

Ministry of Health

Office of Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health
Box 12,
Toronto, ON M7A 1N3

Tel.: 416 212-3831
Fax: 416 325-8412

Ministère de la Santé

Bureau du médecin hygiéniste en chef, santé publique
Boîte à lettres 12
Toronto, ON M7A 1N3

Tél. : 416 212-3831
Télééc. : 416 325-8412

January 5, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: Health Care Providers

FROM: Dr. Kieran Moore
Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario

RE: Directive 6, Vaccination Policies

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to keeping patients and employees safe from COVID-19.

As the Omicron variant drives cases to levels beyond what we have experienced previously in Ontario, and as employee non-attendance increasingly affects your organizations, I am writing to remind you of [Directive #6](#), which I issued on August 17, 2021, to ensure that public hospitals, home and community care services providers organizations, Home and Community Care Supports Services organizations and ambulance services have vaccination policies. Under this Directive you are required to develop, implement, monitor and maintain a COVID-19 vaccination policy for your employees, contractors, students, and volunteers.

Evidence indicates that the Omicron variant is four to eight times more transmissible than the Delta variant, and that there is less benefit from two doses of COVID-19 vaccine against transmission of Omicron compared to the Delta variant. I ask that you do whatever you can to help vaccinate those individuals covered by the Directive with a third/booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible.

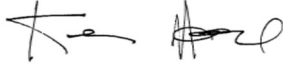
Due to the current pandemic situation, employee non-attendance due to COVID-19 illness or due to being a household contact of someone with COVID-19, will likely put significant strain on the health system over the next couple of weeks. This will be in addition to the pressures the health system is beginning to see from severe illness in the community, a result of the surge in Omicron cases.

Critical staffing situations are likely to occur, and I am reminding you of the Directive's requirement to test employees, contractors, students and volunteers who are not fully vaccinated to ensure safety in the workplace.

As per Directive #6, those individuals must be regularly tested with rapid antigen testing, at intervals to be determined by the organization, which at a minimum, must be weekly. **With the Omicron surge and community transmission at high rates, it is now recommended that any employee, contractor, student or volunteer not fully vaccinated be tested at a minimum of twice weekly or daily if testing is available.**

The ministry continues to review evidence and information to best understand how to keep Ontarians safe. We will not hesitate to amend orders, directives, and guidance to help ensure our most vulnerable populations and worker in high-risk settings are adequately protected. Thank you for your continued commitment to their safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kieran Moore', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kieran Michael Moore, MD, CCFP(EM), FCFP, MPH, DTM&H, FRCPC
Chief Medical Officer of Health

c:

Dr. Catherine Zahn, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
Melanie Fraser, Associate Deputy Minister, Health System Delivery
Alison Blair, Associate Deputy Minister, Pandemic Response and Recovery
Peter Kaftarian, Assistant Deputy Minister, Hospitals and Capital Division
Susan Picarello, Assistant Deputy Minister, Emergency Health Services Division
Amy Olmstead, Executive Lead, Ontario Health Team Division