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**From:** President <[president@utoronto.ca](mailto:president@utoronto.ca)>

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 2:26 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your message to the Office of the President and for sharing your thoughts and concerns on this important matter.

Throughout the pandemic, the University of Toronto has been dedicated to protecting members of the University community. Moreover, the University is required to follow the advice and recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, local health officials and provincial regulations.

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."

As a result, all universities and colleges in Ontario are legally required to adhere to the sector-specific recommendations made by the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health. Accordingly, the University has implemented a [Vaccine Guideline](#) requiring all members of its community, including students, to either be fully vaccinated or receive a University-approved exemption to participate in in-person activities.

The University continues to closely monitor the pandemic and public health advice. Any changes to what is considered "fully vaccinated" (eg. a third dose) will be determined by experts at the national and provincial level who are best placed to provide guidance based on emerging scientific evidence. In the interim, the University of Toronto is encouraging all members of our community to get an additional dose of a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible. Vaccination continues to be the most important step we all can take to protect ourselves and our community.

Best wishes to you,

Rheema Farrell  
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