

Do individuals in support at CLTO need to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

The vaccines approved for use in Canada are the safest and surest way to prevent COVID-19 infection and keep both staff and the people we support safe. Vaccines are also the most likely way for all of us to return to many of the aspects of life that we miss most, like dinners with friends, celebrating holidays with family, and a night at the movies.

Once the vaccination is widely available, our expectation is that all individuals in support at CLTO will receive the vaccine unless they cannot due to verified and documented medical or religious reasons. People coming into service will be asked to show proof of vaccination before entering a CLTO program. The proven medical vulnerability of the people we support means that as many people as possible must be vaccinated to help protect everyone against the health and safety risks of COVID-19.

Some people will not be able to receive the vaccine due to medical or religious reasons. Others may choose to not receive the COVID-19 vaccine for reasons other than medical or religious grounds. One of our core values is that individuals in support have the right to make choices that affect their lives. This includes the choice to receive or not receive the COVID-19 vaccine. If an individual does not receive the vaccine, accommodations will be necessary to protect the individual and those around them from the risks of COVID-19. This could include having to change the services the individual receives, not allowing the individual to participate in potentially risky programs, and requiring that any visitors in the individual's home be subject to enhanced precautions.

In all cases, individuals who are unvaccinated against COVID-19 will be accommodated as much as possible.

CLTO will do everything we can to ensure individuals in support and staff have access to both the vaccine and the most accurate, timely, and verified information needed to make your decision about receiving the shot. Our new vaccine website <https://cltoronto.ca/covid-19-vaccine/> is full of high-quality resources at your disposal. Our team of experts – Medical Director Dr. Marwah Younis Damani, Occupational Health and Safety lead Jeanette MacLean, and others – are a call or email away.

