



BOARD OF HEALTH POLICY

APPROVALS	DATE APPROVED	INITIALS
BOH:	Res. No.: 08-2022	
SMT:		
MCC:		
IF APPLICABLE		
DIRECTOR		
JOHSC:		
PPL:		

SECTION: BOARD OF HEALTH **POLICY NO.:** BH-02-26

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Vaccination

APPROVED BY: Board of Health **POLICY DATE:** January 2022

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of this policy is to outline expectations with respect to COVID-19 immunization of Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) Board of Health members.
- 1.2. COVID-19 is an acute respiratory illness caused by severe acute, respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2). It may be characterized by fever, cough, shortness of breath, and other symptoms. Asymptomatic infection is also possible. The risk of severe disease increases with age but is not limited to the elderly and is elevated in those with underlying medical conditions.
- 1.3. Evidence continues to demonstrate that a complete series of Health Canada-approved COVID-19 vaccines provides substantial protection against COVID-19 infection and severe illness.
- 1.4. Adherence to this policy will:
 - Demonstrate leadership on COVID-19 prevention in the TBDHU catchment area;
 - Minimize the risk of transmission and outbreaks in the workplace, and protect the ability of the Board of Health to fulfil its role and responsibilities;
 - Ensure data is available on immunization rates to assist with decision-making on resumption of in-person meetings and events; case and outbreak management, if applicable, and infection prevention and control practices, as applicable;
 - Protect family, colleagues, and community members, including those who may be at risk of serious illness related to infection.

2. POLICY

- 2.1. This policy applies to all members of the Board of Health (municipal, citizen and provincial appointees) of the Thunder Bay District Health Unit.
- 2.2. Contingent upon vaccine availability and unless medically contraindicated, all eligible Board of Health members are to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (i.e. against infections caused by SARS-CoV-2).

- 2.3. This policy may change as the status of the COVID-19 pandemic changes, including but not limited to any changes to applicable legislation, scientific or public health advice and direction.
- 2.4. Failure to adhere to this policy is deemed to be a breach of the Code of Conduct, and will be addressed as such, in accordance with Code of Conduct Procedure No. BH-02-20.
- 2.5. This policy is aligned with the TBDHU's general duty under the Occupational Health and Safety Act to take every reasonable precaution to protect its workers (broadly defined) and the need therefore to assess the workplace for risks of COVID-19 transmission.
- 2.6. This policy is applied in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code, Occupational Health and Safety Act and any other applicable legislation.
- 2.7. Information collected under this policy and accompanying procedure is in compliance with relevant legislation including but not limited to the Personal Health Information Protection Act and the Ontario Human Rights Code.

3. APPLICABLE PROCEDURES

- 3.1 Procedure Number BH-02-26 COVID-19 Vaccination applies to this policy.

4. DEFINITIONS

- 4.1. **Fully vaccinated:** for the purpose of this policy, fully vaccinated means:
 - The full series of a COVID-19 vaccine approved by Health Canada, or any combination of such vaccines, or;
 - Any other vaccine not approved by Health Canada, in accordance with Ministry of Health guidance; and,
 - The final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine series was received at least 14 days ago.
- 4.2 **Medically contraindicated:** something (such as a symptom or condition) that makes a particular treatment or procedure inadvisable.

5. REFERENCES

- 5.1 Code of Conduct Procedure Number BH-02-20

6. APPENDICES/LINKS AND ATTACHMENTS

- 6.1 Procedure Number BH-02-26 COVID-19 Vaccination