

The Society of Notaries Public introduces staff and office visitor vaccination policy.

December 15, 2021

Vancouver, B.C. – The SNPBC has introduced a staff/visitor-vaccination policy intended to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and protect the health and safety of the staff, our clients, and the public. An office visitor is defined as a person who is not a staff member who will spend more than 20 minutes in the office or classroom and does not include persons attending the office only for the purposes of the authentication of documents.

Effective December 15, 2021, SNPBC will require all employees and office visitors who interact and spend more than 20 minutes in the office or the classroom, to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. In implementing the policy, SNPBC will consider its obligations to accommodate any person who is unable to be vaccinated. Please refer to the guidance from the [BC Centre for Disease Control on medical exemptions from vaccination](#).

Evidence shows that vaccination is the best control measure available to prevent the spread of COVID-19. According to B.C.'s Ministry of Health, after factoring for age, unvaccinated people are approximately 26 times more likely to be hospitalized with COVID-19 than those who are fully vaccinated.

Currently in B.C., employers are not required to ensure their workers are vaccinated. However, WorkSafeBC has been advising businesses and other employers that they may choose to implement their own vaccination policies based on their own due diligence.

Consistent with this advice, and as we re-introduce in-person meetings, education, and events, SNPBC has made the decision to implement a mandatory vaccination requirement for all those who interact in person with others, as well as any others entering the SNPBC premises with the exceptions as set out above.



The vaccination policy of SNPBC is consistent with public health guidance.

As a regulator of a profession providing legal services, the SNPBC has a duty to be a leader in establishing policies that are in the public interest. The SNPBC is taking this step to ensure the health and safety of both its employees and those they interact with.

While vaccines have been identified as the primary measure to prevent illness and reduce the risk of hospitalization and death from COVID-19, SNPBC continues to follow recommended communicable disease prevention plans, which includes mask-wearing, physical distancing, and handwashing in all its facilities.

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