

## Webinar Recap for January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

LTC+ Acting on Pandemic Learning Together

### TOPIC

Essential Together: Family Presence in LTC  
Building Canadians' Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccines

### KEY AREA(S)

Presence of family  
Preparedness

### SPEAKER(S)

- Carol Fancott, Director, Patient Partnerships & Engagement, Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement (CFHI)
- Jessie Checkley, Senior Improvement Lead, CFHI
- Dr. Bryna Warshawsky, Medical Advisor, Centre for Immunization and Respiratory Infectious Diseases, Public Health Agency of Canada

### SESSION OBJECTIVE(S)

- Share co-created policy guidance to support the reintegration of essential partners during COVID-19 and introduce a new program – Essential Together.
- Share vaccine preparedness resources from PHAC.
- Share LTC+: Acting on Pandemic Learning Together program updates and next steps.

### SUMMARY

#### CFHI – Essential Together

- The presence of caregivers benefits patient safety, experience and outcomes, in addition to benefiting staff morale and experience. The following three fundamental principles help ensure that family presence is a person-centered practice:
  - Differentiate between visitors and essential care partners.
  - Recognize the value of caregivers as essential care partners.
  - Engage with residents, families and caregivers to develop and implement new policies and practices.
- Through ongoing COVID-19 outbreaks, new evidence emerged, highlighting the risks and harms that blanket family restrictions have had on residents, families and healthcare workers. Though organizations understand the importance of family presence as essential care partners, they may struggle to safely reintegrate essential



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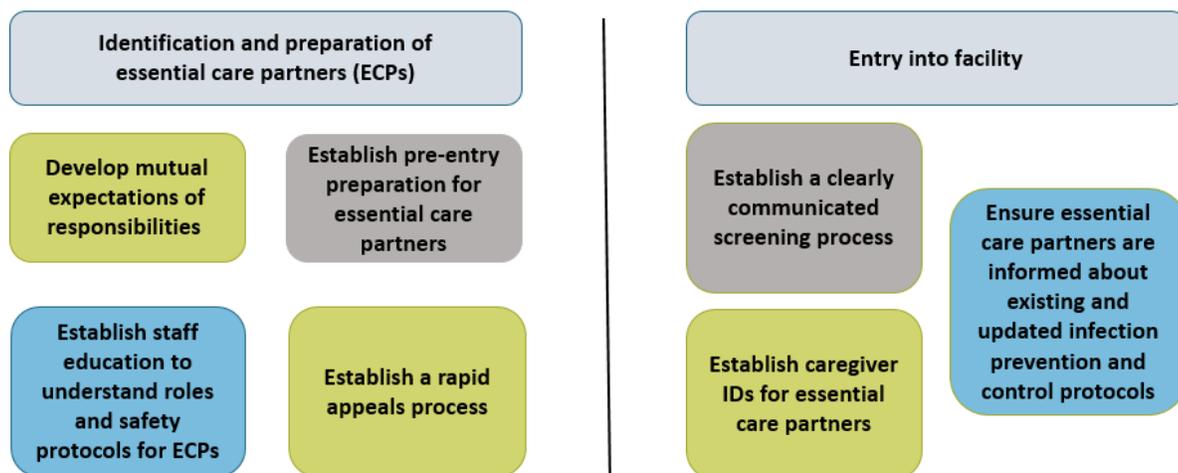
Canadian Foundation for **Healthcare Improvement**

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care partners during the pandemic. In June, CFHI led a policy lab to develop guidance for the Reintegration of Caregivers as Essential Care Partners, as summarized:



- CFHI’s Essential Together Program was launched in December 2020 and supports the implementation of the policy guidance for reintegrating families as essential care partners in health and care settings; involving, an important call to action, the Essential Together tool, learning bundles, peer learning and coaching.

#### **PHAC - Building Canadians’ Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccines**

- Health care providers (HCPs) are among the first to be vaccinated for COVID-19 and they play a critical role in instilling the public’s confidence in vaccination. Canadians routinely state that HCPs are their most trusted source of health information.
- HCPs can encourage ‘vaccine confidence’ – helping the public understand the rigour and safety supporting vaccine development and to feel more confident and informed when making the decision to get vaccinated. This will be supported by a largescale public education campaign seen across all provinces and territories
- COVID-19 vaccination is not mandatory for HCPs, however, Dr. Warshawsky noted that “these vaccines are a gift”. It is important to understand and address any concerns or hesitancy regarding vaccination, and to equip HCPs as vaccinators and key influencers. To date, such efforts have included the development of free and accessible training and resources, as well as a web-based healthcare provider toolkit.
- COVID-19 mRNA vaccination by Pfizer and BioNTech are safe and involve the administration of two doses; the second to be administered 42 days after the first dose, though this varies across provinces. There are not yet any known long term side effects of the vaccination, although some allergic reactions have been noted. The first vaccine dose can offers 92% efficacy in protecting against COVID-19 and the second dose raises this protection to 95%. The importance of taking both doses lies in the fact that it is yet unknown how long the protective effects can last after receiving a single dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

- New to the CFHI website is a webpage dedicated to COVID-19 vaccine preparedness resources for LTC and retirement homes, by which the following is included:
  - Planning guidance for immunization clinics for COVID-19 vaccines.
  - Characteristics, handling, administration of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines.
  - Promoting COVID-19 vaccine uptake: Information to guide provider discussions & to inform residents, staff & essential care partners; and to help improve the vaccine experience by reducing pain, anxiety and/or needle fears.

## RESOURCES SHARED

Listed below are the resources mentioned during the webinar:

### **CFHI – Essential Together**

- [Policy Guidance for the Reintegration of Caregivers as Essential Care Partners Executive Summary and Report](#)
- [Evidence Brief: Caregivers as Essential Care Partners](#)
- [Staying Apart to Stay Safe: The Impact of Visit Restrictions on Long-Term Care and Assisted Living Survey](#)
- [Allowing Visitors Back in the Nursing Home During the COVID-19 Crisis: A Dutch National Study Into First Experiences and Impact on Well-Being](#)
- [Caring for Caregivers – Data Report for Calgary Pilot Study Summer 2020: The Impact of COVID-19 on Family Caregivers for Persons Living with Dementia](#)

### **PHAC - Building Canadians' Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccines**

- [COVID-19 mRNA vaccines](#)
- [National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\) Statement](#)
- [Planning guidance for immunization clinics for COVID-19 vaccines](#)
- [Foundational webinar for health care providers](#)
- [Webinar on the National Advisory Committee on Immunization recommendations](#)
- [Pfizer-BioNTech's website](#)
- [Moderna's website](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Toolkits - Long-Term Care Facility Tool Kit](#)
- [Planning guidance for immunization clinics for COVID-19 vaccines](#)
- [Immunization Pain Management Guides \(Clinician Focus\)](#)
- [CARD for Adults](#)
- [Supporting COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake in Older Adults](#)

## WEBINAR RECORDING

**Watch the full webinar here!**

The newly amalgamated organization that brings together the Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement and the Canadian Patient Safety Institute works with partners to share proven healthcare innovations and best practices in patient safety and healthcare quality. Working together with patients and other partners, we can deliver lasting improvement in patient experience, work life of healthcare providers, value for money and the health of everyone in Canada. The organization is a not-for-profit charity funded by Health Canada. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of Health Canada. Visit [cfhi-fcass.ca](http://cfhi-fcass.ca) and [patientsafetyinstitute.ca](http://patientsafetyinstitute.ca) for more information.