



**COMPASSION** is our  
**PASSION**

**OUR VISION:** OUTSTANDING CARE - NO EXCEPTIONS!

**OUR MISSION:** PROVIDE QUALITY PERSON-CENTRED HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO OUR COMMUNITY.

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## Media Release

September 22, 2021  
For Immediate Release

### WRH UPDATE ON COVID-19 VACCINE POLICY

**WINDSOR, ON.** – *The following memo was issued today to all Windsor Regional Hospital employees and professional staff regarding the implementation of our COVID-19 vaccine policy.*

Windsor Regional Hospital (“WRH”) wants to update our staff and community on the status of the implementation of its mandatory [COVID-19 Vaccine Policy](#). (“Policy”)

The [Policy](#) was unanimously passed by WRH’s Medical Advisory Committee on September 2, 2021, and was approved by WRH’s Board of Directors on September 3, 2021. The Policy is part of a progressive plan to ensure that all employees, Professional Staff, Affiliates, volunteers, and students (“Staff”) are vaccinated against COVID-19, unless they have a valid exemption. The Policy follows [Directive #6](#) implemented by the Provincial Chief Medical Officer of Health.

The Policy is required to protect our patients, colleagues, and community and to support WRH’s ability to provide vital health care services to the Windsor-Essex region during the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis, as described in greater detail in our [Letter to the Community](#) published on September 3, 2021.

WRH is pleased to announce that **3,398 or 96%** of its employees are fully vaccinated or have complied with the Policy. As of the date of this memo, 140 or less than 4% of the employees have not complied with the Policy. Of these employees 84 are considered clinical staff and 56 are considered non-clinical staff.

Also, **534 or 99%** of our Professional Staff are fully vaccinated or have complied with the Policy. Seven (7) persons or 1% of the Professional Staff that have not complied with the Policy with only two (2) of the seven (7) being in the active staff category (i.e. full time). Due to the various categories of privileges of Professional Staff and related by-law processes; these numbers could shift slightly

For those Staff who did not receive the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by **September 22, 2021**, they will be placed on a two-week unpaid leave. If those Staff have not received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by **October 7, 2021**, their employment will be terminated; or their privileges will be suspended on an immediate mid-term basis (with a recommendation going forward that their privileges be revoked/terminated) and the related by-law process will be followed. As a result, the final number of Staff still unvaccinated will not be known until after October 7, 2021 however it will not be greater than the numbers stated above. In fact, as we send this memo we are aware of some of the unvaccinated staff attending today to get their first dose.

“I am very proud of our Windsor Regional Hospital team leading by example for our community. All our WRH Board members unanimously supported the implementation of the WRH Vaccine Policy and also lead by example themselves on the importance of getting vaccinated,” stated Anthony Paniccia, Board Chair, Windsor Regional Hospital.

“Windsor Regional Hospital has put the safety and well-being of patients, our community and team members first by requiring employees to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Our WRH team members responded by showing the importance of receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. The individuals who have not complied with the Policy and decided not to be vaccinated will not impact the provision of clinical or non-clinical care to our community,” stated David Musyj, President and CEO, Windsor Regional Hospital.

“Our Windsor Regional Hospital professional staff leadership was unanimous in its recommendation of the WRH Vaccine Policy. The fact 99% are complying with the Policy evidences the front-line professional staff’s agreement that getting vaccinated coupled with following public health measures is how we will minimize the impact of this ongoing pandemic” stated Dr Wassim Saad, Chief of Staff, Windsor Regional Hospital. Dr. Saad stated further: “The tertiary and quaternary care Windsor Regional Hospital provides in addition to our immune compromised patients requires us to do all we can do to protect our patients and community.”



Anthony Paniccia, WRH Board Chair



David Musyj, WRH President and CEO



Dr. Wassim Saad, WRH VP Medical Affairs and Chief of Staff

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