


**Public Health Services  
Policy Manual  
POLICY & PROCEDURE**

<b>Chapter</b>	A05	Professional Practice	A0516
<b>Subject</b>	16	Minimal Contact COVID-19 Vaccine Intervention	Page 1 of 3
<b>Reviewed By:</b>	Jennifer Mitton, Nursing Practice Advisor - <2021-06-23>		
<b>Approved by:</b>	Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, Medical Officer of Health - <2021-06-23>		
<b>Signature:</b>			

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all clients of Hamilton Public Health Services (PHS) receive brief interventions to increase uptake of COVID-19 vaccination during face-to-face, virtual, and telephone interactions with health professionals.

PHS aims to maximize COVID-19 vaccine uptake in order to achieve the pandemic vaccination objectives. These objectives are to:

1. Prevent deaths;
2. Prevent illness, hospitalization, and intensive care unit admissions;
3. Reduce transmission; and,
4. Achieve high levels of population immunity.

Brief intervention by a health professional has the potential to increase vaccine uptake in the Hamilton community.

**SCOPE**

This policy applies to all health professional staff assigned to provide direct client services in all program areas.

The Nursing Practice Advisor will ensure that this policy and procedure, and related clinical protocols, are maintained and reviewed every two years or more frequently as needed. Revisions to this policy and procedure require the approval and sign-off by the Medical Officer of Health.

**DEFINITIONS**

<b>Minimal Contact COVID-19 Vaccine Intervention:</b>	Adopted from the internationally recognized best practices for smoking cessation, these interventions can be performed by a health professional in less than three minutes. An example of minimal contact intervention is the 4As (Ask, Advise, Assess, Assist).
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<b>Motivational Interviewing:</b>	A collaborative client-centred approach to counselling aimed at exploring reasons for hesitancy and changing attitudes and behaviour.
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## POLICY

Minimal contact COVID-19 vaccine intervention is to be implemented, by a health professional, with all clients receiving clinical services from Hamilton PHS.

The 4A model for minimal contact COVID-19 vaccine intervention is to be implemented for each client:

<b>ASK:</b>	Identify and document COVID-19 vaccine status for every client at minimum upon registration or intake.
<b>ADVISE:</b>	Encourage every client to complete the COVID-19 vaccine series in a personalized and respectful manner.
<b>ASSESS:</b>	Use a motivational interviewing approach to discuss the client's beliefs, knowledge, concerns and barriers to COVID-19 immunization.
<b>ASSIST:</b>	Help the client make an informed choice about vaccination and provide support with booking a COVID-19 vaccine appointment.

All program areas are required to have minimal contact COVID-19 vaccine intervention integrated into their documentation system to ensure that this intervention is completed with every client.

## PROCEDURE

<b>Program Manager</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that minimal contact COVID-19 intervention is integrated into the documentation system used by the program; and,</li> <li>Integrate minimal contact COVID-19 interventions into documentation audit process.</li> </ul>
<b>Position</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend orientation and training as required; and,</li> <li>Implement Appendix "A" to Policy A0516 Clinical Protocol: Minimal Contact COVID-19 Vaccine Intervention.</li> </ul>

## REFERENCES

Gagneur, A. (2020). Motivational interviewing: A powerful tool to address vaccine hesitancy. Available: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/reports-publications/canada-communicable-disease-report-ccdr/monthly-issue/2020-46/issue-4-april-2-2020/article-6-canvax-addressing-vaccine-hesitancy.html>

National Advisory Committee on Immunization. (2021). Recommendations on the Use of COVID-19 vaccines. Available: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines.html>

Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario. (2017). Integrating Tobacco Interventions into Daily Practice (3rd ed.) Toronto, ON: Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario.

World Health Organization. (2017). **Conversations to build trust in vaccination**. A training module for health workers. Available: [https://www.who.int/immunization/programmes\\_systems/TrainingModule\\_ConversationGuide\\_final.pptx?ua=1](https://www.who.int/immunization/programmes_systems/TrainingModule_ConversationGuide_final.pptx?ua=1)

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

A0505 Documentation of Clinical Care

## APPENDICES

Appendix "A" to A0516	Clinical Protocol: Minimal Contact COVID-19 Vaccination Intervention
Appendix "B" to A0516	Minimal Contact COVID-19 Vaccination Intervention Quick Reference Tool

## HISTORY

**A0516** *Minimal Contact COVID-19 Intervention* drafted by Jennifer Mitton, Nursing Practice Advisor, Epidemiology Wellness & Communicable Disease Control 2021-06-23. Approved by Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, Medical Officer of Health 2021-06-23.