



Orders of the Provincial Health Officer – October 5, 2023

Hospital and Community (Health Care and Other Services) COVID-19 Vaccination Status Information and Preventive Measures

Residential Care COVID-19 Vaccination Status Information and Preventive Measures

Explanation of Changes

The main reason for changing these orders is that Health Canada has approved that one dose of the updated mRNA vaccines tailored to the XBB.1.5 variant is adequate for protection, so is no longer recommending a two dose primary series.

A person who is seeking to work as a staff member, to be in a care location/facility as a student, or to engage in volunteer activities will have to receive the recommended dose or doses of the XBB.1.5-containing formulation. While recommended, those who were defined as vaccinated according to the current and previous orders will not be required to have this new vaccine.

In addition, the following changes were made:

- A requirement that volunteers be vaccinated is included as this was inadvertently removed from the April 6, 2023 order.
- There is now explicit mention that requests for exemptions from people who are seeking a job, to be a student or a volunteer will be considered.
- Application of the Hospital & Community order to Community Supports for Independent Living (CSIL) clients as been removed. The rationale was that CSIL clients have had much opportunity to be protected through multiple vaccinations, and this change will support their autonomy to decide whether they wish to have services provided by an unvaccinated service provider.