

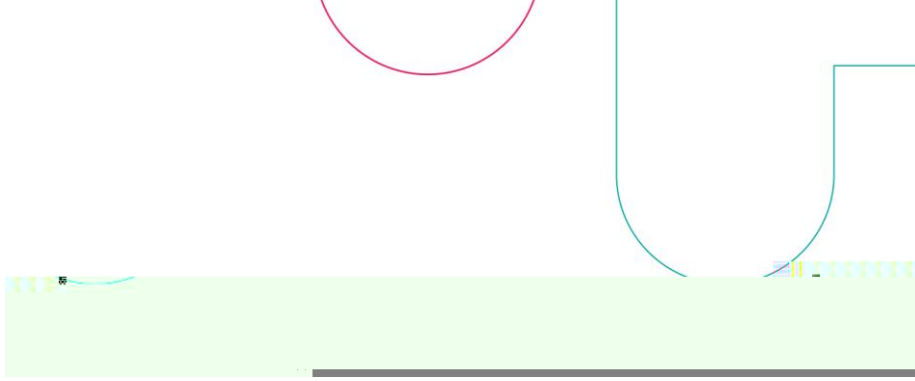
Who Knows? Essential Care Partners Do: A second set of eyes, ears, hands, and voice

A summary of audience comments and questions

October 27, 2021



The Canadian Patient Safety Week webinar was well-attended with 407



Recommended resource: The Essential Together learning bundles include curated education resources from organizations across the country for essential care partners and staff: [Essential](#)

Questions:

I have concerns about making vaccinations mandatory for caregivers/visitors, since there is a Ministry directive for staff. What are thoughts on this?

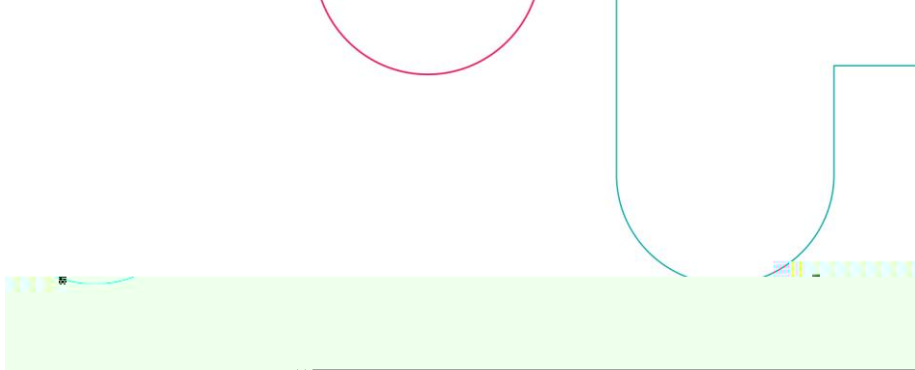
Due to the effectiveness of vaccination against COVID-19, organizations across the country are contemplating or enacting mandatory vaccination for visitors and, in some cases, essential care partners. Guidance and practices vary across the country and should take an equity-oriented approach to decision making. Where mandatory vaccination exists for essential care partners, there are exceptions in certain situations.

Recommended resource: The Essential Together huddles are open sessions to come together and learn from each other. The upcoming huddle on November 24 will feature a bioethicist who will be discussing the ethics involved in considering vaccine mandates for essential care partners and visitors. Register for the huddle here: [Essential Together Huddles: Connecting for peer-to-peer learning and support \(healthcareexcellence.ca\)](https://healthcareexcellence.ca/essential-together-huddles)

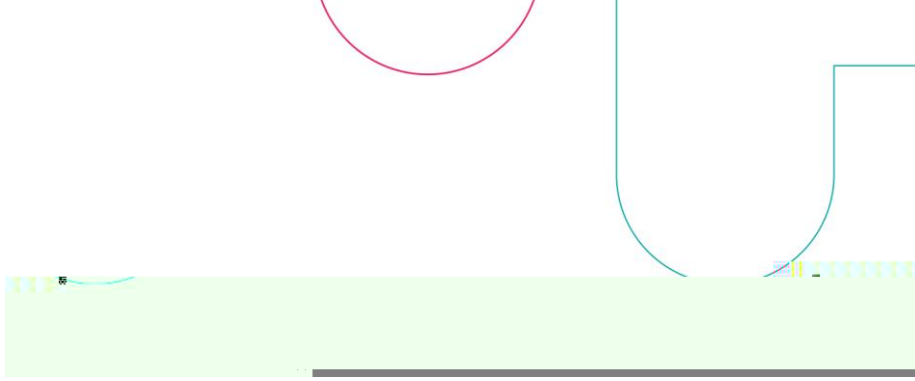
How do we create rules that aren't rigid and balance safety and patient and family experience?

Balanced and safe policies are necessary to prevent harm that arises from restrictions to essential care partner presence. Being guided by the evidence allows us to take a balanced approach. The emerging evidence through this pandemic has demonstrated that when infection prevention and control practices are in place, essential care partners are not sources of transmission within health and care settings. Evidence of harm as a result of blanket restrictions also needs to be considered, including harm to patients and residents, their caregivers, and to staff. Healthcare Excellence Canada created policy guidance for the safe reintegration of essential care partners through a rigorous policy lab process based on many perspectives, including from those that make policy, implement policy, and those most impacted by policy.

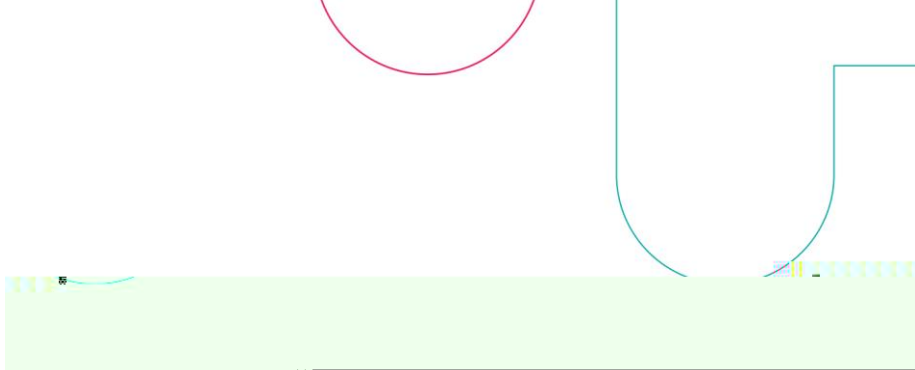
Recommended resources: The co-created policy guidance focuses on the key areas of identification and preparation of essential care partners and entry to facilities: [Policy Guidance for the Reintegration of Caregivers as Essential Care Partners \(healthcareexcellence.ca\)](https://healthcareexcellence.ca/policy-guidance-for-the-reintegration-of-caregivers-as-essential-care-partners)



The evidence brief is another valuable resource: [Evidence Brief: Caregivers as Essential Care Partners](https://healthcareexcellence.ca) (healthcareexcellence.ca)



What are your views on dealing with caregivers who do not promote the best outcome for the patient, such as deviating from best practices in a way that is not beneficial for the patient?



Recommended resources: As mentioned during the webinar, welcoming essential care partners at all times creates a culture that values patient and caregiver partnership in care. The Essential Together program has collected the evidence and packaged it as a brief and addendum that can be shared with your organizations: [Evidence Brief: Caregivers as Essential Care Partners \(healthcareexcellence.ca\)](#)

Other helpful resources are the learning bundles and [Essential Together Pledge](#) that can be found on the Essential Together site: [Essential Together](#) (healthcareexcellence.ca)