

Waterloo Region IPAC Information Sharing Call

For MCCSS Funded Agencies

September 15, 2021

HOSTED BY: IPAC CO-LEAD CHAMPIONS, WATERLOO REGION



ANN BILODEAU
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WELCOME

IPAC Information Sharing Call

PURPOSE: to share information (practices, protocols, policies) among peers, allow for some general discussion and “Q & A”, and help to enable local connections within our sector to support sharing and strengthening IPAC practices.

WHO WE ARE: As the IPAC Co-Champions for MCCSS Funded Organizations in Waterloo Region, KW Hub and Sunbeam participate in several IPAC Hub networks and sector committees, and we are here to act as a resource to you to assist with information, referrals and references related to COVID-19 pandemic precautions and related Infection Prevention and Control practices.

SPECIAL GUEST: Today’s agenda includes a few minutes with **Dr. Kevin Stinson**. Dr. Stinson is an Infection Control Practitioner & the Waterloo-Wellington IPAC Hub Lead, with St. Mary’s General Hospital. Dr. Stinson will speak about strategies for addressing vaccine hesitancy and education with front line direct support staff.

Agenda

TOPIC	TIME	FACILITATOR
Ministry of Health revisions to COVID-19 symptoms list for active screening	1:05	Heather Leisegang, RN Manager, Clinical Support Services, Sunbeam Karen Klee, RN Health Consultant, KW Hab
Status of eligibility for COVID-19 third dose booster vaccination	1:10	Brian
New reporting requirement from MCCSS: vaccination rates for congregate care residents	1:15	Heather & Karen
MCCSS COVID-19 vaccination policy memo & guidelines	1:25	Brian
Strategies for addressing vaccine hesitancy & education with front line direct support staff	1:40	Dr. Kevin Stinson
Rapid Antigen Testing	1:55	Heather & Karen
About the Waterloo Region IPAC Training & Development Initiative	2:10	Ann
Late Breaking Updates & Wrap Up	2:15	Brian

Ministry of Health revision to COVID-19 symptoms for active screening

Symptoms Requiring Self-Isolation and COVID-19 Testing:

- **Fever** (37.8°C or higher) and/or **chills**
- **Cough** that is new or worsening
- **Shortness of Breath**
- **New olfactory or taste disorder** (decrease or loss of smell or taste)

+ **Children only:** nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea
+ **Adults only:** unexplained fatigue, lethargy, malaise, muscle aches/pains



*If a person is a high-risk contact:

- Other less common symptoms of COVID-19 would then be considered for testing and isolation (headache, sore throat, nasal congestion, runny nose, pink eye, abdominal pain)

USEFUL LINKS

Ministry of Health “COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms” updated August 26, 2021:

https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_reference_doc_symptoms.pdf

Ministry of Health “Visitor Signage” updated August 26, 2021:

https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_signs_EN_visitors.pdf

Status of eligibility for COVID-19 third dose booster vaccination

Ontario Government Announcement, [August 17, 2021](#):

Based on the recommendation of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and health experts, the province will begin offering third doses of a COVID-19 vaccine to select vulnerable populations:

- Transplant recipients (including solid organ transplant and hematopoietic stem cell transplants)
- Patients with hematological cancers (examples include lymphoma, myeloma, leukemia) on active treatment (chemotherapy, targeted therapies, immunotherapy) for malignant hematologic disorders
- Recipients of an anti-CD20 agent (e.g. rituximab, ocrelizumab, ofatumumab)
- Residents of high-risk congregate settings including long-term care homes, higher-risk licensed retirement homes and First Nations elder care lodges

FYI – the Waterloo Region DS Planning Table sent a Vaccine Booster Advocacy letter to Waterloo Region Public Health requesting specific consideration of boosters for persons served in our sector (link below). Verbal update on response.

