



# Renfrew County and District Health Unit Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): COVID-19 Vaccines for Healthcare Workers

## 1. Why are healthcare workers, essential caregivers, long-term care home and retirement home residents, and First Nation communities some of the first people in the province to receive the COVID vaccines?

These individuals work with and include some of the most vulnerable people in our community. Healthcare workers (HCW) and essential caregivers support these people to do everything, including activities of daily living. By vaccinating HCW and essential caregivers first, they are adding a layer of protection and helping prevent the spread of COVID-19 to this vulnerable population.

## 2. What happens if HCWs or essential caregivers wait to get the vaccine?

If long-term care home (LTC) and retirement home (RH) workers wait to receive the vaccine, the opportunity for them to receive the vaccine at another time may take longer. Getting the first dose as soon as possible will provide greater protection while COVID-19 cases are still high in the community.

## 3. If HCWs become ill after getting the shot, will they be paid while they cannot come to work?

Employees may be entitled to sick benefits through their employer, employment insurance benefits, or other federal government financial supports.

If you experience mild COVID-19 symptoms after vaccination, follow the instructions from your workplace.

## 4. Will the essential caregivers of LTCH and RH residents also get vaccinated?

Yes, essential caregivers will be vaccinated once sufficient supply of vaccine is available.

## 5. Will LTCH staff still be tested for COVID-19 after they receive the second dose of the vaccine?

Yes. Staff will continue to be tested for COVID-19 after the second dose. This is based on the Ontario Ministry of Long-Term Care guidelines. Any changes to this guideline will be communicated promptly.

Visit us at [www.rcdhu.com](http://www.rcdhu.com) or call (613) 732-3629 or 1-800-267-1097

“Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District”



# Renfrew County and District Health Unit Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): COVID-19 Vaccines for Healthcare Workers

## 6. Can HCWs who live in Quebec, but work in long-term care in Ontario receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes, as it is important to protect the health of residents and other staff in the LTC and RHs.

## 7. If a staff member travels after receiving the vaccine, do they still need to self-isolate for 14 days after returning from their trip?

Self-isolation for two weeks following travel is a requirement and it will continue to remain in effect following vaccine administration. At this time, non-essential travel is not recommended.

## 8. Will the COVID-19 vaccine be made mandatory for LTC and RH staff in the future? If the COVID-19 vaccine becomes mandatory, will medical exceptions be accepted, and will staff be able to work in LTC and RH with these medical exceptions?

At this time, the COVID-19 vaccine is not mandatory, but highly encouraged for staff to help protect against the COVID-19 virus. Medical exceptions are not currently required.

## 9. Where can I find more information about the COVID-19 Vaccines?

- **Government of Canada – Recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines -** <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines.html>
- **Government of Canada – Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine: What you should know -** <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/drugs-vaccines-treatments/vaccines/pfizer-biontech.html>
- **Government of Canada – Moderna COVID-19 vaccine: What you should know -** <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/drugs-vaccines-treatments/vaccines/moderna.html>
- **Ontario Government - COVID-19 vaccines for Ontario -** <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccines-ontario>
- **Ministry of Health and Long-term Care -** [COVID-19 Vaccine-Relevant Information and Planning Resources](#)

Visit us at [www.rcdhu.com](http://www.rcdhu.com) or call (613) 732-3629 or 1-800-267-1097

“Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District”