

Melrose United Church

Proof of Vaccination for Worship

- Purpose: Melrose has a responsibility to ensure a safe workplace and gathering place for in-person worship.
- COVID-19 is a highly communicable acute respiratory disease which has caused serious illness and death to millions of people globally during the current pandemic. The illness is caused by infection with a virus which is primarily transmitted person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, sings, or talks. Safe and effective vaccines are currently available, and vaccination against COVID-19 is one of the best ways to protect staff and volunteers at Melrose. Certain variants of COVID-19 are highly contagious, with greater risk for severe illness and hospitalization. Some members of Melrose are vulnerable to COVID-19, even if fully vaccinated. Vaccination against COVID-19 helps to reduce the number of new cases, and severe outcomes, including hospitalization and death.
- Application: This policy applies to all worshippers, including those attending weddings or funerals held in the Melrose building, who are 12 years of age or older. Attendees at services of worship will be required to provide proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 with a vaccine approved by Health Canada. To be fully vaccinated, an individual must have received the full series of a COVID-19 vaccination or combination of COVID-19 vaccines approved by Health Canada (e.g., two doses of a two-dose vaccine series, or one dose of a single-dose vaccine series); and must have received the final dose at least 14 days before the day of the worship service.
- Process: Ushers will check paper or digital vaccination receipts at the entrance to the Sanctuary, and identification for persons they are not familiar with. On a **voluntary** basis, each worshipper's name and date of full vaccination can be recorded. Ushers will use this record to waive the need for proof of vaccination each week. Paper and digital copies of this record will be securely stored, and destroyed when no longer needed.
- If worshippers prefer not to have vaccine information recorded, proof of vaccination will be checked weekly, and records will not be kept.

References:

[Canadian Immunization Guide - National Advisory Committee on Immunization](#)

[Public Health Agency of Canada - Vaccines for COVID-19](#)

[Ontario COVID-19 Vaccination Portal](#)

FINAL – November 18, 2021