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From: **Office of the Vice-Provost, Students** <[ovps@utoronto.ca](mailto:ovps@utoronto.ca)>

Date: Thu, 17 Feb 2022 at 10:00

Subject: [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

There are no immediate plans to change the vaccine requirement at this time. The current practices are in keeping with those of other Universities and Colleges across the province.

The University's vaccine requirement was put in place in late summer, prior to the provincial passport and is based on the recommendations of the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health and at the direction of Ontario's Chief Medical Officer. The provincial announcement does not change the sector's legal requirements as indicated below as it relates to vaccination mandates.

By way of background regarding the University's authority to enact guidelines respecting vaccination, on August 30, 2021, the Provincial [Chief Medical Officer of Health issued requirements](#) for all universities and colleges in Ontario to enact vaccination policies by September 7, 2021. Prior to that, on August 24 in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the [Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health strongly recommended](#) to all Ontario universities and colleges that full vaccination against COVID-19 be required for all individuals involved in any in-person activities on campus, including students, "with the rare exception of those individuals who cannot be vaccinated due to permitted exemptions (medical and other protected grounds under the Ontario Human Rights Code)."

The University is legally required to adhere to the recommendations made by the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health in its [letter](#) by virtue of Amending O. Reg. 364/20 (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r21577>), which states that a "person responsible for a business or organization... [s]hall operate the business or organization in compliance with any advice, recommendations and instructions issued by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, or by a medical officer of health after consultation with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health."

We will continue to consult with public health officials on this as we have on all aspects of the pandemic.

Sincerely,

Sandy Welsh

Vice-Provost, Students