



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 4, 2021

Norfolk and West Haldimand General Hospital implements mandatory vaccine policy

Norfolk and West Haldimand General Hospitals, like many other hospitals across Ontario, will require anyone working on-site to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by January 4, 2022. The vaccination policy extends to employees, physicians, contractors, volunteers, and students.

The decision to mandate the vaccine ensures our hospital remains a safe space for every community member, whether they are a patient or healthcare worker.

"It is our responsibility to provide a safe environment for our staff and for anyone who requires our care," says Interim President and CEO Kim Mullins. We believe this vaccination policy will provide safe, high-quality care that the community expects from us."

All staff and physicians at NGH and WHGH are required to receive their final dose by December 21 to ensure full compliance before January 4. Until then, any staff member who is not fully vaccinated will be required to test regularly for the COVID-19 virus. We are also taking steps to ensure staff who are not fully vaccinated receive education and consultation on the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines to make sure they are fully informed. By taking a phased approach to a mandatory vaccine, NGH and WHGH can ensure that staff who have not yet been vaccinated have the necessary time to receive both doses of the vaccine.

In addition, all new employees, professional staff, contractors, volunteers, and students are required to be fully vaccinated.

The majority of our staff and physicians have already committed to protecting patients and each other by getting vaccinated. As of November 2, 2021, 90 percent of physicians and nearly 90 percent of staff at NGH have reported that they are fully vaccinated. At WHGH, 100 percent of physicians and 85 percent of staff are fully vaccinated.

It is our goal and expectation that every worker at NGH and WHGH who can be vaccinated will be vaccinated. Our staff and physicians have worked tirelessly to protect our communities throughout the pandemic, and they deserve protection and support to enable them to do their jobs safely, and to the best of their abilities.

For more information on getting vaccinated against COVID-19, please visit the Health Unit's website at: <https://hnhu.org/>

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