



Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination of Health Care Providers

Background:

COVID-19 continues to have a demonstrable impact on health care delivery in Canada, given emerging and more contagious variants and vaccination rates levelling off. across Canada, the mandatory vaccination of health care workers is an additional measure to protect patients, the health workforce and health care system capacity. Higher rates of vaccination will reduce the burden of COVID-19 in our communities and bolster ongoing pandemic management efforts.

Policy Issue:

It is in the interests of themselves, their patients, and the health care delivery system for health care providers to be vaccinated to reduce or stop opportunities for COVID-19 to spread.

Policy Position:

In the interest of ensuring the delivery of safe patient care, and recognizing the danger posed by new and existing SARS-Cov 2 variants, the Canadian Association of Optometrists supports the mandatory vaccination of health care providers against COVID-19.

CAO recognizes that in exceptional circumstances, which could arise from certain medical conditions or religious beliefs, vaccination may not be feasible, and exemptions may be necessary. In such circumstances, CAO encourages the implementation of all other infection control measures including masking, frequent testing, screening, contact tracing and quarantine as directed by local, provincial, and federal health authorities.

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