



August 6, 2021 via email

The Honourable Rod Phillips
Minister of Long-Term Care
6th Floor, 400 University Avenue
Toronto, ON M7A 1T7

Dear Minister Phillips,

Established in 1980 as a registered charity, Concerned Friends of Ontario Citizens in Care Facilities has been active across Ontario communities for over 40 years representing a vibrant and growing membership.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating effect on long-term care residents accounting for over forty percent of all Ontario COVID related deaths. Our long-term care residents are an incredibly vulnerable group and have a statutory right to live in a safe environment. Employers have a legal duty to create safe workplaces for staff and for the people served, in this case those living in long-term care homes.

Residents in long-term care have no choice as to who provides them with the quality care they need and deserve, nor do they have the option to live elsewhere. With the fear of a fourth wave approaching Concerned Friends is calling for all persons¹ providing services or conducting activities in a long-term care facility to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 to protect residents and staff in long-term care homes.

We are seeking our Ontario government to mandate this vaccination requirement through law, regulation, or directive with an exemption for a certified medical reason, in which case other protective measures would be required.

Ontario should take immediate and focused steps to eliminate barriers to accessing the vaccine and provide meaningful education about vaccinations.

In the interim, long-term care licensees should by policy, require full vaccination of all persons providing services or conducting activities in a long-term care facility.

¹ Persons include employees, independent practitioners, independent contractors, full, part-time, occasional workers, students, volunteers, visitors, and any other providers of service or activities within a long-term care home.

We are requesting the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our call for mandatory vaccination and share with you our vision for a system where individuals living in long-term care homes have access to health and support services that best meet their diverse needs; where every person has a voice that is heard, and rights that are respected; and those being served feel safe, cared for, and part of a vibrant inclusive community.

To set up a meeting, please reach out to our Administrative Coordinator Barbara Wright at 416-489-0146 or by email info@concernedfriends.ca.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Laurie Nicol, CAE
Concerned Friends President
519-651-6380

cc: Ontario Premier Doug Ford
Ontario Minister of Health - Christine Elliot

Concerned Friends Mission

Advancing the health and well-being and enriching the experiences of those living in long-term care homes across Ontario.