

COVID-19 Vaccine Policy

Principles of DCOR services:

- Every effort should be made to ensure the safety of DCOR volunteers and staff.
- DCOR is obligated to protect its volunteers and staff.
- DCOR is obligated to keep its workplace safe.
- DCOR's Vaccine Policy will be adapted to conform to changing scientific evidence and government response.

Accepted evidence - COVID-19 and precautions (based on Ottawa Public Health guidelines):

- COVID-19 is serious, widespread, easily transmitted, and evolving into more threatening variants of concern.
- The recognized vaccines are all effective in significantly reducing the risks of serious health problems and acute hospitalization for their recipients.
- An individual is defined as fully vaccinated ≥ 14 days after receiving their second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine.
- As with all vaccines, COVID-19 vaccines can slow and mitigate the spread of the virus through the community but are not a guarantee against contracting it or passing infection to others.
- Safety practices are strong methods of reducing the spread of COVID-19 and must be maintained for the foreseeable future as per Ottawa Public Health guidelines, in addition to full vaccinations.
- Proper PPE use, physical distancing, and good hygiene are the most effective means of containing spread with and without full vaccination.

Workplace policies:

- All employees of DCOR are required to be fully vaccinated and are expected to provide documentation of full vaccination prior to September 22.
- All volunteers/directors are expected to provide documentation of full vaccination if they conduct shifts in DCOR's Call Centre, participate in person in volunteer training sessions in DCOR's Training Centre or other external site, or participate in person in Board of Directors' meetings in DCOR's Training Centre or other external site.
- Volunteer Responders who are not fully vaccinated may continue to conduct shifts remotely.