USEFUL LINKS

Ontario Government Announcement re: eligibility for 3rd dose booster vaccinations: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/backgrounder/1000751/ontarios-updated-covid-19-vaccination-eligibility>

Vaccine Booster Advocacy Letter Sent to Waterloo Region Public Health from the WR DS Planning Table: <https://sunbeamcommunity.ca/2021/08/25/local-advocacy-for-prioritization-of-individuals-living-with-developmental-disabilities-for-covid-19-booster-vaccine-dose/>

Expanded Eligibility for Third Doses of the COVID-19 Vaccine (cont'd)

Update from the Ontario Government, [September 14, 2021](#):

Based on the recommendation of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and in alignment with NACI's recommendation, the province will begin offering third doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to [additional vulnerable populations](#):

- Those undergoing active treatment for solid tumors;
- Those who are in receipt of chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-T-cell;
- Those with moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome);
- Stage 3 or advanced untreated HIV infection and those with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; and
- Those undergoing active treatment with the following categories of immunosuppressive therapies: anti-B cell therapies (monoclonal antibodies targeting CD19, CD20 and CD22), high-dose systemic corticosteroids, alkylating agents, antimetabolites, or tumor-necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitors and other biologic agents that are significantly immunosuppressive.

USEFUL LINKS

Ontario Gov't Announcement re: expanded eligibility for 3rd dose booster: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/backgrounder/1000805/expanded-eligibility-for-third-doses-of-the-covid-19-vaccine>

New Reporting Requirement from MCCSS: Vaccination Rates for Congregate Care Residents

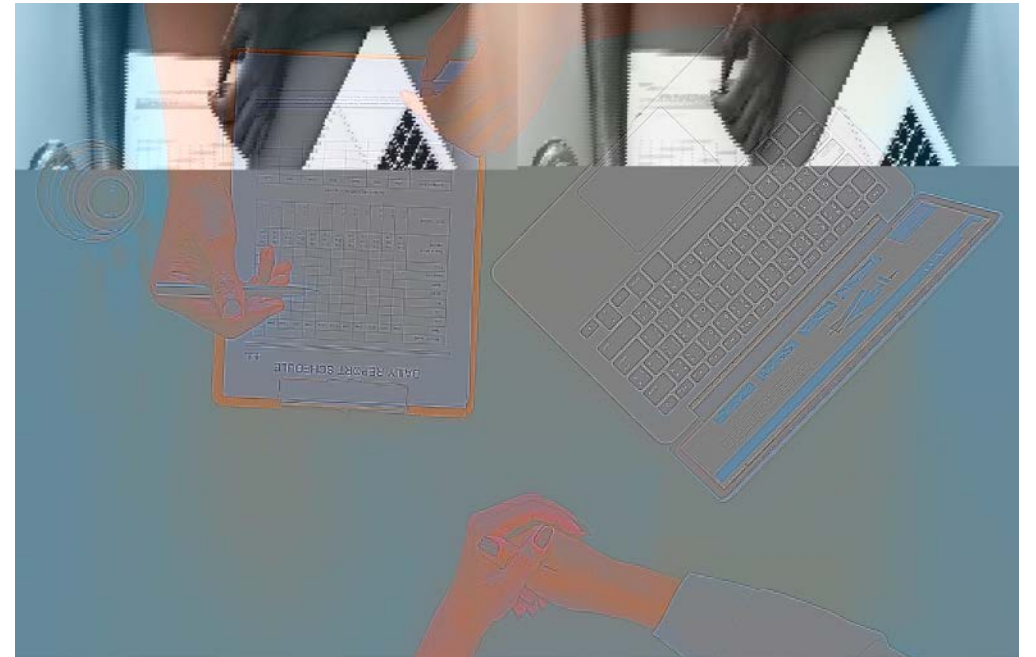
Tracking Vaccination Rates

- Total number of residents
 - Number of residents > 12 years old
 - Number of residents < 12 years old

Monthly Reporting

- Online form to be submitted
- Non-identifying data

**Submission link will be distributed from MCCSS by Sept 20th, 2021*



USEFUL LINKS

Survey of Vaccination Coverage in Congregate Care Settings Funded or Licensed by MCCSS: Q&A for Residents and Families:
<https://sunbeamcommunity.ca/wp-content/uploads/PDF/Q-A-Residents-and-Families-Vaccination-Survey.pdf>

MCCSS COVID-19 Vaccination Policy Memo and Guidelines

Per “MCCSS COVID-19 Vaccination Policy Guidelines for Implementation”:

MCCSS will require service providers or organizations identified in the CMOH Letter of Instruction to establish and implement a COVID-19 vaccination policy by **no later than September 23, 2021**.

