



Media Release

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Proof of Vaccination Policy provides another layer of protection against COVID-19 for employees and public

The City of Vernon has an unwavering commitment to providing a healthy and safe environment for its employees, citizens and visitors. As part of its response to COVID-19, the City of Vernon implemented a *Proof of Vaccination Policy* on November 10, 2021.

The Policy – which applies to all City employees and volunteers engaged in supporting municipal services – requires proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 by January 14, 2022. The Policy includes provisions for individuals who require an exemption on the basis of a protected ground, such as for medical or other grounds protected under the Human Rights Code.

As of today, more than 94% of employees have met the City's vaccination policy requirements. Employees who are unvaccinated or have chosen not to confirm their vaccination status have been put on an unpaid leave of absence.

Going forward, the City will continue to work directly with employees who are placed on leave. If they choose to receive full vaccination and provide proof of such in a reasonable amount of time, in accordance with the Policy, they will be able to return to work.

“The City of Vernon has a proud, dedicated, and talented team of individuals serving its citizens,” said Will Pearce, Chief Administrative Officer. “We do not want to see anyone leave our organization. However, we also have a duty to provide a safe environment and take appropriate steps to protect all City employees, those who enter City facilities, and ensure the ability to maintain essential services.”

Pearce continued, “This is a vicious virus and medical authorities have been clear that vaccination is the scientifically established best means to fight the pandemic. Therefore, this policy is a vital addition to the other layers of protection we have in place to protect all of us against COVID-19.”

The City continues to put business continuity plans in place to monitor staff levels and make daily adjustments as necessary to maintain municipal services as we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts.