

# Working in a Pandemic

NCHCA

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# Presentation Overview

- City of Ottawa Vaccination Policy
- Where we have been
- Where we are
- What is ahead

Questions can be provided in the chat  
I will address today or off line if time does not permit

# City of Ottawa Vaccination Policy

- In effect since November 2021
  - Requires all employees and contractors to be vaccinated against Covid-19 virus
- City of Ottawa objectives
  - Follow science and public health based decision making
  - Be a leader in protecting its workers and the community against the spread of the virus

# Implementation of Policy on Construction Projects

- City has achieved full compliance related to
  - The most critical facilities such as water plants, wastewater plants etc..
  - Indoor work environments (building repairs)
  - Parks and other recreational facilities
- Ongoing compliance challenges
  - Right-of-Way construction projects (Road, Water, Sewer and Bridge work)
  - City work represents a significant portion of this sector and shares the space with developer led projects and large infrastructure builds

# Implementation of Policy on Construction Projects

- City of Ottawa will
  - Continue to balance our need for vaccinated workers with our requirement to delivery essential services to our community
  - Require full vaccination of contracting staff where ever possible
  - Work with the industry to continue our move towards increased vaccination rates
  - Work with individual vendors to overcome pandemic challenges

Can I continue to work for the City even though all my staff are not Vaccinated ?

# Where we have been Together

- In March 2020 our industry, along with the all Canadians, experienced a level of uncertainty and disruption never before experienced
- We worked together in an unprecedented way to continue the delivery of essential services
- The construction industry specifically was acknowledged as essential for:
  - the critical services we provide to the community such as safe water supply, managing wastes and transportation infrastructure
  - the criticality to the nations economy

# The Heavy Lifting

- Want to acknowledge the contribution of **our outside workers** who have continue to deliver the City's essential services through uncertainty and at personal sacrifice

Thank you !

# Where we have been Together

Throughout the pandemic the partnership between the City and the Ottawa construction industry has been:

- Collaborative
- Cooperative
- Unique
- Valued

# What we have Learned

- We have the ability to find solutions and common ground even in extremely difficult situation
- It is a balanced relationship where the health and well being of all parties is required to obtain success
- We have the ability to leverage opportunities even in the midst of uncertainty
  - Have leveraged the industries strong track record of Occupational Health and Safety expertise to deliver construction projects safely and effectively
  - Found advantage where possible Worked together to expediate work during low traffic periods
  - Worked collaboratively on schedule implications and mitigated cost exposures
- The impacts of Covid-19 will have far reaching impacts on our delivery including significant **supply chain** and **labour shortage** challenges

# Moving into the 2022 Construction Season

- The policy will remain in effect until the City determines a new direction
- The City will seek full compliance where ever possible
- The City will work with contractors to mitigate health and safety risks on construction sites
- Strengthen Occupational Health and Safety measures related to Covid-19
  - Expect to see continued proactive Contractor led OHS policies
  - Ministry of Labour guidance
  - City contract requirements
  - When policy requirements change, expect that OHS measures will remain
- The path to success will be driven by the industry OHS expertise...and Covid is one of many risks to the worker

# In Summary

- The City will continue to be a leader in the fight to end the pandemic
- The City will continue its track record of :
  - Following science and public health based decisions
  - Continue to shift gears and direction in response to changing public health risks
  - Be heavily influenced by shifts in approach from the provincial and federal levels of government.
  - Valuing the outside worker and the construction industry as a whole
  - Our commitment to work together to find mutually beneficial solutions even in very difficult situations

**Thank you for your continued efforts to deliver essential services to our community**