

August 17, 2021

SRPC Supports Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccinations for Health Care Workers

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) and the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) issued a statement on August 3rd, 2021, calling for mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations for all health care workers. The Society of Rural Physicians of Canada supports this statement.

Rural health care workers are a high-risk population for exposure to and therefore transmission of this virus. Many rotate daily between hospitals, long-term care centers, home care, and clinics. Although these health care workers are vigilant to keep the risk of transmission to a minimum, mandatory vaccinations would substantially decrease the risk to rural communities. These communities are dependent upon a small number of physicians and other medical staff who work in high-risk environments.

Several communities in Canada are now experiencing the fourth wave of COVID-19. Our already understaffed rural workforce cannot afford to lose staff members, which is a distinct possibility due to the significant number of rural Canadians who remain unvaccinated. In many rural areas, the loss of even one rural physician due to the COVID-19 infection could be catastrophic for local health care.

SRPC strongly believes that it is imperative for the well-being of all Canadians that the vaccine is mandatory for all health care workers and highly recommended for the remaining population.

About the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada

The Society of Rural Physicians of Canada (SRPC) is the national voice of Canadian rural physicians. Founded in 1992, the SRPC's mission is championing rural generalist medical care through education, collaboration, advocacy, and research. On behalf of its members and the Canadian public, SRPC performs a wide variety of functions, such as developing and advocating health delivery mechanisms, supporting rural physicians and communities, promoting, and delivering continuing rural medical education, encouraging and facilitating research into rural health issues, and fostering communication among rural physicians and other groups with an interest in rural health care.

The SRPC is a voluntary professional organization with over 1,900 members representing rural physicians spanning the country.

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