

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release November 2, 2021

Mandatory Vaccination for all BCHS Employees and Medical Staff

Brantford, ON – Effective January 4, 2022, all Brant Community Healthcare System (BCHS) employees and medical staff will be required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to work at BCHS, with limited exceptions.

"We are implementing a mandatory vaccination policy to support the safest possible environment for all who enter BCHS sites," said Dr. David McNeil, President & CEO of BCHS. "As healthcare workers, we have a responsibility to do all that we can to ensure that we are providing quality care as safely as possible, using all of the tools at our disposal, including vaccination. It is our hope that every member of our team who is not yet fully vaccinated will do so at their earliest opportunity to support a safe environment for patients, vulnerable populations, and our teams."

This approach is consistent with hospital partners in the Hamilton, Niagara, Haldimand, Brant, Burlington (HNHBB) region, and with many other hospitals across the province. This message is also consistent with BCHS's earlier announcement in September requiring vaccination for new hires.

Today, 92% of employees and medical staff and 100% of volunteers are fully vaccinated. BCHS' goal is to have all BCHS employees, medical staff and volunteers fully vaccinated.

The goal of 100% compliance in mandatory vaccination as of January 4, 2022 is a progressive approach that gives all unvaccinated and partially-vaccinated individuals an opportunity to receive first and second doses.

We are grateful for the support of our employees, medical staff and volunteers in our vaccination policy as well as their ongoing commitment to keeping our patients and fellow healthcare workers safe.

There is significant evidence that vaccination is safe and effective, and the best defense against COVID-19. To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine or to book a vaccine appointment, visit the <u>Brant County Health Unit website</u>.

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