

# A Message from Central Region Hospital Chief Executive Officers and Chiefs of Staff

**October 20, 2021 - Implementation of mandatory visitor vaccination policies**

COVID-19 continues to affect our communities and remains a concern across our region and the province with the most severe impacts being on those who are unvaccinated. As a health system, we need to do everything possible to protect our patients, staff, and communities. Vaccination is our best defense against this virus and we are grateful to all those who have already been vaccinated.

In August 2021, Central Region hospitals stated their support for the Ontario Government's directive to implement COVID-19 vaccination policies for employees, credentialed staff, contractors, learners/students, and volunteers. As a result of these policies vaccination rates continue to increase and hospitals continue their efforts to create the safest possible hospital environment.

Since this time, Central Region hospitals have turned their efforts to a common approach for vaccination of hospital visitors. All hospitals recognize the importance visitors have on the well-being of patients receiving care and their families. In order to ensure that hospitals are as safe as possible for patients, staff and visitors, a mandatory vaccination policy for visitors will be implemented at most Central Region hospitals. There will be very limited exceptions to this policy, including visitors for specific patient populations such as patients in labour and delivery, imminent end-of-life patients, NICU or paediatric patients, and some Emergency Department patients. Each hospital will announce further details and their timeline for implementing the visitor vaccination policy.

We want our communities to know that this decision was made with extensive consultation and consideration for issues of equity, fairness and ethical concerns. As one of the hardest-hit regions during this pandemic and because of the proven effectiveness of the vaccine against this virus and its variants, we encourage everyone eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible.

Thank you,

*Carmine Stumpo*  
*Co-Chair Central Region Hospital*  
*Operations Table*  
*President & CEO*  
*Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital*

*Dr. Steven Jackson*  
*Co-Chair Central Region Hospital*  
*Operations Table*  
*Chief of Staff*  
*Mackenzie Health*

## **Participating Central Region Hospitals:**

*Collingwood General and Marine Hospital*

*Georgian Bay General Hospital*

*Halton Healthcare Services Corporation*

*Headwaters Health Care Centre*

*Mackenzie Health*

*Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare*

*North York General Hospital*

*Oak Valley Health*

*Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital*

*Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre*

*Southlake Regional Health Centre*

*Stevenson Memorial Hospital*

*Trillium Health Partners*

*Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care*

*William Osler Health System*