

“We know that long-term care residents have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. As new variants continue to spread, we are seeing a growing number of outbreaks in long-term care homes where the risk to those most vulnerable remains high,” said Rod Phillips, Minister of Long-Term Care. “This enhanced suite of measures, including mandatory vaccinations for those working in the homes of long-term care residents, is one more way we will provide them the greatest level of protection possible.”

The province is only allowing two medical exemptions and both require people to have had at least one COVID vaccine, even those who have had life-threatening reactions to other vaccines. Meanwhile, anyone who has had a previous severe reaction to other vaccines cannot receive the COVID vaccine. We will have more on that next week.

Officials say vaccination rates of staff in many homes are not high enough in the face of the risk posed by the Delta variant, and this is putting vulnerable residents at risk. The province is reporting 668 new cases of the virus today. That’s 4.4 cases per 100,000 people.

Mandating vaccination for in-home staff has now become essential according to the province, and homes are now required to meet the following requirements: