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## **Woodstock Hospital Updates COVID-19 Vaccination Policy**

On September 7, 2021, Woodstock Hospital implemented a COVID-19 vaccination policy for all staff, physicians, and contracted employees. Since that time, changes to the landscape of the COVID-19 pandemic have made it necessary for the hospital to re-evaluate our policy, in line with other health care providers in our area.

The revised policy will ensure that all staff at Woodstock Hospital are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, with exception to individuals with medical exemptions.

"As a health care facility committed to providing the highest possible standard of care, we must be proactive in our efforts to minimize the impact of the ongoing fourth wave," says Perry Lang, President & CEO of Woodstock Hospital. "This policy enhancement will help to ensure the safety of our patients, visitors, staff, and community throughout the continued development of the COVID-19 pandemic."

All staff must provide proof of their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by October 20, 2021, and proof of a second dose by November 17, 2021. The hospital will continue to offer internal vaccine clinics for staff to become immunized.

"Vaccines remain our best defence against COVID-19," says Cindy Smart, Vice-President of Patient Care and Chief Nursing Officer at Woodstock Hospital. "COVID-19 vaccines have proven to be effective in reducing transmission of the virus, as well as related hospitalizations, and we strongly encourage anyone who has not already done so to get vaccinated."

Approximately 94% of all staff, physicians, and contracted employees at Woodstock Hospital have received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and 92% are fully vaccinated.

## **About Woodstock Hospital**

Built in November 2011, Woodstock Hospital is a 178 bed, full-service community hospital, providing primary care to a population of 55,000 and specialized care to nearly 110,000 within the County of Oxford. The new facility offers a wide range of health programs including Maternal Child, Women's Health, Specialized Surgical Services, Inpatient and Outpatient Mental Health Services, Dialysis and Rehabilitation Programs, a Systemic Therapy Program and an MRI. Our full service facility works closely with our community partners to provide our patients with healthcare services, close to home.

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