1) All businesses and organizations identified in the Instructions as “Covered Organizations” must **establish, implement and ensure compliance with a COVID-19 vaccination policy** that requires its **employees, staff, contractors, volunteers and students, as well as persons who provide services in an Education and Community Partnership program** (herein referred to as “Required Individuals”) to provide:

- a. proof of full vaccination¹ against COVID-19; or
- b. written proof of a medical reason provided by a physician or registered nurse in the extended class that sets out: (i) a documented medical reason for not being fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and (ii) the effective time period for the medical reason; or
- c. proof of completing an educational session approved by the Covered Organization about the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination prior to declining vaccination for any reason other than a medical reason. (continued)

USEFUL LINKS

MCCSS COVID-19 Vaccination Policy Guidelines for Implementation:

<https://sunbeamcommunity.ca/wp-content/uploads/PDF/MCCSS-COVID-19-Vaccination%20Policy-Guidelines.pdf>

MCCSS COVID-19 Vaccination Policy Memo and Guidelines (cont'd)

c. (continued) The approved educational session must, at minimum address:

i. how COVID-19 vaccines work.	iii. the benefits of vaccination against COVID-19.
ii. vaccine safety related to the development of the COVID-19 vaccines.	iv. risks of not being vaccinated against COVID-19; and v. possible side effects of COVID-19 vaccination.

2) Every Covered Organization's vaccination policy shall require that where a Required Individual, as identified in the Instruction, does not provide proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in accordance with paragraph 1(a), but instead relies upon the medical reason described at paragraph 1(b) or the educational session at 1(c), the Required Individual shall:

a. submit to **regular antigen point of care testing** for COVID-19 and demonstrate a negative result, at intervals to be determined by the Covered Organization, which must be at a minimum once every seven days.

b. provide **verification of the negative test result** in a manner determined by the Covered Organization that enables the Covered Organization to confirm the result at its discretion. (continued)

MCCSS COVID-19 Vaccination Policy Memo and Guidelines (cont'd)

3) Every Covered Organization must **collect, maintain, and disclose**, statistical (non-identifiable) information as follows:

