted PCOS increases the risk of luminal A-like, luminal B/human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2)-negative-like, and luminal B-like subtypes, but does not increase the risk of HER2-enriched-like and triple-negative subtypes (Figure). MR-Egger regression and Cochran's Q test showed no evidence of directional pleiotropy except for luminal B-like (intercept 0.068; intercept  $P = .03$ ;  $Q = 24.32$ ;  $P_Q = .03$ ; MR-PRESSO global test,  $P = .04$ ). The MR-PRESSO outlier test suggested SNP rs11225154 might be an outlier ( $P = .13$ ). After removing rs11225154, a positive association was still observed between PCOS and luminal B-like subtype (odds ratio, 1.19; 95% confidence interval, 1.06–1.33;  $P = .003$ ), with no evidence of pleiotropy (intercept  $P = .07$ ;  $Q = 17.94$ ;  $P_Q = .12$ ). In the sensitivity analysis excluding 2 instrument variable SNPs (rs9696009 and rs2271194) associated with BMI, we obtained the same results as those using all PCOS SNPs (data not indicated).

**CONCLUSION:** Our MR study suggests an increased risk of luminal A-like, luminal B/HER2-negative-like, and luminal B-like subtypes of breast cancer among women with PCOS. Hyperandrogenism and insulin resistance may play a role in this association because they are risk factors for both PCOS and breast cancer. Our findings are consistent with a recent study wherein genetically predicted PCOS was associated with estrogen receptor (ER) positive rather than ER