



NEWS

Ross Memorial Hospital policy dictates staff must show proof of vaccination or exemption

Policy effective since Sept. 7 places those unable to do so by Nov. 1 on an unpaid leave of absence

By [Catherine Whitnall](#) Kawartha Lakes This Week

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

As COVID-19 continues to evolve, hospitals, paramedics, primary care providers, public health units and other partners continue to work together to ensure safe practices in the communities they serve and that includes developing strict policies around vaccinations.

Since Sept. 7, Ross Memorial Hospital's vaccine policy states that COVID-19 vaccination will be mandatory unless medically contraindicated, for all employees, medical staff, volunteers, students/learners, contractors and on-site vendors. The policy allows a period of time for those unvaccinated to get fully vaccinated, during which time they must complete regular COVID-19 testing.

The deadline for submitting proof of at least one dose of vaccine or acceptable medical exemption is Nov. 1. If proof of vaccine or acceptable medical exemption is not received by then, the employee will be placed on an unpaid leave of absence, the hospital says.

"For the past 18 months, Ross Memorial Hospital and the entire healthcare sector has been entrusted to help lead our community through an unprecedented global pandemic. It has been a tremendous challenge and responsibility, one that has been met with a commitment and vigour that everyone at Ross Memorial should be proud of," stated Ross Memorial Hospital president and CEO Kelly Isfan.

"The evidence is clear - being vaccinated is the best defense against COVID-19. Ross Memorial is confident our vaccination policy meets the values we strive to achieve every single day, and that it will help foster and maintain a safe environment for all."

Isfan notes the hospital's policy is in line with its four core values that guide everyday actions and hold everyone accountable: compassion, respect, excellence and integrity. She continued the hospital's leadership feels strongly that "we must lead by example and take every measure available to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus and keep all of our patients, colleagues, and the broader community safe."

The hospital is also committed to continuing to provide education and supports for individuals to remove barriers to vaccination, in conjunction with providing on-site vaccination opportunities to staff and physicians.

"Throughout the pandemic, Ross Memorial has continually evaluated our policies to ensure we are providing the safest environment possible for our patients, employees, partners, and community. We will continue this process as it relates to proof of vaccination," adds Isfan.

To ensure that it is offering the safest possible environment for patients, families and healthcare workers, the Peterborough Regional Health Centre has also

implemented a policy making COVID-19 vaccination mandatory for all PRHC employees, professional staff, contractors, volunteers and students.

“As an acute care facility and referral centre serving patients across the region, it is vital that our healthcare workers at PRHC are protected by being fully vaccinated, and that our patients are cared for and supported by a fully-vaccinated team,” states Dr. Lynn Mikula, PRHC executive vice-president, chief of staff and chief medical executive.

Headlines newsletter

Top stories delivered to your inbox.

[Sign Up](#)

Both hospital’s COVID-19 vaccination policies are consistent with the direction taken by many hospitals and organizations in the Greater Toronto Area and across the province.

Catherine Whitnall is a reporter with MyKawartha. She can be reached at cwhitnall@mykawartha.com. Follow her on [Twitter](#) and MyKawartha on [Facebook](#)

Tags: [Hyper Local](#), [Human Interest](#), [News](#)

[REPORT AN ERROR](#)

[JOURNALISTI C STANDARDS](#)

[ABOUT US](#)

More from MyKawartha.com & partners
