**Vic USW COVID-19 Update #32**

**The University of Toronto Announces a Revised Vaccination Policy for Students, Staff, Faculty & Librarians & Victoria University Announces Its Policy**

**The University of Toronto’s New Revised Vaccination Policy**

On August 26, the University of Toronto announced a new revision of their vaccination policy.  This revised policy requires all staff, faculty, librarians and students who come to the campus to have had at least one dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine by September 13 and to be fully vaccinated by October 15.  Proof of vaccination will be required.  The University’s UCheck web portal system will be used to upload that proof.

In the regular course of the implementation of the new policy, there is no provision for an alternate option to full vaccination, although if a person only has had one dose of vaccine between September 13 and October 15, they can come to campus if they participate in the University’s rapid screening program.  The option of taking antigen tests on an continuing basis, instead of being fully vaccinated, that was a feature in the last version of the University’s policy is not included in the new version, except when an employee has been officially exempted from full vaccination.  People may request a medical exemption and it is also possible to request an exemption based on other protected grounds provided for in the Ontario Human Rights Code.  Rapid screening kits will be available for pickup and will be provided free of charge.

The University’s August 26 written announcement of their new policy states, “Individuals who are neither fully vaccinated nor enrolled in the rapid screening program by September 13 cannot come to any University premises.Rapid screening cannot be used as an alternative to vaccination without an approved exemption.”

**Victoria University Announces Its Vaccination Policy**

On August 27, Victoria University announced its vaccination policy and, although the announcement was short on details, it states that the University, “…requires that staff, faculty and students intending to be present on our campuses be fully vaccinated against COVID-19…” and that it, ”…expects everyone to have their first dose by September 13 and to be fully vaccinated by October 15.”

The announcement also indicates that staff, faculty and students will be required to provide proof of vaccination by uploading the proof using the University of Toronto’s UCheck system.  It is the Union’s understanding that Vic staff do not have access to the UCheck system yet, but access to it is forthcoming.

**Questions**

The Local’s leadership has many questions about the University of Toronto’s policy, such as where the medical information (the vaccination status of individual employees) will be stored and who will have access to it.  We are actively seeking answers to those questions and others.  It seems that the University has not yet finalized all the details of their implementation plan.

There are also many questions about the Victoria University administration’s vaccination policy and your Vic union team will work to get answers and release information to the membership.  It seems that management’s plans are far from complete.

**The Local’s Response**

The Local 1998 Executive is currently drafting a policy statement in response to the vaccination policies of U of T and Vic.  The statement will provide a framework and guidelines for how we respond to our employers’ policies, their implementation and how we assist the Local’s membership during that implementation.  The Local’s policy statement is expected to be released later this week.

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