



COUNCIL & PUBLIC MEMBER MANDATORY PROOF OF VACCINATION POLICY

Council Administrative

PURPOSE

To ensure East Hants provides a healthy, safe, and supportive environment for Councillors and public members of Committees of Council, East Hants has a mandatory Covid-19 vaccination requirement, to include all Councillors and public members of Committees of Council.

The purpose of this policy is to outline:

1. The requirement to provide Proof of Vaccination to East Hants.
2. The implications of Unpaid Leave.
3. The accommodation process.
4. How personal information will be collected, retained, used, disclosed, and disposed of to protect the privacy of Members.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all members of Council and public members of Committees of Council of the Municipality of East Hants. This policy applies to all members of committees of Council, whether the committee meets in person or virtually.

DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Attestation Date	The date by which a Member’s Proof of Vaccination or request for accommodation be provided to the CAO. January 10 th , 2022 is the Attestation Date.
Committee of Council	Includes committees listed in section 3 of the Council Procedural Policy, including but not limited to: Fire Advisory Committee, Fences Arbitration Committee, Police Advisory Committee, Audit Committee, Agricultural Advisory Committee, East Hants Source Water Protection Advisory Committee and the Accessibility Advisory Committee.
Full Implementation Date	The date by which the testing regime will be in place for Members unable to be vaccinated, and for which consequences will begin to apply to those Members unwilling to be Fully Vaccinated and have not received written approval for an exemption. January 17 th , 2022 is the Implementation Date.



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Term	Definition
Fully Vaccinated	The Municipality shall consider a Member fully vaccinated 14 days after they have received the recommended vaccine doses of any vaccine or combination of vaccine doses approved by Health Canada (currently two doses of one or more of the Pfizer, Moderna, or AstraZeneca vaccines or a single dose of the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine) or the World Health Organization. In the event that Health Canada requires or recommends that boosters of any of these vaccines or other supplemental vaccines are required, the Municipality shall provide notice to employees of any booster or supplemental vaccine requirements.
Member	Means a Councillor or a public member of a Committee of Council.
Proof of Vaccination	Documentation from a recognized Public Health Agency that identifies the batch numbers and dates that an employee received two Health Canada approved Covid-19 vaccines.
Unpaid Leave	Leave where a Member is not entitled to attend Council or Committee of Council meetings (in person or virtually) and is not entitled to pay or compensation of any kind from the Municipality. Unpaid Leave ends upon the earlier of i) the Member becoming partially or Fully Vaccinated, ii) this Policy being rescinded by Council, iii) when the Member resigns, or iv) where the Member is a public member of a Committee of Council, when Council replaces the Member on the committee.

POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

Vaccination Timeline

The expectation is that a Member will be Fully Vaccinated by the Full Implementation Date of January 17th, 2022 and those who are not will be on Unpaid Leave after January 17, 2022.

If a Member is partially vaccinated by the Attestation Date, January 10th, 2022, and will be completing their vaccination schedule in a timely manner, latitude will be provided. While this latitude may prevent an Unpaid Leave, partially vaccinated Members will be subject to temporary health and safety measures, such as mandatory testing and masks, during the period of time they remain partially vaccinated.

Proof of Vaccination

Members will be required to confirm their vaccination status to the Chief Administrative Officer by showing Proof of Vaccination by the Attestation Date, January 10th, 2022.

Acceptable Vaccine

Acceptable vaccines are any vaccine or combination of vaccine doses approved by Health Canada (currently two doses of one or more of the Pfizer, Moderna, or AstraZeneca vaccines or a single dose of the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine) or the World Health Organization. In the event that Health Canada or the World Health

Organization requires or recommends that boosters of any of these vaccines or other supplemental vaccines are required, the Municipality shall provide notice to employees of any booster or supplemental vaccine requirements.

Vaccines not approved by Health Canada or the World Health Organization shall not be considered acceptable.

Those subject to this Policy shall monitor their vaccination status to understand the extent of their immunity to COVID-19.

Unpaid Leave

If a Member is not Fully Vaccinated by the Full Implementation Date, January 17th, 2022, they will be placed on Unpaid Leave, unless they have received written approval of an exemption, or they are partially vaccinated and will be Fully Vaccinated within a reasonable time after January 17, 2022 as determined by Council.

