

March 1/ 22

Dear Mr. Twolan and Huron- Kinloss Councillors,

I am messaging you in response to the council meeting Feb 22/22, specifically regarding the vaccination policy for new staff.

This policy no longer makes sense for staff or residents of our municipality. I feel strongly that vaccination should continue to be recommended for high-risk individuals, but that there should be no discrimination towards any members of our community otherwise.

1. Vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals can contract and spread covid- 19. Many triple- vaccinated people have had covid -19, and many others have received natural immunity.

2. Young/ healthy individuals do not get severe disease. If the argument is that we need to keep our hospitals from being over capacity, this is no longer a concern provincially.

I would have a different point of view if the vaccine provided innate immunity (meaning you could not spread or contract disease) but this is clearly not the case. We can look to numbers, science, and personal experience to see this. Bruce Power and the municipality of Kincardine are two local businesses that have lifted all vaccine requirements including testing, and I am unclear as to why just last week we have mandated it.

I had a conversation with Dr. Ian Arra Feb 22/22 after council's decision was made and he was "surprised" at the outcome of this vote given the changes that have taken place recently. With the diminishing risk that Public Health is seeing, and the newest statement Feb 25/22 from the Grey Bruce Health Unit reporting that the Government of Ontario is lifting proof of vaccination requirements for all indoor settings March 1/22, I would expect to see an amendment to this policy.

In my personal conversation with Dr. Arra he noted that municipalities should continue to *recommend* that staff be vaccinated, but that people in the community not be excluded from activities or opportunities (such as employment opportunities). The government of Ontario's Dr. Kieran Moore has stated (Feb 25/22) that his direction is that we need to have immunization policy in place but not necessarily mandates of this kind. They have not been required at the provincial level so I'm not sure why they are at the municipal level. The omicron variant has changed the entire landscape of this outbreak. "Risk is decreasing day by day" (Dr. Moore).

I am asking that considering Dr. Arra's recently released announcement, and the changes in recommendations that have come about through the Government of Ontario that this vaccination policy 9.6 be revisited and amended at the next council meeting.

With thanks,
Adrienne Pollock