



**Public Health
Services**

CAPITAL HEALTH

Public Health Services
7 Mellor Avenue, Unit #5
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September 16, 2014

Dear Colleague,

RE: New online prenatal education tool NovaScotia.WelcometoParenting.com

Through the *Welcome to Parenting* website, the Department of Health and Wellness has provided **free** access to information and resources for pregnant women and families. Public Health's prenatal classes will be phased out, with the labour and delivery and breastfeeding components available in Capital district until December 31, 2014.

We recognize that some expectant mothers and families need supports beyond what an online tool offers. We strongly encourage you to refer families to us if you are concerned about their life circumstances during pregnancy and early parenting.

When do I refer pregnant women to Public Health?

- If a patient needs extra support due to life challenges i.e. struggling to make ends meet, social isolation, food insecurity and/or substandard housing.

How do I refer?

- Fax your referral to 902-481-5904
- Include a brief description of the family, including your concerns and any specific reasons for the referral.
- Public Health will assess the client's needs, identify programs and resources for support, and will inform you of the outcome.

We will send brochures and posters to help you promote NovaScotia.WelcometoParenting.com. These will arrive with your vaccine shipment over the next few weeks; if you will not be receiving vaccine, call 902-481-5842 to order the materials.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

Sincerely,

Robin Taylor, MD, PhD, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health

Michelle Pickles
Manager, Healthy Development Unit

CC: Gaynor Watson-Creed, Medical Officer of Health