
City's Vaccine Status Policy promotes and improves safe and healthy working environment

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 20, 2021

Welland, ON – The City of Welland adopted a vaccine status policy on October 19, supporting measures to fight against COVID-19. This policy applies to all City employees, including full-time, part-time, permanent, temporary, casual, students, volunteers, Councillors attending in-person meetings, contractors, and vendors.

Recognizing that being unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated poses an increased risk of becoming seriously ill from COVID-19 and spreading the virus to others in the workplace, implementation and compliance with the policy contributes to a safer workplace. In addition, given the critical nature of the municipal services provided by the City to the community, vaccination is an essential support to workplace continuity.

“We designed this policy to protect our staff and keep them safe and healthy while working,” said CAO Steve Zorbas. “This policy went through several revisions before being presented to Council, and ultimately what we arrived at was a policy that allows everyone to continue working safely and with as little disruption as possible.”

The policy's procedure outlines that proof of vaccination is required by November 19. For those not fully vaccinated, including those with a medical or Human Rights Code exemption or those who do not wish to disclose their vaccination status, a negative Rapid Antigen Screening test must be submitted twice a week beginning December 2.

The policy complements other workplace health and safety controls already in effect, including daily health screening, mandatory masking, physical distancing, hand hygiene, and enhanced cleaning.

Failure or refusal to adhere to the terms of this policy will result in an employee being placed on an unpaid leave of absence for a maximum of six weeks. Those on leave may not use vacation, lieu, or other credits during this leave of absence. Continued failure and refusal to adhere to the terms of this policy will result in further discipline up to and including dismissal.

-30-

For media inquiries, please contact:

Marc MacDonald

Manager, Corporate Communications

905-735-1700 x2337

marc.macdonald@welland.ca