

August 31, 2021

MEMORANDUM TO: Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS)
service providers and/or licensees

FROM: Jeff Gill
Director, East Region

RE: **MCCSS COVID-19 Updates**

As always, I want to acknowledge and thank you for your continued leadership and ongoing work supporting vulnerable people in Ontario during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ontario continues with its vaccination program and rollout, and amidst a rapid spread of the Delta variant, our number one priority remains getting as many Ontarians vaccinated as possible. This memorandum provides new and updated information about immunization measures for programs offered by MCCSS services providers.

Vaccination Policy

On August 30, 2021, the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) issued Letters of Instruction on COVID-19 Vaccination Policy requirements to MCCSS, which are applicable to specific service providers and organizations. A copy of the Letter of Instruction is included with this package for your reference.

MCCSS will require service providers or organizations identified in the CMOH Letter of Instruction to establish and implement a COVID-19 vaccination policy for employees, staff, contractors, volunteers, and students, as well as persons who provide services in an Education and Community Partnership program by no later than September 23, 2021.

Additional details to support policy development and implementation can be found in the *COVID-19 Vaccination Policy - Guidelines for Implementation (attached)*.

Service providers and organizations will also be required to track and report back to the ministry on the implementation of the immunization policy and provide aggregated, depersonalized statistical information on a regular basis. The first reporting deadline will be October 7, 2021, with monthly reporting thereafter. Details on the reporting mechanism will be provided in the near future.

Placing agencies and/or agencies who contract with a third party for the provision of services, are asked to please share this information with any unlicensed outside paid resources (OPRs)/third parties who will also be required to comply with the policy requirement. Service providers will be required to incorporate this into their existing oversight of these parties. This will include facilitating third party reporting on implementation and aggregated information for which future additional details will also be provided.

Order Updates

Note: applies to developmental services, intervenor services, violence against women and anti-human trafficking sectors.

Changes have been made to the following orders under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020*:

a) EXTENSION and AMENDMENT: – Ontario Regulation 177/20 – Congregate Care Settings

This regulation continues to be in effect and has been extended until September 17, 2021. An amendment has been made to the Order:

Employees who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 will be exempt from the one employer rule, if they have provided proof to their employer that they are fully vaccinated. The exemption does not apply if there is an outbreak, which will help prevent transmission and support active COVID-19 case management.

Fully vaccinated is defined as:

- (a) they have received the full series of a COVID-19 vaccine, or combination of COVID-19 vaccines, approved by the World Health Organization; and,
- (b) they received their final dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days ago.

The amendment to 177/20 comes into effect 30 days after filing and is subject to renewal of the Order. Thirty days after filing is September 23, 2021.

b) EXTENSIONS: - Ontario Regulations 121/20 – Service Agencies Providing Services and Supports to Adults with Developmental Disabilities and Service Providers Providing Intervenor Services and 145/20 – Work Deployment Measures for Service Agencies Providing Violence Against Women Residential Services and Crisis Line Services

These orders continue to be in effect and have been extended until September 17, 2021.

As the government continues to re-examine the measures in place, it is critical that all organizations continue to operationally prepare should the orders not be extended, in

whole or in part, beyond September 17, 2021. Development of a transition plan for a return to fulfilling regular operational requirements is key.

It is also MCCSS' continued expectation that, in unionized places of employment, agency employers continue to engage in good faith dialogue with their bargaining agents. It is also expected that all employers will consult with the joint health and safety committee or health and safety representative, if any, and consider their recommendations before developing, establishing and putting into effect any new or additional measures and procedures related to COVID-19.

Should you have any questions about this information, please reach out to your Program Supervisor or ministry contact.