

Ministry of Health

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Ministère de la Santé

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**Instructions issued by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health**

WHEREAS under subsection 2(2.1) of Schedule 1 and Schedule 4 of [O. Reg. 364/20: Rules for Areas at Step 3 and at the Roadmap Exit Step](#) under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020* (ROA) the person responsible for a business or organization that is open shall operate the business or organization in compliance with any advice, recommendations and instructions issued by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (OCMOH):

- a) requiring the business or organization to establish, implement and ensure compliance with a COVID-19 vaccination policy; or
- b) setting out the precautions and procedures that the business or organization must include in its COVID-19 vaccination policy.

AND WHEREAS:

- some employees, staff, contractors, volunteers, and students, at Children's Treatment Centres (CTCs), as well as and persons who provide services in an Education and Community Partnership program at remain unvaccinated, posing risks to other staff and service recipients;
- vaccines provide the best protection against COVID-19; and
- the protection of service recipients and staff of CTCs from COVID-19 disease also enhances the protection of other community members by reducing the risk of disease transmission during an outbreak.

AND HAVING REGARD TO the prevalence of the Delta variant of concern globally and within Ontario, which has increased transmissibility and disease severity than previous COVID-19 virus strains, in addition to the declaration by the World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11, 2020 that COVID-19 is a pandemic virus and the spread of COVID-19 in Ontario.

I AM THEREFORE OF THE OPINION that instructions from the OCMOH must be issued to establish mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policies in Children's Treatment Centres.

Date of Issuance: August 30, 2021

Effective Date: Every Covered Organization (as defined below) must establish a COVID-19 vaccination policy by no later than September 23, 2021 and implement it by no later than September 23, 2021.

Issued To:

- Children’s Treatment Centres [CTCs] funded under the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017* (CYFSA) to deliver services (including “children’s rehabilitation services”) for children and youth with special needs;
- Third parties that have entered into a contract with CTCs to provide “children’s rehabilitation services” for children and youth with special needs.

(collectively the “**Covered Organizations**”).

Required Precautions and Procedures

1. Every Covered Organization must establish, implement and ensure compliance with a COVID-19 vaccination policy requiring its employees, staff, contractors, volunteers students, and persons who provide services in an Education and Community Partnership program (herein referred to as “**Required Individuals**”) to provide:
 - a) proof of full vaccination^[1] against COVID-19; or
 - b) written proof of a medical reason, provided by a physician or registered nurse in the extended class that sets out: (i) a documented medical reason for not being fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and (ii) the effective time-period for the medical reason; or
 - c) proof of completing an educational session approved by the Covered Organization about the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination prior to declining vaccination for any reason other than a medical reason. The approved session must, at minimum address:
 - i. how COVID-19 vaccines work;
 - ii. vaccine safety related to the development of the COVID-19 vaccines;
 - iii. the benefits of vaccination against COVID-19;
 - iv. risks of not being vaccinated against COVID-19; and

^[1] For the purposes of this document, “fully vaccinated” means having received the full series of a COVID-19 vaccine or combination of COVID-19 vaccines approved by WHO (e.g., two doses of a two-dose vaccine series, or one dose of a single-dose vaccine series); and having received the final dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days ago.

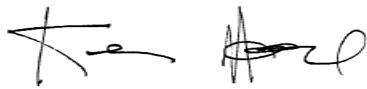
- v. possible side effects of COVID-19 vaccination.
2. Despite paragraph 1, a Covered Organization may decide to remove the option set out in paragraph 1(c) and require all Required Individuals to either provide the proof required in paragraph 1 (a) or (b).
 3. Where a Covered Organization decides to remove the option set out in paragraph 1(c) as contemplated in paragraph 2, the Covered Organization shall make available to the Required Individuals an educational session that satisfies the requirements of paragraph 1(c).
 4. Every Covered Organization's vaccination policy shall require that where a Required Individual does not provide proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in accordance with paragraph 1(a), but instead relies upon the medical reason described at paragraph 1(b) or the educational session at paragraph 1(c), the Required Individual shall:
 - a) submit to regular antigen point of care testing for COVID-19 and demonstrate a negative result, at intervals to be determined by the Covered Organization, which must be at minimum once every seven days
 - b) provide verification of the negative test result in a manner determined by the Covered Organization that enables the Covered Organization to confirm the result at its discretion.
 5. Every Covered Organization must collect, maintain, and disclose statistical (non-identifiable) information as follows:
 - a) documentation that includes (collectively, "the Statistical Information"):
 - i. the number of Required Individuals that provided proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19;
 - ii. the number of Required Individuals that provided a documented medical reason for not being fully vaccinated against COVID-19;
 - iii. the number of Required Individuals that completed an educational session about the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination in accordance with paragraph 1(c), where applicable; and
 - iv. the total number of the Covered Organization's Required Individuals to whom these Instructions apply.
 - b) disclose the Statistical Information to the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) in the manner and within the timelines specified by MCCSS. MCCSS may seek additional detail within the requested Statistical

Information outlined above which will also be specified in the request. MCCSS may further disclose this Statistical Information and may make it publicly available.

Questions

Covered Organizations may contact their MCCSS program supervisor or ministry contact with questions or concerns about these Instructions.

Covered Organizations are also required to comply with applicable provisions of the [Occupational Health and Safety Act](#) and its Regulations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Moore', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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