

COVID-19 existing resource response #3

(Last updated 4 February 2021)

Question

What factors affect health workers' attitudes toward vaccination uptake and what strategies have been successful in increasing vaccination among health workers?

What we found

To inform factors and strategies that can affect health workers' attitudes and increase vaccination uptake, we identified the best-available evidence. Our findings can be found below (see Box 1 for a description of our approach).

- COVID-END in Canada included in the first edition of its [living evidence profile \(LEP\) on vaccine roll-out](#) all systematic reviews that spoke at least in part to addressing vaccine hesitancy and supporting vaccine uptake, and we will include such reviews in twice-a-month updates to this living evidence profile. COVID-END in Canada shared a list of systematic reviews that specifically addressed vaccine hesitancy and uptake among health workers with Ontario Ministry of Health staff preparing a briefing note on this topic.
- The Ontario Ministry of Health's Research, Analysis and Evaluation Branch (RAEB) prepared a [briefing note on vaccine acceptance and uptake in health workers](#), which included nine primary studies (with roughly half from early in the pandemic and focused on past experience with other vaccines) and two systematic reviews (with both focused on flu vaccines).
- The Ontario Behavioural Science Working Group, which is co-chaired by Justin Proulx, is preparing a one-page behavioural science brief and a longer technical brief on behavioural-science principles that can be used to optimize efforts for encouraging vaccine acceptance and uptake in health workers, both of which will be linked to in this response as soon as they are available. This working group is aware of at least two groups with Ontario health-worker survey data: 1) one led by the COVID zero group (Noah Ivers, Nathan Stall, Laura Desveaux et al.) surveying primary-care physicians as well as health workers other than physicians; and 2) one led by the Public Health Agency of Canada.
- COVID-END in Canada is also aware of [19 to Zero](#), which is a broad consortium of "academics, public-health experts, behavioural economists, and creative professionals working to

Box 1: Our approach

COVID-END in Canada responds to requests for evidence syntheses about topics related to COVID-19 that are likely to be explicitly considered by high-level decision-makers in multiple Canadian jurisdictions. This includes conducting rapid evidence profiles, living evidence profiles, rapid syntheses and living evidence syntheses. Examples of these evidence products can be viewed [here](#).

Sometimes requests are submitted about questions that have already been addressed by one or more recently updated, high-quality evidence syntheses or will be addressed soon by work underway (e.g., through a rapid synthesis underway with or being planned by a Canadian team, registered synthesis protocol or CIHR funding to conduct a synthesis). In these situations, we prepare a response that profiles these existing resources. These responses are typically prepared by a combination of: 1) searching both the COVID-END domestic inventory and the COVID-END global inventory; and 2) contacting 40+ Canada evidence-synthesis teams to identify any additional resources or work underway that is relevant to the question posed in a request. Such an existing resource response is equivalent to a rapid evidence profile prepared with the same turn-around time.

We followed this approach to prepare this existing resource response, which was prepared in one business day (and hence the equivalent to a one-day rapid evidence profile) to inform next steps in evidence synthesis, guideline development and/or decision-making related to the question that was posed.

understand, engage with, and ultimately shift public perceptions around COVID-19 behaviours and vaccination.”

- Justin Presseau and Jeremy Grimshaw are awaiting confirmation of funding that would allow them to maintain a living behavioural sciences document that will include both data (e.g., from surveys) and evidence about vaccine acceptance/hesitancy uptake and that will include health workers as a target audience.

Lavis JN. COVID-END in Canada existing resource response #3: What factors affect health workers’ attitudes toward vaccination uptake and what strategies have been successful in increasing vaccination among health workers?. Hamilton: McMaster Health Forum, COVID-END in Canada, 4 February 2021.

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