



Position Statement: Access to COVID-19 Vaccinations for Ontario MRTs & DMSs

January 6, 2021

The Ontario Association of Medical Radiation Sciences (OAMRS) applauds the Ontario government's decision to create the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force and ethical framework to guide vaccine prioritization and distribution across the province. The ethical framework and vaccination taskforce will safely and effectively guide vaccination of Ontario's most vulnerable populations and their care providers through phase one of its three phase distribution plan.

The OAMRS supports the Ontario government's COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan and strongly recommends that Medical Radiation Technologists (MRTs) and Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (DMSs) are included in phase one of the plan to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

MRTs and DMSs provide front-line diagnostic services such as x-rays, ultrasounds, nuclear medicine scans, CTs, MRIs, interventional and radiation therapy procedures to tens of thousands of Ontarians every day. These procedures may be performed in dedicated suites in our hospitals, at the bedside, portably in the emergency or Intensive Care Units (ICUs), in cancer centres, independent health facilities, and inside long-term care facilities. These vital procedures are used every day to diagnose, monitor and treat infected COVID-19 patients.

MRTs and DMSs have prolonged, direct contact all day, every day with every COVID-19 patient that comes into a facility, to perform the necessary diagnostic tests and treatments for management of the disease or in the course of other treatments. Direct patient contact is a core function of performing these procedures that includes needing to prepare, position/touch and/or administer drugs and imaging contrast for every procedure performed. There is not a single patient seen that does not involve prolonged and direct patient contact with the MRT or DMS.

This position statement supports the joint statement by the [OAMRS and OAR](#) and [CAR](#).