

# WORKPLACE COVID-19 VACCINE POLICIES NEEDED: MOH

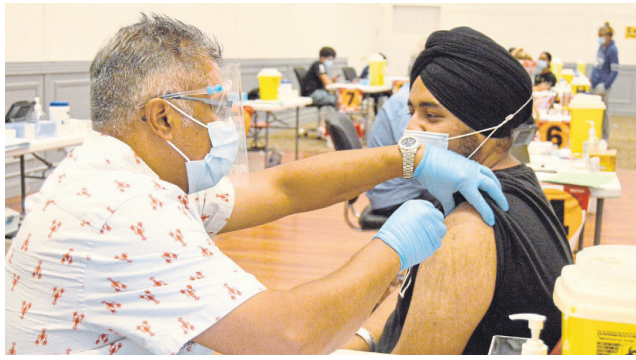
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With the COVID-19 Delta variant continuing to spread, the region's top doctor is calling on local employers to put workplace vaccine rules in place to protect staff and the public.

Halton Medical Officer of Health Dr. Hamidah Meghani announced her latest advice Aug. 26, when she issued a guidance document for businesses that also includes suggested provisions for workers who decline vaccinations for medical or other reasons protected by Ontario's Human Rights Code.

"We are facing a critical time in our combined efforts against COVID-19 in Ontario," she said. "The rapid and continuing spread of the Delta variant of concern — with increased transmissibility and disease severity — mean that we must fully engage to protect our community and our health system capacity. Getting fully vaccinated for COVID-19 is the best defence against the virus, including the Delta variant."

Meghani's recommendations say workplace vaccination policies should explain their purpose, timelines, potential consequences for non-compliance, and



Alexandra Heck/Metroland

Workplace vaccination policies are being recommended for Halton businesses.

specific actions workers must take, such as providing proof of vaccination status or medical exemption.

For unvaccinated employees, the medical officer of health suggests that workplaces could consider having those staff members wear additional personal protective equipment, be relocated, reassigned or placed on modified work duties.

"In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak, unvaccinated and partially vac-

inated workers should not be permitted to work in the outbreak area," the document from Meghani states.

"If reassignment is not possible, consider other options, including whether unvaccinated workers should receive paid or unpaid leave or use vacation days until it is safe for them to return to the workplace."

The full list of recommendations can be found at [halton.ca/COVID19](http://halton.ca/COVID19) under COVID-19 Resources for Businesses.

# LOCAL MAN KILLED IN STORM INCIDENT

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Police are investigating the death of a Halton Hills man who died after an incident at a golf course.

Wellington OPP say the incident occurred around 6:10 p.m. Saturday in Erin, when police, along with the Town of Erin Fire Services, Guelph-Wellington Para-

medic Services and Hydro One responded to report of an injured person at a golf course. Severe weather conditions caused a tree and hydro lines to fall across an unoccupied vehicle that was parked in the lot, police said.

The owner approached the vehicle and attempted to extinguish a small fire that had ignited, when "he collapsed suddenly," police said.

William Elliott, 59, was pronounced dead at the scene. The Wellington County OPP, OPP Forensic Identification Services and the Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario continue to investigate the incident.

A post-mortem is scheduled to determine the cause of death.

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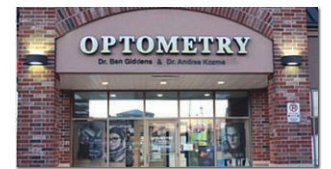
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