COVID-19 Update

Date: Tuesday, July 6, 2021

To: All HHS staff, physicians, residents and learners

From: Michele Leroux, Vice President, Human Resources

Subject: **Updated Travel Regulations for fully vaccinated Canadians and Permanent Residents**

What's new

With summer upon us and vaccination targets being met, many people might be thinking of traveling internationally or to other provinces. The federal government has now eased travel restrictions for fully vaccinated travelers who are permitted to enter Canada.

International travel (as of July 5)

If an individual has been fully vaccinated for greater than two weeks, they will not be subject to the federal requirements to quarantine when entering/returning to Canada.

Find out more about the vaccination requirements.

Travel within Canada

For travel within Canada, staff and physicians are asked to review the restrictions based on their provincial or territorial destination.

What this means for HHS staff, physicians, residents and learners

- Effective on July 5, 2021, fully vaccinated Hamilton Health Sciences staff and physicians who return from travel abroad **will no longer be required to isolate at home.**
- Staff must continue to obtain approval for vacation from their Manager/Supervisor.

- **If they plan to travel OUTSIDE Canada**, staff and physicians are encouraged to share this information with their manager/supervisor and notify Employee Health Services (EHS) by completing a travel form prior to travel so vaccination status can be validated.
- **For travel to another province or territory**, staff and physicians are reminded to read about restrictions in the jurisdiction they will go to.

Vaccine status and travel

Those who are partially vaccinated, unvaccinated, and staff and physicians who have not declared their vaccination status must continue to adhere to the current testing and federal quarantine requirements. They are still required to self-isolate at home for the 14 day quarantine period for travel outside of Canada

NOTE: In an effort to minimize impacts to hospital operations and because of these government requirements, requests from individuals who are not fully vaccinated (or have not reported their status to EHS) will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Vaccine status voluntary self-reporting

HHS healthcare workers are encouraged to self-report whether they are fully immunized (two doses), have only received one dose, or have chosen NOT to get vaccinated. They can do so confidentially through the EHS online system.

As a reminder, staff and physicians still have to complete their screening prior to arrival at any HHS site and follow the instructions provided.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Michele