Environmentally Sustainable Health Systems in Canada

RATIONALS

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) is committed to improving the health and well-being of Canadians. A healthy environment is essential for health and well-being, and addressing environmental challenges is integral to achieving sustainable health systems.

The CMA supports policies that promote sustainable practices and encourages the integration of environmental considerations into public health initiatives. By aligning health promotion with environmental stewardship, we can create healthier communities, reduce healthcare costs, and improve overall population health.

This policy document advocates for the implementation of strategies that address environmental impacts within health systems, including the promotion of sustainable practices in healthcare facilities, the reduction of waste and carbon emissions, and the integration of environmental considerations into public health policies and programs.

The CMA encourages collaboration between healthcare providers, public health agencies, and environmental organizations to develop and implement effective strategies for sustainable health systems in Canada.
CMA 2023 Pre-budget Submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policyl4490

POLICY TYPE
Parliamentary submission

DATE
2022-10-06

TOPICS
Health systems, system funding and performance
Health human resources
Population health, health equity, public health

Documents
CMA Recommendations on Canada’s First National Adaptation Strategy: Addressing the health impacts of climate change
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14484

POLICY TYPE
Parliamentary submission

DATE
2022-06-23

TOPICS
Population health, health equity, public health
Health systems, system funding and performance

Documents

CMA Recommendations on Canada’s First National Adaptation Strategy:
Addressing the health impacts of climate change:
June 23, 2022
CMA Recommendations on Vaccine Equity and Intellectual Property
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14476

POLICY TYPE
Parliamentary submission

DATE
2022-05-13

TOPICS
Ethics and medical professionalism
Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs
Population health, health equity, public health

Documents
Appearance before the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAN): Administration and accessibility of Indigenous Peoples to the Non-Insured Benefits Program
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14474

POLICY TYPE  Parliamentary submission
DATE  2022-05-03
TOPICS  Population health, health equity, public health
   Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents

Appearance before the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAN): Administration and accessibility of Indigenous Peoples to the Non-Insured Benefits Program

Dr. Alika Lafontaine
President-Elect of the Canadian Medical Association
May 3, 2022
Written remarks not delivered
Canadian Medical Association input in advance of the World Health Assembly Special Session

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14461

POLICY TYPE  Parliamentary submission
DATE  2021-11-17
TOPICS  Population health, health equity, public health
Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents
New Criminal Code offence to protect health workers from threats and violence, including online
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14463

POLICY TYPE
Parliamentary submission

DATE
2021-11-16

TOPICS
Population health, health equity, public health
Ethics and medical professionalism
Disclosure of COVID-19 Vaccination Status by Physicians

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14457

POLICY TYPE  Policy document
DATE  2021-10-22
TOPICS  Physician practice, compensation, forms

Documents

Disclosure of COVID-19 Vaccination Status by Physicians

In light of recent recommendations:
1. The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) supports the practice of vaccinating all people who are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Physicians should communicate their vaccination status to their patients and other health care providers.
2. Patients have the right to know if their physician has been vaccinated against COVID-19.
3. Physicians should be transparent about their vaccination status and provide updates as necessary.
4. The CMA recommends that all physicians receive COVID-19 vaccinations as soon as possible.
5. Physicians should inform their patients about the availability of COVID-19 vaccines and encourage them to get vaccinated.

References:

Note: This policy is subject to change as new information becomes available.

CMA Policybase - Canadian Medical Association
COVID-19 Vaccine Global Intellectual Property Policy

POLICY TYPE  Policy document
DATE        2021-10-22
TOPICS      Physician practice, compensation, forms

Documents

COVID-19 Vaccine Global Intellectual Property Policy

Policy position recommendation

1. The CMA recommends the Government of Canada participate in the global dialogue, including the WHO, Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Committee, and the World Health Organization's Special Session of the Executive Board, to accelerate the development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines throughout the world.

2. The CMA recommends the Government of Canada support a temporary, international, waiver of intellectual property (IP) rights for COVID-19 vaccines, treatments, and tests, as proposed by TRIPS Council Members, to ensure equitable access to life-saving medicines.

3. The CMA supports the Government of Canada committing to purchase and allocate COVID-19 vaccines on a priority basis for vulnerable populations, including those living in rural and remote communities.

4. The CMA recommends the Government of Canada support the development and deployment of safe, effective, and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, treatments, and tests.

5. The CMA supports the Government of Canada committing to purchase and allocate COVID-19 vaccines on a priority basis for vulnerable populations, including those living in rural and remote communities.

6. The CMA recommends the Government of Canada support the development and deployment of safe, effective, and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, treatments, and tests.

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49. The CMA supports the Government of Canada committing to purchase and allocate COVID-19 vaccines on a priority basis for vulnerable populations, including those living in rural and remote communities.

50. The CMA recommends the Government of Canada support the development and deployment of safe, effective, and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, treatments, and tests.
The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change – Policy brief for Canada, October 2021
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14455

POLICY TYPE Policy endorsement
DATE 2021-10-20
TOPICS Population health, health equity, public health

Documents
São Paulo Declaration on Planetary Health
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14456

POLICY TYPE  Policy endorsement
DATE  2021-10-04
TOPICS  Population health, health equity, public health

Documents
Vaccine certificates
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14448

POLICY TYPE  Policy document
DATE        2021-08-21
TOPICS      Population health, health equity, public health
             Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents

Vaccine certificates

Policy position recommendation

1. The CMA reccommends that governments develop policies to increase mandatory vaccination of health-care workers. This recommendation is based on the evidence that mandatory vaccination of health-care workers can significantly reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in healthcare settings and improve patient outcomes.

