



Statement from the South Georgian Bay Ontario Health Team Regarding the Ontario COVID-19 Immunization Directive

The South Georgian Bay Ontario Health Team (SGB OHT) is uniting in compliance with the provincial COVID-19 vaccination directive, effective September 7, 2021, and supports that all health and social care workers in South Georgian Bay be required to present proof of:

- a full COVID-19 vaccination; or
- a documented medical exemption for not being fully vaccinated; or
- completion of a COVID-19 vaccination educational session

Individuals who do not provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19, per the Ministry of Health regulations, will be required to undertake regular antigen COVID-19 testing and continue to follow appropriate best practice guidelines for their work environment.

As part of our collective effort to protect our community from the risks posed by the Delta variant, we fully support the requirement for proof of vaccination before hiring new staff. We will not hire those who are not yet fully vaccinated. A condition upon hiring new employees and the acceptance of new volunteers is proof of full vaccination.

The SGB OHT strongly recommends that everyone eligible be vaccinated against COVID-19 and continue to follow public health protocols. Vaccines are safe and effective, and full vaccination is the best prevention against serious illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19. Vaccinations are the best way to protect those most vulnerable in our community, including frail seniors and children under 12 years of age. Please visit the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit website for the local COVID-19 vaccine clinic schedule.