

Aug 14, 2021

CALTC Supports Mandating COVID-19 Vaccines



The Canadian Association for Long Term Care (CALTC) supports its members: provincial long-term care associations and long-term care operators in mandating COVID-19 vaccinations for all staff and ancillary caregivers supporting long-term care residents. CALTC additionally echo's the call its provincial members have made about mandatory vaccines for

all staff across the health care sector, not just in long-term care.

Homes across Canada have implemented infection, prevention and control protocols including educating staff and following all public health measures for homes. Mandatory vaccines represent another important line of defense as homes continue to face challenges as a result of COVID-19.

At this time, the number of long-term care employees who are unvaccinated is the minority of the workforce. Operators of long-term care homes have addressed vaccine hesitancy through employee education and offered support for any barriers preventing employees from becoming vaccinated. We acknowledge the potentially small percentage of staff and essential caregivers who may be unable to accept the vaccine and will need to be accommodated while following provincial protocols.

Operators are committed to ensure a safe environment for all. Given the impact of COVID-19 on residents in homes and efforts made to support employee vaccination to date, CALTC supports long-term care operators who choose to implement a mandatory vaccine policy for staff and ancillary caregivers as another safeguard against COVID-19.

It is also necessary to recognize the stress staff have undergone over the past seventeen months. The COVID-19 vaccine provides an extra measure of protection for staffing levels in recognition of ongoing challenges in recruitment and retention.

CALTC members will continue to work with provincial governments to ensure residents, staff and families are kept safe. CALTC commits to support vaccination uptake, not only for long-term care employees and ancillary caregivers, but also in the community's our homes are a part of, to help limit community spread that threatens friends and families.

For more information about COVID-19 vaccines visit www.canada.ca/PHAC/COVID-19