

PEMBROKE REGIONAL HOSPITAL

MEMO

TO: All Physicians, Staff and Volunteers

FROM: Senior Leadership Team

DATE: August 13th, 2021

SUBJECT: Proof of Vaccination and Changes to Universal Eye Protection



In order to make effective and safe changes to health and safety protocols at Pembroke Regional Hospital that protects all employees in the workforce and as legislation allows, the Senior Leadership Team is requesting that all staff and physicians who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 submit proof of both vaccinations to the Occupational Health and Safety Department.

Proof of vaccinations can be submitted electronically to OccHealth@pemregghos.org or can be dropped off to the Occupational Health Department, Tower C (C021). An individual is defined as fully vaccinated ≥ 14 days after receiving their second dose of a two dose vaccine series or their first dose of a one dose vaccine.

Even though you may have been vaccinated at one of the clinics held at PRH or PMC, we do not have record of your vaccination. This record was put into a provincial database that hospitals do not have access to. Proof of vaccination will be the two email notices you should have received after each dose or you can get your proof by going to this [Ontario Health](#) site and filling out your details.

As a first step to easing some of the COVID-19 health and safety protocols at PRH, changes to universal eye protection will be implemented. This change is reflective of increasing numbers of staff who have answered our COVID-19 vaccination survey, along with high vaccination rates within our

community and low rates of community transmission. We know that being fully vaccinated affords significant protection from acquiring COVID-19 and reduces the likelihood of transmitting the virus to others should you become infected.

Protective eyewear for unvaccinated and partially vaccinated staff remains necessary according to Public Health guidelines.

Once proof of vaccination has been submitted to the Occupational Health Department, staff and physicians may begin to follow these guidelines for universal eye protection:

Area	Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated for COVID-19	Fully vaccinated for COVID-19
Patient Care Areas	Must wear approved eye protection: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At all times	Must wear approved eye protection: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For all interactions with patients and/ or visitors
Non-Patient Care Areas	Must wear approved eye protection: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anytime 6 feet physical distancing cannot be maintained between your co-workers, patients or visitors	Must wear approved eye protection: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not required unless in contact with patients or visitors

Please note that staff and physicians found to be disregarding eye protection requirements may be subject to corrective action from the hospital and/ or their respective governing bodies. In the event of an exposure concern, staff and physicians will be asked about their vaccination status. Once compiled, a list of those who do not have proof of being fully vaccinated will be provided to departmental managers/ supervisors (the reason why will not be disclosed) for follow up and PPE monitoring purposes.

These changes are concurrent with other hospitals' policies and practices, as health care facilities begin to cautiously lift some controls and precautions related to COVID-19. However they do not supersede Directive #5 as issued by the Chief Medical Officer of Ontario. All Healthcare Workers are still expected to conduct Point of Care Risk Assessments and use the PPE that is appropriate for their situation. Also staff may continue to use eye protection if they so choose.

While we look forward to the path to recovery, PRH will continue to review and update policies and procedures to align with evolving direction from the government and our regional partners.

If you are still awaiting an appointment for your first or second dose, please note that the last mass clinic at PMC is August 19th. For further information on where to receive your shot go to the Renfrew County And District Health Unit site.

If you have questions or concerns, please speak with your departmental manager/ delegate.