

Dear Colleagues,

January 7, 2021

With the start of the New Year, vaccines are top of mind as we navigate through COVID-19, working together and in collaboration with our healthcare partners will be essential to vaccinate staff and those we support.

**To help this happen we invite you to:**

- Register for the January 14<sup>th</sup> [webinar](#) to learn more about how we can deliver a better outcome for those we support
- Complete a short [survey](#) by January 13<sup>th</sup> so that we are able to build upon current systems and ensure that Ontario residents and staff have equitable access to the vaccines

Last year ended with news of the approval of two COVID-19 vaccines. The province is now responsible for the [management and distribution](#) of the vaccine. Given the importance of timely, consistent and accurate information, the Provincial Network is working to support our sector by providing vetted information resources to assist you in your efforts to inform the individuals we support, their families and our staff.

The webinar January 14<sup>th</sup> will introduce you to our four sub-committees and share their work in garnering information about education, human resources, distribution and prioritization. The committee is working to secure a healthcare subject matter expert to address questions on the science and impact of COVID-19 vaccines.

Chuck Hofley, a lawyer and partner at Hicks Morley, will also be a guest speaker and available to answer questions. Attached is a legal opinion on 'mandatory vaccinations' developed at the request of the OASIS Labour Relations Committee. Please consult your own legal counsel to determine your decisions.

Also embedded above as a link is a survey that is intended to ensure timely delivery of the vaccine to our sector, to do this we need your help and information about the current vaccine structures and processes that are in place. Completing the survey provides the crucial information to help understand existing structures that can support vaccine distribution.

As the province implements the vaccine rollout, please know that some communities are prioritizing our sector and our efforts through a thoughtful approach. The goal is to advance the distribution of the vaccine to vulnerable populations utilizing an ethics framework. This means that vaccine supply or geography may influence the rollout. More information will be available at the webinar.

Additional documents, resources and information will be stored on the [RealExchange](#) and [Connectability](#) as it becomes available – stay tuned and visit the sites for more information.

Sincerely,

Bryan Keshen and Lorrie Heffernan  
CO-Chairs, Provincial Network Vaccine Work Group

Cc: Michelle Brooks, Chair, Provincial Network