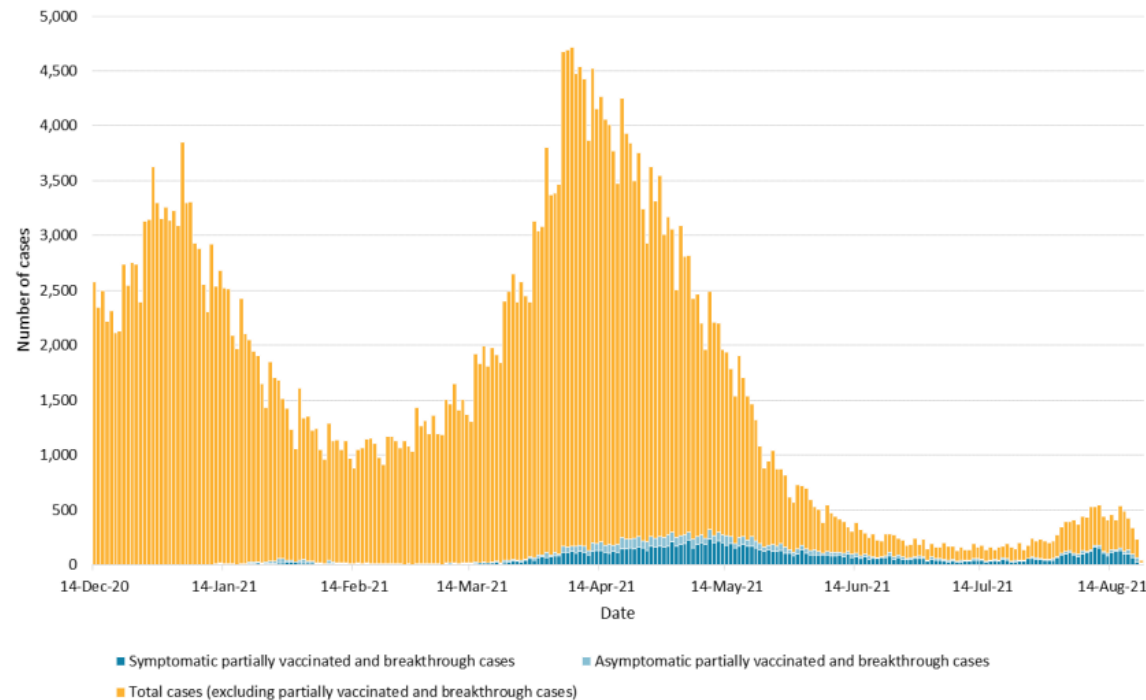
- a. Documentation that includes (collectively, “the statistical information”):
 - i. the number of Required Individuals that provided proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19;
 - ii. the number of Required Individuals that provided a documented medical reason for not being fully vaccinated against COVID-19;
 - iii. the number of Required Individuals that completed an educational session about the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination in accordance with 1(c), where applicable; and
 - iv. the total number of the Covered Organization’s Required Individuals to whom this Instruction applies.
- b. Disclose the statistical information to MCCSS in the manner and within the timelines specified by MCCSS. MCCSS may seek additional detail within the requested Statistical Information outlined above which will also be specified in the request. MCCSS may further disclose this Statistical Information and may make it publicly available.

USEFUL LINKS

Vaccination Education Module developed by Sunnybrook Hospital, with supplementary DS sector language added: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Plb-RXf3hOI>

Strategies to address vaccine hesitancy and education

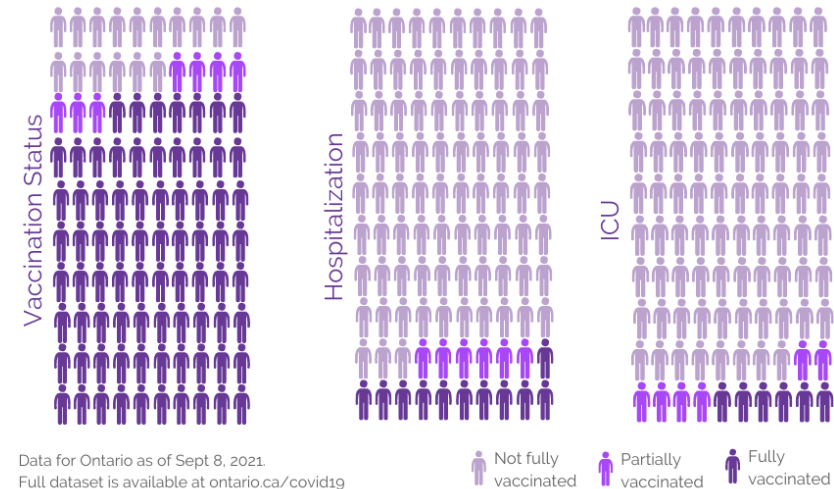
Figure 3. Confirmed cases of COVID-19 by symptom onset date*: Ontario, December 14, 2020 to August 21, 2021



Impact of full vaccination (Ontario data)

This representation actually underestimates the risk of staying unvaccinated because Ontario does not break the data down by individual population groups.

Based on Ontario numbers, full vaccination reduces the risk of infection by 85.5%, hospitalization by 95.8% and ICU by 97.7%.