2. The CMA supports the development of a registry to track the number of healthcare workers who are vaccinated against COVID-19. This registry would provide valuable information for public health officials and healthcare providers.

3. The CMA recommends that healthcare employers develop policies to support workplace health and safety. This includes providing adequate personal protective equipment and ensuring that policies are aligned with public health guidelines.

4. The CMA supports the development of a digital vaccine passport to help facilitate safe travel and public gatherings.

5. The CMA recommends that governments consider implementing targeted vaccination programs for vulnerable populations, such as the elderly, pregnant women, and those with underlying health conditions.

6. The CMA supports the development of a national vaccine task force to coordinate the vaccination effort across different provinces and territories.

7. The CMA recommends that governments consider implementing financial incentives for healthcare workers who are vaccinated against COVID-19.
Mandatory COVID-19 vaccination of health care workers

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14449

POLICY TYPE
Policy document

DATE
2021-08-21

TOPICS
Health human resources
Population health, health equity, public health

Documents

Mandatory COVID-19 vaccination of health care workers

Policy position recommendation:

1. All health care workers should be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 through their employers.

2. Health care workers and employers should develop and implement a comprehensive, evidence-based vaccination program that includes education, communication, and support for all employees.

3. The program should be designed to ensure the safety, privacy, and confidentiality of all employees.

4. Employers should provide reasonable accommodations for employees who cannot receive the vaccine due to medical or religious reasons.

5. The program should be evaluated regularly to assess its effectiveness and make necessary adjustments.

6. The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) supports the implementation of mandatory COVID-19 vaccination for health care workers to protect the health and safety of patients and health care workers alike.

7. The CMA encourages health care employers to work with their local public health units and other relevant stakeholders to develop effective vaccination strategies.

8. The CMA calls on governments at all levels to support the development and implementation of successful vaccination programs for health care workers.

9. The CMA recommends that all health care facilities require all health care workers to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

10. The CMA supports the development of guidelines for the safe and effective management of COVID-19 outbreaks in health care settings.
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
Global vaccine equity

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14451

POLICY TYPE  Policy document
DATE  2021-08-21
TOPICS  Ethics and medical professionalism
         Population health, health equity, public health

Documents
Return to school during COVID-19
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14452

POLICY TYPE  Policy document
DATE  2021-08-21
TOPICS  Health care and patient safety
  Population health, health equity, public health

Documents
Interchangeability of vaccines (vaccine mixing)

Interchangeability of vaccines (vaccine mixing)

Policy position recommendation:
1. The Canadian Medical Association recommends policies that ensure that interchangeability of vaccines, including RNA vaccines, is based on the best available evidence and consistent with national and international guidelines.

2. The Association recommends that governments ensure that agreements on vaccine interchangeability in Canada be consistent with national and international guidelines.

Summary: The interchangeability of vaccines is essential for ensuring that patients receive the appropriate vaccine for their needs. This policy position is based on the best available evidence and consistent with national and international guidelines.

Interchangeability of vaccines

1. The interchangeability of vaccines is essential for ensuring that patients receive the appropriate vaccine for their needs. This policy position is based on the best available evidence and consistent with national and international guidelines.

2. The Association recommends that governments ensure that agreements on vaccine interchangeability in Canada be consistent with national and international guidelines.

Reference:
Firearms Control (Update 2021)

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14401

POLICY TYPE  
Policy document

DATE  
2021-07-15

REPLACES  
Firearms control (Update 2001)

TOPICS  
Population health, health equity, public health

Health care and patient safety

Documents

Firearms Control

Update 2011

Introduction

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) has been a long-time advocate for safer communities where the responsible use of firearms is encouraged, and the misuse is prevented. The CMA has emphasized the importance of public health approaches to reduce the incidence of firearm-related injuries and deaths. In 2021, the CMA updated its policy on firearms control to reflect current evidence and considerations.

Policy Objectives

The objectives of the CMA’s policy on firearms control are as follows:

- To promote the responsible use of firearms and to prevent misuse.
- To support evidence-based policies that reduce the incidence of firearm-related injuries and deaths.
- To advocate for public health approaches to firearm control.

Policy Implementation

To achieve these objectives, the CMA recommends the following measures:

- Support for research on firearm-related injuries and deaths.
- Education and awareness campaigns on responsible firearm use.
- Advocacy for policies that reduce access to firearms.
- Collaboration with stakeholders to develop and implement effective firearm control policies.

Conclusion

The CMA believes that a comprehensive approach to firearm control is necessary to promote public health and safety. This policy reflects the CMA’s commitment to evidence-based policy and public health.
Policy Brief: CSAM-SMCA in Support of the Decriminalization of Drug Use and Possession for Personal Use

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14443

POLICY TYPE
Policy endorsement

DATE
2021-06-24

TOPICS
Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs
Population health, health equity, public health

Documents
The Future of Care for Canada’s Older Adults
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14441

POLICY TYPE: Parliamentary submission
DATE: 2021-06-23
TOPICS: Population health, health equity, public health

Documents