

COVID-19 IMMUNIZATION DIRECTIVE – INDIVIDUALS SERVED

Purpose

The purpose of this Directive is to reduce the risk to individuals served and those who support them, of exposure to and transmission of COVID-19, an infectious communicable disease. Vaccination for COVID-19 is both safe and effective in preventing COVID-19. CLTO strongly encourages all individuals served and their families and/or regular visitors to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. This is consistent with CLTO's Directive to all Staff and Essential Visitors who are required to be vaccinated unless they are unable to do so for substantiated medical or religious reasons.

This Directive is based on the significant risk factors for COVID-19 infection that are present in CLTO's congregate living environments given the nature of support and as described in Ontario's Response Framework including close contact, closed spaces, crowded places, forceful exhalation, and prolonged exposure, with the most serious risk factor being close contact. CLTO is applying reasonable and necessary measures to prevent, respond to, and alleviate the outbreak of COVID-19 and the associated risk to the people we support.

Vaccination is a choice, however, the choice not to be vaccinated could put individuals' lives at risk and may affect the type of supports CLTO is able to provide.

Families and/or an individual's substitute decision maker are encouraged to review this Directive with their loved one and consider the following three conditions as they apply to individuals receiving service in a congregate living setting. Individuals who:

- Intend to be or have been vaccinated
- Cannot be vaccinated due to substantiated medical or religious grounds
- Choose not to be vaccinated for other reasons

In the context of individual rights to choose, this Directive outlines considerations for:

- Individuals entering into a new service relationship with CLTO, and
- Individuals already receiving service in a congregate living setting with CLTO

Definitions

Congregate setting refers to a CLTO residential setting where three or more unrelated individuals reside.

Visitors includes family or others who may visit the individual for personal reasons. This does not include **essential visitors** who are covered under a separate Directive.

Principles

1. Individuals in service have the right to make informed and voluntary choices about vaccination. They can choose to consent to be vaccinated or they can refuse.

2. Should an individual not be vaccinated CLTO may have to implement extra measures to keep that person and other people safe. That could mean that:
 - 2.1. the individual will not be admitted into a CLTO program and/or allowed to start a new type of service or support;
 - 2.2. the individual may have their supports changed to keep them and others safe; and
 - 2.3. a visitor might be subject to enhanced precautions to keep them and others safe.
3. If a person cannot be vaccinated for health reasons or because of their religious beliefs, CLTO will try to accommodate them and their needs.
4. CLTO will require proof of vaccination as a condition for individuals entering into a new service relationship with CLTO that includes direct in-person supports. This requirement will be subject to accommodations to the point of undue hardship for people unable to vaccinate for human rights-related reasons.
5. CLTO will do everything possible to ensure the safety of all individuals in support. That includes ensuring access to the COVID-19 vaccine. For those who cannot or choose not to receive the vaccine, CLTO will conduct a risk assessment to determine any additional measures that may be necessary to ensure the health and safety of individuals supported and staff.

Effective Date

This Directive is effective immediately, with due regard for the availability of COVID-19 vaccines.

This Directive is in addition to all other policies and procedures that are in place for infection prevention and pandemic response for individuals served and their families, and CLTO Staff and Essential Visitors. It will be updated regularly to reflect any changes in the degree of risk and any advice or recommendations from public health authorities.

Related Documentation

06-25-02 Rights and Responsibilities

06-27-01 Privacy of Information

COVID-19 Privacy and Confidentiality for Individuals Served Directive

Essential Visitors Directive