Members who are placed on Unpaid Leave will remain on Unpaid Leave until the earlier of i) the Member becoming partially or Fully Vaccinated, ii) this Policy being rescinded by Council, iii) when the Member resigns, or iv) where the Member is a public member of a Committee of Council, when Council replaces the Member on the committee. This Policy is linked to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, which is evolving and has proven to be unpredictable.

Duty to Accommodate

The CAO will ensure that Members are informed of:

- Their right to accommodation;
- Procedures to be followed when seeking accommodation;
- The Member's responsibilities when seeking accommodation;
- Any mandatory testing that needs to be undertaken as accommodation measures, where applicable;
- Any mandatory masking that needs to be undertaken as accommodation measures; and,
- The organization's approach to accommodation and privacy obligations to reassure Members that the workplace will be safe.

Requests for accommodation will be assessed by the Warden, and approval, or denial will be in writing.

Members seeking accommodation are responsible for:



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- Informing the Chief Administrative Officer of their need for accommodation based on a certified medical condition, religion, or another prohibited ground of discrimination as defined under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act at the earliest opportunity or by the Attestation Date, if possible.
- Providing the Chief Administrative Officer with complete and accurate information necessary to identify appropriate accommodation, including information on relevant limitations, restrictions, and if they are partially vaccinated.
- Cooperating and collaborating in good faith with the organization to identify one or more means to accommodate such needs, which may include mandatory masking, testing, and the reporting of the results.
- Notifying the Chief Administrative Officer if their accommodation needs change.

Medical Accommodations

The medical reasons for exemption from the vaccination requirement are very specific, limited, and must be certified by a nurse practitioner or physician. Requests for accommodation related to specific medical conditions must be made in writing outlining the basis of the request and providing supporting documentation.

The province has medical exemption information and criteria available at:

<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/proof-of-full-vaccination-policy/#medical-exceptions> .

Human Rights Accommodations

The Municipality is bound by the obligations in the *Nova Scotia Human Rights Act*. Members seeking an exemption to the vaccine requirement may only do so on pursuant to that Act. Nonmedical accommodation requests must be submitted in writing.

Respectful workplace

Harassment or other prohibited conduct directed toward an individual for any reason, including based on their vaccination status, will not be tolerated.

All Members will follow Nova Scotia Public Health requirements for social distancing and masking in public places as they come in and out of effect.



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Data collection and private information:

The Municipality shall not retain copies of vaccination records and shall only collect the minimal amount of personal health information as necessary to adhere to this Policy. Information related to Proof of Vaccination or testing shall be managed in the Chief Administrative Officer’s office and will be treated as private and confidential.

Misrepresentation

Members must provide truthful information for the implementation of all aspects of this policy and any procedures, standards, or directives associated with this policy. Failure to do so could constitute a breach of the *Elected Officials Code of Conduct*, which forms part of the *Council Procedural Policy* and may result in disciplinary action.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Title/Role	Responsibilities
Policy Editor - Chief Administrative Officer	<p>The Policy Editor is a person having managerial and policy-making responsibility related to the writing, compilation and revision of content and will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure policies in their care and control are always up-to-date and reviewed annually, or sooner if necessary • Draft new or edit existing policy content • Be able to interpret and explain policy content • Ensure policy documents are branded and any supporting documents, i.e. applications forms are also branded and content consistent with the policy • Ensure policy content is relevant and accurate • Seek and secure approval recommendation of the policy from the Policy Owner • Seek and secure approval of the policy from the appropriate Approver; and, • Provide the final approved policy document to the Assistant Municipal Clerk
Policy Owner - Council	<p>The Policy Owner will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to interpret and explain policy content • Provide oversight to ensure policy content is relevant and accurate • Ensure that the final approved policy document has been provided to the Assistant Municipal Clerk
Approver - Council	<p>The Approver will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Policy recommendations for approval consideration (approve, reject or edit)



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Title/Role	Responsibilities
Assistant Municipal Clerk	The Assistant Municipal Clerk will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure final approved policies are maintained, stored and posted where appropriate
Members	The Members will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adhere to the Policy

VERSION LOG

Version Number	Amendment Description	Amendment/Policy Editor	Amendment/Policy Owner	Approver	Approval Date
1.0	Create Mandatory Proof of Vaccination Policy COVID-19	Chief Administrative Officer	Council	Council	November 24, 2021

CERTIFICATION

I, Kim Ramsay, Municipal Clerk for the Municipality of East Hants, hereby certify that this policy was duly approved.

Kim Ramsay
Municipal Clerk