



## MEDIA RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MR# 2021075**

**DATE: 14 October 2021**

**RE: Amherst sets COVID-19 vaccination policy for employees, council members**

**AMHERST, Nova Scotia** – A vaccination policy requiring Town of Amherst council members and employees to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by mid-December 2021, was adopted by the Amherst town council during a special session on Thursday, Oct. 14, 2021.

“The town is committed to providing a safe working environment for our employees, councillors, volunteers and members of the public with whom we interact regularly,” Mayor David Kogon said. “Vaccination is the single most effective step in protecting ourselves while ensuring the citizens have a safe and comfortable experience when dealing with our staff.”

Under the policy, town councillors, town employees and people who volunteer with the town, as well as people sitting on town boards or committees, must provide proof to the town by Dec. 15, 2021 – regardless of worksite location – that they are fully vaccinated.

Those not fully vaccinated by Dec. 15, 2021, will be placed on unpaid administrative leave.

Those who have an approved, written medical exemption to a COVID-19 vaccination, may request an exemption to the policy by providing the town with the appropriate documentation from a qualified medical professional as determined by the Province of Nova Scotia. Those granted an exemption will have to participate in a rapid testing program and wear masks on an ongoing basis.

“As an organization, we feel this policy adds another layer of protection for both our employees and the citizens we support through our programs and services,” CAO Jason MacDonald said.

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# TOWN OF Amherst NOVA SCOTIA

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