

## Keep Everyone Safe – Get the COVID-19 Vaccine

April 19, 2021

Our health system is facing unprecedented pressures during the COVID-19 pandemic. While older adults are at a greater risk of COVID-related complications, hospitalizations, and death<sup>1</sup>, recent data released by Ontario's Science Table also revealed an increase in the percentage of younger patients<sup>2</sup> admitted to ICUs with COVID-19<sup>3</sup>. Additionally, the Variants of Concern, that are driving the third wave of the pandemic, appear to spread more easily and/or cause severe illness.

Health professionals are at a higher risk for exposure to COVID-19. Clinicians and staff working in specialized geriatric services have the potential to acquire COVID-19 and transmit it to their colleagues and the highly vulnerable older clientele they serve. Seniors Care Network urges all staff working in specialized geriatric services, or anyone who connects with older adults, to get the COVID-19 vaccine when it is available to them. We also encourage all clients receiving specialized geriatric services and their care partners to do the same. Vaccination is the key to long-term control, and through it we can make life-saving progress against the pandemic.

Data regarding the efficacy and safety of COVID-19 vaccines continues to evolve. However, all approved vaccines lower one's risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19<sup>4</sup>. Below is a list of some helpful informational resources regarding the vaccines:

COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheets	<a href="#">COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet (gov.on.ca)</a> <a href="#">COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet Biological Product Information (albertahealthservices.ca)</a>
Reported side effects following COVID-19 vaccination in Canada	<a href="#">COVID-19 vaccine safety: Weekly report on adverse effects following immunization - Canada.ca</a>
How to book a COVID-19 appointment	<a href="#">How to book a COVID-19 vaccine appointment (ontario.ca)</a>
Provincial Geriatric Leadership Office: Myth Busting: Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy	<a href="#">2021-Jan-8-Vaccine-MythbustingK-Resources-for-Clinicians.pdf (rgps.on.ca)</a>

<sup>1</sup> Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (April 2021). Older Adults at greater risk of requiring hospitalization or dying if diagnosed with COVID-19.

<sup>2</sup> <60 years old

<sup>3</sup> Science Table, COVID-19 Advisory for Ontario (April 2021): Update on COVID-19 Projections. Slide 10. Retrieved from: [Update on COVID-19 Projections \(covid19-sciencetable.ca\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> Alberta Health Services (April 2021). COVID 19 Vaccine Information Sheet

