

Highlights of the Vaccination Policy of the Diocese of London (October 18, 2021)

- **The Diocese of London encourages all people who can be vaccinated to be vaccinated.**
- **The vaccination policy for the Diocese of London is work and ministry related; it does not require those who are attending religious services to be vaccinated.**
- The Diocese of London is committed to providing safe worship spaces, workplaces and meeting spaces across the Diocese.
- COVID-19 is a clear and present threat to society. It is not imaginary, a disease for the elderly, nor is it a trifling illness like the common cold.
- It is the view of the Diocese that the potential damage caused by COVID-19 means that **the common good must prevail over individual rights for society to protect itself.**
- The Diocese, relying upon various ministries of health, public authorities and world bodies is operating with the understanding that the vaccinations are both safe and necessary.
- **It is expected that all bishops, priests, deacons, lay ecclesial ministers, and staff (including cemetery staff), will be fully vaccinated** in accordance with the requirements of Health Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Health. This also applies to all clergy and lay presenters visiting our diocese for the purpose of ministry.
- **Visitors to diocesan, parish, and cemetery offices (including independent contractors) are also subject to this policy.** Visitors who are in these buildings for less than 15 minutes are not required to provide proof of vaccination, but must follow all other safety protocols.
- **Alternatives** (e.g. masking, regular testing, etc.) for individuals that cannot or will not be vaccinated **will not be considered sufficient.**
- **It is essential to the Diocese of London that clergy, employees, and volunteers have the COVID-19 vaccination.**
- **Volunteers are to present proof of vaccination to their Pastor no later than Thursday, December 2nd, 2021.**
- **Fully vaccinated individuals can obtain certificates from:** <https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca>
- This policy will remain in effect only as long as it is required to ensure the health and safety of individuals and parishioners based on applicable public health advice.
- **The Diocese will give consideration, in accordance to the Ontario Human Rights Code, to those who cannot be vaccinated because of a valid medical condition.** A valid note from a licenced physician will be required.
- **It is the position of the Diocese that receiving a vaccine is not contrary to the law of the Church, nor does it infringe on any canon law.**
- **The Diocese shall keep any medical information, including vaccination records or medical exemptions confidential and separate from other personnel files.**
- **Vaccination information will be kept on file for a period of two years after the pandemic is declared ended by provincial authorities.**
- The vaccination policy of the Diocese of London is subject to revision as circumstances warrant.
- For information, or questions regarding the applicability of the policy read the full document and the FAQ page at <https://dol.ca/vaccinations>. Any subsequent concerns should be addressed to the Bishop's Designate, Fr. John Comiskey.