**Vic USW COVID-19 Update #33 - September 3, 2021.**

**The Vaccination Policies of University of Toronto & Victoria University**

The Union is in discussions with the U of T administration about what alternative to discipline/termination could be agreeable to the University in situations where a U of T USW member, who does not have an approved exemption, has not had one dose of vaccine by September 13 or who is not fully vaccinated by October 15.   We plan on having the same conversation with the Vic administration.

We are aware that some USW members who are not yet vaccinated and who plan to remain unvaccinated are considering resigning instead of complying with the University’s vaccination policy. We encourage anyone considering taking that step to wait until we know if the Vic administration is agreeable to a course of action that does not involve discipline/termination or resignation.

The processes and tools required for the implementation of the University of Toronto’s vaccination policy are either active or soon will be. U of T staff, faculty, librarians and students will be able to upload proof of vaccination using UCheck and submit exemption requests using the University’s Enterprise Service Centre. The Victoria University administration has not announced the process and tools that will be used by the Vic community, but they have indicated that talks have taken place with U of T about the possibility of Vic having access to the U of T system.

 **The Victoria University Administration’s Plans for the Reopening of the Campus & the Return to Work on Campus of Staff Currently Working Remotely**

The Victoria University administration continues to implement its return to work on campus plan for staff currently working 100% remotely. Some of those staff will be back on campus starting on Tuesday, September 7. The Union has made the case with the University for a delay until at least until September 13, which is when, under the University’s mandatory vaccination policy, all staff, faculty, librarians and students must have had at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine. The University responded by stating that they intend to move forward with their current timeline. The Union will continue its efforts to convince the U of T and Vic administrations to reduce the number of staff they plan to have working on campus.

**Health & Safety in Vic On-campus Workspaces**

We encourage all our members to report to their manager and the Union any health and safety deficiencies in their workspace. Some workspaces have had staff working in them throughout the pandemic, but many have not. Either way, the coming weeks will see far more people on campus than there has been during the past one and a half years, so we need to pay particular attention to the safety measures management has implemented to protect people against COVID-19 and make sure those measures are good enough. The names of your union representatives and their contact information are below.

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