

 <p><b>Policies</b></p>	<b>Title:</b> Covid-19 Policy
	<b>Revision:</b>  <b>Original Approval Date:</b>  <b>Approval Date:</b>  <b>Next Review Date:</b>

### **Purpose and Scope:**

The purpose of this COVID-19 Policy is to protect the health, safety, and well-being of all volunteers, visitors, and employees by outlining clear guidelines and procedures for minimizing the risk of COVID-19 transmission within the facilities in which we volunteer. This policy aims to ensure compliance with public health directives and best practices, support continuity of operations, and promote a safe working environment.

This policy applies to all employees, contractors, temporary workers, interns, volunteers, visitors, and any other individuals who access the Uxbridge Hospital Auxiliary's (UHA's) locations or participate in in-person activities on behalf of the organization. It covers guidelines related to health screening, personal protective equipment (PPE), hygiene practices, physical distancing, remote work, vaccination, and procedures for responding to confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19.

### **Definitions:**

**COVID-19:** A respiratory illness caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, first identified in 2019, that can result in mild to severe symptoms, including fever, cough, fatigue, shortness of breath, and in some cases, serious complications or death.

**PPE (Personal Protective Equipment):** Equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards, including masks, gloves, gowns, and face shields, as required by healthcare infection control practices.

**Oak Valley Health:** The healthcare institution with which the UHA is affiliated, whose COVID-19 policies, procedures, and directives take precedence over internal policies where applicable.

**Public Health Authorities:** Government agencies such as provincial/territorial health departments and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) that issue official health guidance and regulations.

### **Policy Statement(s):**

As a registered Not-for-Profit Corporation in Ontario, that operates in compliance with the Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (2010), committed to supporting our community, we recognize our responsibility to maintain the health and safety of our staff, volunteers, patients, and the broader community. In alignment with our mission and in full compliance with the policies and procedures of Oak Valley Health, this COVID-19 Policy outlines our approach to minimizing the spread of COVID-19 within our operations. We are dedicated to working collaboratively with hospital leadership, public health authorities, and community partners to ensure a safe and responsive environment.

### **Volunteer Compliance**

All volunteers working within Oak Valley Health facilities must comply fully with the current Oak Valley Health COVID-19 policy, including all vaccination and screening requirements in place at the time of service. This includes, but is not limited to, proof of vaccination status, adherence to masking guidelines, health screenings, and any additional infection control measures mandated by the hospital.

For volunteers assigned to off-site roles, including those at the *Chances Are* thrift store or other community-based locations not governed by Oak Valley Health policies, there are currently no COVID-19 vaccination requirements in effect. However, volunteers in these roles are still expected to follow any applicable public health guidance and to report symptoms or exposure to their supervisor immediately. Volunteers will be informed of the requirements specific to their placement during orientation and are responsible for remaining up to date on any changes that may affect their role.

### **Responsibility:**

- **Organizational Leadership** is responsible for ensuring this policy is implemented effectively and in accordance with the Oak Valley Health's COVID-19 protocols.
- **Employees, Volunteers, and Contractors** are required to follow all guidelines outlined in this policy and the Oak Valley Health's protocols, including screening procedures, use of PPE, and reporting of symptoms or exposure.

**Reference(s):**

Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) – COVID-19 guidance and updates  
Provincial Ministry of Health – Provincial regulations and directives

**Related Documents:** Not Applicable.

Required Endorsements	Sponsor	Approval Authority
Board of Directors	Governance Committee	Board of Directors

**Document History:**

Type	Individual/Committee	Date	Outcome
Draft	Board of Directors		
Revised	Board of Directors		

**Appendices:**

Not Applicable.

.