



COVID-19 Update #38

August 18, 2021 – 3:00 pm

Dear Registrant,

Vaccination Policies for Hospitals and Home and Community Care Workers

On August 17, 2021, the Chief Medical Officer issued [Directive #6](#) mandating hospitals, ambulance and home and community care service providers to have a COVID-19 vaccination policy for employees, staff, contractors, students and volunteers. The policy must be in place by no later than September 7, 2021, and requires the identified individuals to provide proof of vaccination or evidence that they meet specific exemptions.

At this time, the directive only applies to health care workers who work for **covered organizations**, which include public hospitals, local health integration networks, and certain professional service providers (such as nursing or occupational therapy). Opticians who work for hospitals or in [home and community care services](#) may wish to confirm with their employer whether their organization is covered. **The directive does not apply to optical dispensaries operating outside of hospital or community care settings.** It is therefore not mandatory for optical dispensaries outside of these settings to implement a vaccination policy at this time.

The College reminds opticians that all other safety and infection control protocols remain in place, including masks, physical distancing and cleaning and disinfection protocols. In addition, while vaccination policies are not mandatory for most optical dispensaries at this time, the College continues to encourage all opticians to consider getting vaccinated against COVID-19 at your earliest opportunity. As essential health care workers, vaccination plays an important role in protecting yourself and to ensure that you can deliver safe and ethical care to your patients.

Ontario to Remain in Step 3 of Reopening Plan and Third Doses

The Ontario Government has also [announced](#) that it is pausing the province's exit from the Roadmap to Reopen. Ontario will remain in Step 3 of the reopening plan until further notice. In addition, the province will be offering third doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to certain vulnerable populations.

Updated FAQs on Vaccination and Your Practice

Please visit the College's [COVID-19 FAQ page](#), which has been updated to include additional information about the impact of vaccines in optical settings. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the practice advisor at practiceadvice@collegeofopticians.ca.

Kind regards,

Fazal and the COO Team



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