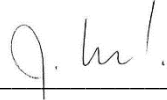



Leamington Mennonite Home
Long Term Care

**INFECTION CONTROL
POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

CATEGORY: Screening & Immunization	SUBJECT: COVID-19 Immunization Program	SECTION: D POLICY: 3
DATE: July 12, 2022 REVISION DATES: October 19, 2023	Administrator's Signature: _____ 	
	IPAC Lead's Signature: _____ 	

COVID-19 IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

POLICY:

The LMH, in collaboration with Public Health, will provide a COVID-19 immunization program for residents. The COVID-19 vaccine will be offered to all residents at the time of move in based on their vaccination history and consent from resident/SDM and to all residents currently residing in the Home as per provincial guidance and direction.

PROCEDURE:

The Director of Nursing & Personal Care or designate will:

- 1) Report COVID-19 immunization rates for residents to the Infection Prevention & Control Committee, the Joint Health & Safety Committee, Medical Health Officer/Public Health as requested.
- 2) Ensure that nursing staff who will administer the vaccine are competent as immunizer.

The Infection Prevention & Control Lead (in collaboration with Public Health) will:

- 1) Develop a COVID-19 Immunization plan specific to LMH and communicate this plan throughout the care community. This will be done by working with the Infection Prevention & Control Committee and using the resources available from applicable provincial health authorities. The plan will include:
 - The education of residents and families on the benefits of the COVID-19 immunization program, hand hygiene, and COVID-19 outbreak protocols.
 - Planned events for the immunization.
 - Procurement of supplies for the program, such as: safety engineered needles, sharps containers, alcohol wipes, band aids, etc.
 - Reviewing medical directives for COVID-19 immunizations to residents.
 - Reviewing medical directives for epinephrine.
 - Monitoring of the procurement of up-to-date epinephrine for each floor and the immunization cart
 - Physician orders for each resident for administration of the vaccine.

- Education, encouragement, and discussion with resident/SDM refusing to be vaccinated.
 - Obtaining resident list for vaccinations; and
 - Reporting of immunization statistics when requested.
- 2) Liaise with Public Health to ensure enough of the vaccine is ordered and received prior to immunization clinic date.
 - 3) Work with the nurse on the floors on timelines and processes to obtain informed consent from residents/SDM for the specific vaccine.
 - 4) Follow the storage, handling, and administration requirements for the COVID-19 vaccines as outlined by the Manufacturer or Public Health.
 - 5) Offer the vaccine to all unvaccinated residents, noting that effectiveness takes several weeks.
 - 6) Obtain resident vaccination status prior to move in, and if not vaccinated, offer COVID-19 vaccine upon move in. If the new resident has only received one dose, determine the date when, how, and where second COVID-19 vaccine should be given (based on the specific type) and administer the second dose and/or subsequent doses as per provincial requirements.
 - 7) Determine if residents are eligible to receive their next dose (per provincial guidelines), and administer the dose as required.
 - 8) Ensure that any vaccination received by a resident before moving in is entered into the immunization section of the resident record.
 - 9) Ensure access to provincial vaccine database and completion of training modules.
 - 10) Ensure timely update of any vaccination received by resident(s) into the provincial vaccine database.
 - 11) Report any adverse reaction following immunization by using the appropriate provincial Adverse Effect Following Immunization (AEFI) document.
 - 12) Monitor the temperature in the vaccine refrigerator on each shift and immediately report any temperature variances. Refer to Public Health Guidelines for the handling and storage of vaccines.

Resident Vaccination

The Medical Director will:

- 1) Check for medical contraindications to receiving the vaccine, including but not limited to an allergy to any component of the vaccine or an anaphylactic or other allergic reaction to a previous dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

The IPAC Lead will:

- 1) Obtain consents for COVID-19 vaccinations and file completed consents on the resident's chart and document consent in the electronic record under Immunizations.
- 2) Administer the vaccine according to Medical Director's order.
- 3) Document administration of the vaccine in MARs and under the Immunization portal of the record and include the name of the vaccine, the date of administration, the lot number on the vaccine, and the administration site on the resident.
- 4) Monitor the resident post vaccination for 15 minutes for any adverse effects and in case of any reactions to the vaccine, report immediately to Medical Director for follow up.

The Director of Nursing & Personal Care will:

- 1) Ensure that medical directives for administration of vaccines and for the use of epinephrine 1:1000, should the need arise, are in place. Epinephrine will be administered as needed unless there is a resident specific written physician's order to contraindicate it being administered.
- 2) Ensure that a master list of residents who have received the COVID-19 vaccination is maintained and available.

Vaccination Considerations

- Vaccination should be postponed in cases of febrile or acute illness. If the resident is on blood thinner medication, then a smaller needle (23 gauge or smaller) should be used, and pressure should be applied for longer period (5 to 10 min.) after getting the vaccine to reduce bruising.
- Discuss with physician if the resident has an autoimmune disease or has a weakened immune system due to illness or treatment or bleeding disorder.

Staff, Volunteers, & Resident Caregivers/Family Members Vaccination

The IPAC Lead, DNPC, and The Director of Social & Recreation Services will:

- 1) Post vaccination clinic times in staff accessible areas at least one month in advance, listing the dates and times of vaccination clinics.
- 2) Offer the COVID-19 vaccine to all volunteers and resident caregivers/family members annually and inform them of vaccination clinic dates and times.
- 3) Obtain written consent from each individual receiving the COVID-19 vaccine using the COVID-19 consent form provided by Ministry of Health.
- 4) Coordinate the administration of the vaccination.
- 5) Have Adrenaline 1:1000 readily available in case of an emergency and only to be administered under the direction outlined in the Medical Directive.
- 6) Inform all individuals to report any reactions to the COVID-19 vaccination to the IPAC Lead.