



The Infection Post

Vaccine Importance & Hesitancy: Staff and Residents

Occ. Health & Safety

- Employers are required to provide prevention for common workplace hazards, including infectious agents
- Vaccine records should be available to verify immunity, contact tracing

Recommendations

- Up-to-date per Immunization Schedule
- Annual influenza and Covid-19 booster
- Tdap, and Shingrix/Pneumovax (if applicable, based on age/health)
- Immunity for: MMR, Hep B, Varicella

Vaccine Clinics

- Ideal to offer own clinics in-house to decrease barriers to vaccination
- Alternatives include: pharmacies (can also host clinics within facilities), family physician's offices

Vaccine Hesitancy: Common Reasons

- General Uncertainty
 - information may be conflicting or reliability is in question
 - enough understandable information available to make an informed decision
 - natural immunity vs. manufactured
 - who has authority to make mandates and why
- Health Risks
 - short and long-term side effects, overall safety
- Effectiveness
 - against the specific strain/variant within community
 - uncertainty surrounding the need for booster doses
- Inconvenience
 - barriers to obtaining (eg. making physician appointment)
 - incomplete health records

What you can do?

- Provide transparent communication
- Ensure quality health teaching
- Review concerns without judgement or personal bias
- Reduce barriers to obtaining vaccinations through facility provided clinics, time off, etc.
- Keep organized records of immunity status in case of exposure, need for contact tracing



High-Risk Individuals

Residents or staff who are deemed at higher risk due to health status may have different vaccination needs (e.g. additional or earlier vaccination).

IPAC Training & Educational Resources



Vaccination Recommendations

- [Ontario Immunization Schedule](#)
- [Routine Practices and Additional Precautions In All Health Care Settings, 3rd edition](#)



Additional Supports

- IPAC Hub
- Clinical Educators
- Local or Facility Pharmacies
- Local Public Health Unit

Visit our website.

