



January 18, 2021

Honourable Christine Elliott MPP
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
Hepburn Block, 10th Floor
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1E9

General (Retired) Rick Hillier
Chair
COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force
Ministry of the Solicitor General
George Drew Bldg., 18th Floor
25 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

Dear Minister Elliott and General Hillier

We are reaching out to you on behalf of the Canadian Assistive Devices Association (CADA) to request your assistance to ensure that assistive device vendors in Ontario are prioritized for COVID-19 vaccinations and for the rapid testing program, including the coming Panbio COVID-19 AG Rapid Test.

As Authorized Vendors under the Ontario Assistive Devices Program (ADP), our vendor members provide essential health care services, supplies and equipment as providers to the most vulnerable Ontario populations residing in institutional, congregate living and long-term care settings.

Our services and products support the care staff working with those residing in multiple long-term care homes, retirement homes, other congregate settings, and in their personal residences, to provide much needed home medical equipment for safety, independence and mobility.

Additionally, CADA members provide equipment essential to the provision of safe home care including hospital beds, therapeutic surfaces and bathroom safety equipment which hasten hospital discharge and in turn, support the governments efforts to ensure that hospitals have the capacity to care for increasing admissions related to the current pandemic.

We make this request to ensure the safety of the vulnerable patient population with whom our members interact, as well as our frontline staff.

It is essential that assistive device vendors and their staff be identified as a priority group for vaccination and rapid testing by local Public Health units (PHU).

We wish to ensure that Public Health officials are aware of essential services that our members provide and the level of their interaction with clients at risk for poor health outcomes related to the pandemic.

It would be helpful if the Ministry, via the Assistive Devices Program, could provide PHUs with the list of ADP authorized vendors so that they can contact them regarding the process for including their staff as

“essential service providers” to long term care and ensure they are included in their local vaccination and rapid testing programs once the highest priority groups are vaccinated.

Thank you for your prompt attention in this matter to support us as we continue to provide essential healthcare services and products to Ontarians.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Jeff Preston,
President
Canadian Assistive Devices Association



Erin Roberts
Executive Director
Canadian Assistive Devices Association

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David Williams
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COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force

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