

Dear Patients of the Clarksburg Medical Group,

We would like to acknowledge the resilience and strength of our community. Over the past 18 months we have appreciated your patience as we have pivoted and pivoted again through the pandemic to uphold best practice recommendations from Public Health and our governing bodies.

Most recently the news of vaccine passports has caused distress for some. We have had increasing calls requesting a medical exemption for the COVID-19 vaccine. We would like to provide some information and clarification on medical exemptions in this setting based on the questions we have received to date.

The following is an exert from the College of Physician and Surgeons of Ontario:

*“Generally speaking, there are very few acceptable medical exemptions to the COVID-19 vaccination (e.g., an allergist/immunologist-confirmed severe allergy or anaphylactic reaction to a previous dose of a COVID-19 vaccine or to any of its components that cannot be mitigated; a diagnosed episode of myocarditis/pericarditis after receipt of an mRNA vaccine).”*

If you are concerned that you may be allergic to a component of a Covid-19 vaccine please visit Health Canada's Drug Database (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/drug-product-database.html>) to see a full list of ingredients.

The Ministry of Health states:

*“Individuals with a history of significant allergic reactions and/or anaphylaxis to any food, drug, venom, latex or other allergens not related to the COVID-19 vaccine can receive the COVID-19 vaccine followed by observation for a minimum of 15 minutes. Individuals with allergy issues like allergic rhinitis, asthma and eczema can receive the vaccine followed by observation for a minimum of 15 minutes.”*

We encourage all eligible patients to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Our hope is that the information above will help patients determine whether or not they may qualify for a medical exemption. If you have questions or concerns please book an appointment with your doctor. We would like to remind our patients that we strongly value a safe work environment. We have a zero tolerance policy for aggressive or abusive behaviour toward our physicians and our support staff. We look forward to working together to improve the health of our patients and our community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Murphy, Dr. Fauser, Dr. Euler, Dr. Allan