

Ministry of Health

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**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Public Hospitals

FROM: Dr. Kieran Moore
Chief Medical Officer of Health

Dr. Christopher Simpson
Executive Vice-President, Chief Medical Executive, Ontario Health

DATE: September 15, 2023

SUBJECT: Hospital Administration of COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccines

The purpose of this memo is to outline the continued engagement we are asking from Ontario hospitals to support ongoing provincial COVID-19 and influenza vaccination efforts.

The Ontario government will continue to offer COVID-19 vaccines, including the newly authorized XBB formulation, and will continue to monitor the latest evidence and expert recommendations and advise of any additional guidance or future changes to the COVID-19 vaccine program.

This Fall, to ensure health system capacity and reduce the risk of severe outcomes, it is critical that hospital workers and at-risk patient groups are up to date with their COVID-19 and influenza vaccines as we head into the respiratory illness season.

We ask all Ontario hospitals to make a concerted effort to support the upcoming Fall 2023 campaign by vaccinating hospital staff, hospitalized patients, and out-patients as appropriate. At the same time, we encourage hospitals to explore opportunities for the co-administration of influenza and COVID-19 vaccines. As soon as influenza and the recommended XBB COVID-19 vaccines are available, expected at the end of September 2023, hospitals will be prioritized for doses for hospitalized individuals and staff. We are also asking that vaccine administrators enter COVID-19 data into COVaxON in a timely manner to ensure accuracy in records and prevent errors.

We know Ontario's COVID-19 vaccine program has been highly effective but as immunity wanes over time, continued vaccination against COVID-19, particularly in at-risk populations,

is expected to protect the most vulnerable and healthcare capacity. The [COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance](#) will be updated for Fall 2023, please refer to this resource for the most up-to-date recommendations.

The Ministry of Health will continue to provide eligible hospitals with operating funding for COVID-19 vaccine administration in 2023-24 fiscal year. As in previous years, this funding will support hospitals with extraordinary costs related to the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine. Full details and processes will be communicated separately.

We will continue to keep you informed and encourage you to work in collaboration with your local public health units and Ontario Health Teams to ensure a comprehensive regional plan for Fall 2023.

Thank you again for your tireless efforts and dedication unwavering commitment to providing healthcare while protecting the health of our most vulnerable and keeping our communities safe.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kieran Moore
Chief Medical Officer of Health



Dr. Christopher Simpson
Executive Vice-President, Chief Medical Executive
Ontario Health

c: Dr. Catherine Zahn, Deputy Minister of Health, MOH
Mr. Matthew Anderson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Health
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Dr. Daniel Warshafsky, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, MOH
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