

Survey of Vaccination Coverage in Congregate Care Settings Funded or Licensed by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Service

Q&A for Residents and Families

August 30, 2021

The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) has requested that all service providers of congregate care settings report **the current number of residential clients in their organization and how many of them have been fully vaccinated by September 23, 2021**. Updates will be requested following this initial reporting period.

Achieving high immunization rates in congregate care settings in Ontario (e.g., residential services such as supported and group living for adults with developmental services, violence against women and anti-human trafficking shelters, intervenor services, Indigenous Healing and Wellness services, children's residential services, and youth justice) through vaccination is part of a range of measures that can help prevent and limit the spread of COVID-19. Vaccination against COVID-19 helps reduce the number of new cases, and, most importantly, severe outcomes including hospitalizations and death due to COVID-19 in residents, staff, and others.

Why is MCCSS asking service providers for this information?

The health, safety and wellness of individuals working or receiving services in residential congregate settings is a high priority for the government of Ontario.

The ministry is attempting to identify areas of concern and work with Public Health Units or other entities to help all children, youth, and adults residing in congregate care settings who are able to get vaccinated to do so as soon as possible. Service providers, residents, and staff will not be penalized for low vaccination rates.

Understanding vaccination coverage will help inform future guidance or policies for congregate care settings to protect the health and safety of residents, staff and visitors across the province.

How will your information be collected and shared?

Your individual vaccination status will **not** be disclosed to MCCSS. The ministry will only collect aggregate-level data from service providers about vaccination rates of residents in congregate care settings.

Providing your vaccination status is voluntary. It is the service provider's responsibility to keep the personal information of residents confidential and secure.

Service providers are being asked to share **only** aggregate statistical information with MCCSS about resident vaccination rates, which could be shared with the Ministry of Health or Public Health Units to support vaccine roll-out.

Thank you for your cooperation.