



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, September 9, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New policy requires City staff to be vaccinated against COVID-19 or regularly tested

The City of Barrie is implementing a new COVID-19 vaccination policy for employees. All staff will be required to provide proof of their COVID-19 vaccination status by September 20. The policy applies to all employees and volunteers of the City of Barrie and contractors (only where the City has any duties as an employer as defined by the Occupational Health and Safety Act). This policy was developed using criteria and risk assessments provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.

“The City of Barrie has a duty to provide safe environments for staff and the public” said Michael Prowse, CAO. “By introducing this new vaccine policy, we feel we are leading by example and doing our part to keep health and safety a top priority.”

Staff who have not been vaccinated or who do not disclose their vaccination status by September 20 will be required to attend mandatory education on the benefits of vaccination.

Due to the nature of certain City jobs, some staff have been deemed to be at a higher risk (working with citizens who may not be vaccinated or masked) or their positions with the City are critical to the health and safety of the citizens of Barrie. These employees are **required** to be fully vaccinated by October 29, 2021, or may be subject to discipline in accordance with the policy.

All other employees who refuse to get vaccinated or refuse to disclose their vaccination status by October 1, 2021, will be required to get tested at their cost for COVID-19 on a regular basis.

The City will exempt staff with valid reasons related to protected grounds under the Ontario Human Rights Code from vaccination requirements. If the exemption is accepted, these employees will be required to get tested for COVID-19 on a regular basis.

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