CMA Submission to the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities’ study of Bill C-3, An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Canada Labour Code

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14464

POLICY TYPE  Parliamentary submission
DATE  2021-12-15
TOPICS  Health care and patient safety
Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents
Vaccine acceptance
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14450

POLICY TYPE
Policy document

DATE
2021-08-21

TOPICS
Health care and patient safety
Population health, health equity, public health

Documents
Return to school during COVID-19

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14452

Policy document

2021-08-21

Health care and patient safety
Population health, health equity, public health

Return to school during COVID-19

Full policy recommendation

1. **Interchangeability of vaccines (vaccine mixing)**:
   - The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) supports the interchangeability of vaccines to ensure a supply of vaccines that meets the needs of Canadians. This includes the possibility of using different vaccines for the first and second doses, as long as they are from the same manufacturer and have been authorized for use in Canada. This approach can help address supply constraints and ensure that as many people as possible receive a complete COVID-19 vaccination.
   - The CMA encourages provincial and territorial governments to facilitate the interchangeability of vaccines in their vaccination programs. This includes providing clear guidance to healthcare professionals on the handling and administration of vaccines that have the same active ingredients but are from different manufacturers.
   - The CMA also supports the development of research to further understand the safety and efficacy of vaccine mixing, including the evaluation of potential differences in immune responses and the duration of protection.

2. **Effective communication and engagement**:
   - Effective communication with the public is crucial to build trust and ensure voluntary vaccination. The CMA emphasizes the importance of clear and consistent messaging about vaccine safety and effectiveness, as well as the importance of addressing common concerns and misconceptions.
   - Healthcare providers should be well-equipped to answer questions and provide accurate information about vaccines, including the benefits and risks associated with each one.

3. **Flexible approaches to vaccine administration**:
   - Flexible approaches to vaccine administration are necessary to accommodate the needs of different populations, including those with medical conditions or disabilities. This includes the consideration of different dosing schedules and the use of alternative administration sites.
   - The CMA supports the development and implementation of vaccination strategies that are tailored to the specific needs of communities and populations at risk.

4. **Addressing barriers to vaccination**:
   - Addressing barriers to vaccination, such as access to vaccination sites and financial barriers, is essential to increase vaccine uptake. This includes working with community partners to identify and address barriers that may prevent individuals from accessing vaccines.
   - The CMA encourages the use of innovative approaches to engage hard-to-reach populations, including the use of mobile vaccination teams and the provision of transportation to vaccination sites.

5. **Evaluation and monitoring**:
   - Regular evaluation and monitoring of vaccination programs are necessary to assess their effectiveness and identify areas for improvement. This includes monitoring vaccine side effects and vaccine efficacy over time.
   - The CMA supports the collection and analysis of data on vaccine uptake, adherence, and outcomes to inform future vaccination strategies.
Interchangeability of vaccines (vaccine mixing)

Interchangeability of vaccines (vaccine mixing)

Policy position recommendation

1. The Canadian Medical Association recommends the interchangeability of different types of COVID-19 vaccines that are comparable in composition and strength, but not necessarily identical in antigenic content, in order to optimize vaccine supplies and ensure rapid immunization of the general population in each community.

2. The Canadian Medical Association recommends that the interchangeability of COVID-19 vaccines be based on the available evidence and recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI).

3. The Canadian Medical Association recommends that interchangeability of COVID-19 vaccines be subject to ongoing review and that the Canadian Medical Association will update its position as new information becomes available.

Documents

CMA Policybase - Canadian Medical Association