

MEDIA STATEMENT**OHA Statement Regarding the Continuation of Hospital Vaccination Policies**

(Toronto – February 16, 2022) – “Ontario hospitals are committed to doing everything possible to keep patients and staff safe and are unified in their commitment to the objective of having all health care workers vaccinated. All hospitals are complying with the Chief Medical Officer of Health’s Directive 6, which sets out the minimum provincial policy requirement regarding health care worker vaccination. In addition to the baseline requirements outlined in the Directive 6, the vast majority of hospitals have also implemented additional vaccination requirements within their organizations to help protect staff, physicians, patients, and visitors.

In a recent news release, the Ontario Government indicated that if public health and health system indicators continue to improve, that additional public health measures will be lifted on March 1, 2022. This will include lifting capacity limits in all remaining indoor public settings and lifting proof of vaccination requirements for all settings. That said, businesses, and other settings including hospitals, will still be permitted to maintain vaccination requirements to help protect visitors and staff. We expect hospitals will continue their mandatory vaccination policies to maintain safety for patients, staff, and visitors.

Healthcare workers within Ontario’s hospitals are already required to show evidence of immunity for certain communicable diseases such as measles, rubella, varicella, tuberculosis etc. at the time of hire. At the end of the day, there is no reason to treat the COVID-19 vaccine any differently. Many hospitals across the province have now implemented COVID-19 vaccination requirements for new hires. We all have a duty to get vaccinated as it helps to keep ourselves and those around us safe, including our most vulnerable in hospitals and other health care settings. Vaccinations help to reduce the likelihood of severe COVID-19 disease and/or outcomes and help to minimize the impact on healthcare system capacity. The OHA and hospitals across Ontario encourage anyone who hasn’t done so already to please get the COVID-19 vaccine right away.”

- Anthony Dale, President and CEO, Ontario Hospital Association

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For more information:

Hannah Ward

Media and Communications Advisor

Ontario Hospital Association

hward@oha.com