



Niagara Folk Arts Multicultural Centre

85 Church Street, St. Catharines, Ontario, L2R 3C7
Phone: 905-685-6589 | Fax: 905-685-8376 | www.folk-arts.ca

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to outline Niagara Folk Arts Multicultural Centre's expectations regarding COVID-19 vaccination disclosure of staff, volunteers, third-party contractors, student practitioners, frequent visitors and other professionals who provide in-person services in our schools and who have direct contact with staff or students.

All eligible individuals are strongly encouraged to receive a COVID-19 vaccine unless there is a medical reason to not receive a vaccine.

BACKGROUND

NFAMC recognizes the importance of vaccination as a key element to help keep school settings safe. This COVID-19 vaccination disclosure protocol aims to protect the centre's population.

COVID-19 is an acute respiratory illness caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). It may be characterized by fever, cough, shortness of breath, and several 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.

APPLICATION OF THE PROTOCOL

This vaccination disclosure protocol applies to the following groups:

- All NFAMC employees, including daily and long-term occasional teachers and casual education workers.

The following individuals if attending the school premises frequently and have direct contact with staff or students:

- Students on educational placement, including professional services students on a placement or work-integrated learning visit.
- Volunteers;
- Those who provide professional services to children at school; and
- Visitors, including third-party contractors.



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VACCINATION ATTESTATION

All NFAMC employees are required to complete a Vaccination Attestation and individuals must indicate their vaccination status as either fully vaccinated, partially vaccinated, or not vaccinated. There is also an opportunity to submit medical and religious accommodations requests.

TESTING REQUIREMENTS

NFAMC staff who are not fully vaccinated, including those with approved medical or religious reasons, will be required to complete regular COVID-19 rapid antigen testing three times a week and demonstrate a negative or positive result via email to jhsc@folk-arts.ca. Testing kits are supplied to all staff.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Any individual who is not fully vaccinated, without a documented medical reason, must also complete a Ministry approved educational program video. The video encompasses the following learning components:

- How COVID-19 vaccines work;
- Vaccine safety related to the development of the COVID-19 vaccines;
- Benefits of vaccination against COVID-19; and
- Possible side effects of COVID-19 vaccination.

SUPPORT FOR VACCINATION

Staff that are non-compliant with NFAMC's protocol are held out of service without pay. This is in accordance with NFAMC directives, as well as the Ministry of Education's Immunization Disclosure Policy for the Education Sector.

CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT

NFAMC is required, pursuant to the Chief Medical Officer of Health's direction, to report statistical information to the Ministry of Education. All statistical information will be provided in depersonalized aggregate form on a monthly basis. It is also shared on the NFAMC website under Vaccination Disclosure.