

# COVID-19 VACCINE POLICIES MANDATED FOR LARGER WORKPLACES

## AMENDED INSTRUCTIONS COME INTO EFFECT ON FRIDAY, REPLACING FORMER RULES

MELANIE HENNESSEY  
mhennessey@  
metroland.com

Halton's medical officer of health has issued new COVID-19 rules that require businesses with 100 or more staff members physically present to implement a workplace vaccination policy and safety plan.

The amended instructions from Dr. Hamidah Meghani for businesses and organizations, set to come into effect on Friday, will consolidate and replace two existing sets of directives previously issued on Feb. 12 and May 8.

"The amended instructions also provide additional contact tracing measures in certain settings, including the collection and maintenance of customer/patron contact information for places where there is a higher risk of COVID-19 exposure through closer contact or lack of masking," states a prepared release from Halton Region.

"This will help Halton Region Public Health to achieve prompt contact tracing for high-risk COVID-19 exposures — essential to preventing further spread of the Delta variant, which we know to be highly transmissible and present greater risk for severe illness and hospitalization, especially for the unvaccinated."

The directives specify that businesses with 100 or more workers physically present — including those



Halton's medical officer of health is requiring larger workplaces to implement COVID-19 vaccination policies.

working in the community — must establish, implement and ensure compliance with a COVID-19 safety plan and workplace vaccination policy, in accordance with Meghani's previously-issued recommendations.

"This policy should be in place no later than September 22, 2021, with steps to ensure full implementa-

tion and compliance to follow as soon as possible," state the instructions.

Meghani's recommendations say workplace vaccination policies should explain their purpose, timelines, potential consequences for noncompliance and 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.

Meghani has also amended Halton's Class

Order under Section 22 of the Health Protection and Promotion Act to reflect new provincial directions for case and contact management of COVID-19, effective Friday as well.

Key changes to the Class Order, which requires those with or exposed to COVID-19 to self-isolate to prevent further spread, include:

- Updated guidance for how long people must self-isolate based on their symptoms

- Reducing the length of time people with high-risk exposures must self-isolate from 14 to 10 days

- Relieving people with high-risk exposures who are vaccinated or have recovered from COVID-19 infections of the requirements to self-isolate, at the discretion of Halton Public Health.

For further details, visit [halton.ca/COVID19](http://halton.ca/COVID19).

Metroland file photo

## HAUL READY FOR SCHOOL.

Follow @LucianoandSarahsNoFrills for back to school deals 'cause those lunch boxes won't fill themselves.

### STORE HOURS:

Sunday-Saturday: 8am-9pm

@LucianoandSarahsNoFrills



OWNERS  
LUCIANO &  
SARAH VECCHIO

**NOFRILLS**

388 Queen Street East, Acton

## Culligan Water™

RENT  
WATER TREATMENT  
STARTING AT \$9.95/MTH  
FOR THE FIRST 3 MONTHS



# SAVE \$500

## OFF A WHOLE HOME SYSTEM

### NO PAYMENTS UNTIL 2022!

5 Mountainview Rd N, Georgetown

(905) 877-6242



[www.culligan.com](http://www.culligan.com) | [info@culliganwater.ca](mailto:info@culliganwater.ca)