USEFUL LINKS

- OH West IPAC Hub COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitance Webinar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oigNMFHswqc>
- “Medical Exemptions to COVID-19 Vaccination” from Ministry of Health, V 1.0, Sep 14, 2021: https://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/vaccine/medical_exemptions_to_vaccination.pdf

Rapid Antigen Testing

By Sept 23, 2021, MCCSS organizations must have a vaccination policy that includes use of rapid antigen testing for those who are not fully vaccinated.

Abbott Panbio

- Nasal swab
- Results in 15 min



BD Veritor

- Nasal swab
- Results in 15 min



USEFUL LINKS

The Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (OCMOH) has released the updated COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance and the COVID-19 Guidance: Considerations for Antigen Point-of-Care Testing to reflect the changes noted above.

- https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_testing_guidance.pdf (August 25, 2021)
- https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/Antigen_Screening_Guidance_2021-03-5.pdf

Provincial Rapid Antigen Screening Program

- <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/get-free-rapid-tests>
- <https://www.ontariohealth.ca/COVID-19/Health-System-Response-Resources#panbio>

About the Waterloo Region IPAC Training & Development Initiative

Collaboration between co lead organizations began several months ago with an accumulation of shared resources and knowledge exchange creating best practise outlines that are posted to a Sharepoint Library currently in development.

Updated resources are being constantly added to the Library, including updated community IPAC training modules, and the most up to date government policy and procedure guidelines.

IPAC Needs Assessment Survey distribution to all Waterloo Region MCCSS funded organizations has been completed. Results will be forthcoming

IPAC champ co-leads will continue to engage at local, regional and provincial IPAC tables

Both organizations also participate at the two local OHT tables: KW4 OHT and Cambridge North Dumfries OHT.

Late Breaking Updates

On Sep 14, 2021, MCCSS issues a memo “MCCSS COVID-19 Updates – September 2021” with multiple appendices, addressing:

- 1) For all ‘covered organizations’ to which the vaccination policy requirement applies:
 - A. Vaccination Policy – Implementation Reporting
 - B. Provincial Antigen Screening Program

- 2) For congregate care residential service providers only:
 - C. Distribution of high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters to congregate care residential settings
 - D. Reporting COVID-19 vaccination rates for congregate care residents
 - E. COVID-19 Guidance for MCCSS-funded and Licensed Congregate Living Settings (September 2021)
 - F. Continued risk monitoring and risk mitigation process

Late Breaking Updates (cont'd)

On Sep 14, 2021, MCCSS also issued: **“COVID-19 Operational Guidelines: Re-Opening Adult Day Supports 2.0”**

*As provincial re-opening activities continue, the Ministry is releasing updated guidance: COVID-19 Operational Guidelines: Re-Opening Adult Day Supports 2.0, which will **come into effect on September 27, 2021**. The document also includes a summary of what has changed from the previously issued version and will be posted on the MCCSS website.*

As a reminder, service agencies providing MCCSS-funded adult day supports are also required to adhere to provincial requirements under applicable legislation and health guidance related to group sizes, IPAC measures etc. including, but not limited to:

- The Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act and relevant regulations and orders.*
- Chief Medical Officer of Health Letters of Instruction- COVID-19 Vaccination Policy (MCCSS stakeholders).*
- Local Public Health Unit direction to address local circumstances (e.g. community spread).*
- Resources to prevent COVID-19 in the Workplace.*
- Other legislative or regulatory requirements related to health and safety such as those in the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) and its regulations.*

USEFUL LINKS

COVID-19 and workplace health and safety: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-workplace-health-safety>

Wrap Up

Share your feedback with us:

- What did you find most helpful?
- What would you like more of?
- Future topics for information-sharing calls?

If you have any specific IPAC information / support needs, please contact any member of our IPAC Champion Team. (contacts on next slide)

USEFUL LINKS

- Refer to Sunbeam's "COVID-19 Info" page for a number of useful COVID-19 resources and references:
<https://sunbeamcommunity.ca/covid-19-information>
- Other COVID-19 reference documents, education resources and sample policies available on the REAL Xchange:
<https://realxchange.communitylivingsex.org/covid-19-resources/>

Contact emails for today's facilitators

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