



Return to HPHA Volunteer Services COVID-19 Pandemic Declaration Form

The COVID-19 pandemic is a serious public health crisis which requires unique safety precautions. Please read the following rules and new procedures. This agreement is in addition to and does not replace any document you signed previously as part of your volunteer services at the HPHA.

COVID-19 Background

In December 2019, a novel (new) coronavirus (COVID-19) was identified as the cause of an outbreak of pneumonia originating in Wuhan, China. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that originate in animals but are known to cause respiratory illness in humans, particularly during the fall and winter months.

Transmission Information:

Human coronaviruses cause infections of the nose, throat and lungs. They are most commonly spread from an infected person through:

- Respiratory droplets generated when you cough or sneeze
- Close, prolonged personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
- Touching something with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose or eyes before washing your hands.

Therefore, avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands. When coughing or sneezing, cough or sneeze into a tissue or the bend of your arm, not your hand.

Signs and Symptoms:

- The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are: fever, new cough, difficulty breathing.
- Some people may have: aches and pains, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat or diarrhea.
- Around 1 out of every 6 people who contract COVID-19 becomes seriously ill and develops difficulty breathing.
- Approximately 80% of infected people will recover from the disease without needing special treatment.
- Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like high blood pressure, heart problems and diabetes, are more likely to develop serious illness.
- About 2% of the people with the disease have died.

How to protect yourself!

- Hand Hygiene Techniques: sanitize your hands before and after a person interaction.
- Hand Hygiene Tips: avoid hot water, use hand creams and lotions to reduce dermatitis, keep nails short.
- Take Additional Precautions as required related to COVID-19
- Use required Personal Protective Equipment

Points to consider before returning to your Volunteer role within the HPHA:

- The HPHA strongly urges Volunteers who have an underlying health concern to postpone their return to volunteer services while COVID-19 remains a serious public health threat.
- When making your decision to return, please take into account the possible risk if you are a caregiver to a family member/person who has an underlying health concern.

Measures to protect you:

The HPHA has and will continue to follow all guidelines from federal, provincial and local health authorities, and will provide:

- Face masks
- Eye protection must be worn within inpatient and outpatient areas, and when working in areas where 2M cannot be consistently maintained.

- Gloves (if necessary for your assignment)
- Hand hygiene products throughout facility
- Resources to answer any of your questions or concerns.
- Orientation and Training(s)

Measures you agree to take to keep yourself and others safe:

Safely is a shared responsibility. Upon returning as a volunteer, you agree to:

1. Complete the HPHA Volunteer Re-Orientation as mentioned below, but not limited to:
 - a. **Review of Trainings:** IC Best Practice, Emergency Codes, Wheelchair/Transfer Chair safety, Conflict Resolution
 - b. **Review of policies:** Confidentiality, Rights to Privacy, Accessibility, Conflict of Interest, Dress Code, Volunteer Code of Conduct
2. DO NOT COME IN if:
 - a. You are feeling ill or exhibiting symptoms such as fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting and diarrhea.
3. You must complete the HPHA COVID-19 Screening app on your personal device or at an HPHA screening station at the beginning of each visit.
4. Wear your hospital provided face mask and goggles/face shield at all times while you are within our hospital setting.
5. Practice hand hygiene by washing your hands and hand sanitizing frequently throughout your shift.
6. Maintain physical distancing to the extent possible by your assignment
7. Do Not enter the following areas:
 - a. Intensive Care Unit
 - b. Emergency Department
 - c. Any Unit designated for COVID-19 patients.

Vaccination

HPHA Volunteers who support programs within a site hospital, must be fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus. Proof of vaccination must be provided to the HPHA Occupational Health Team with the understanding this information will be shared with the HPHA Corporate Lead of Volunteers Services for the purpose of re-introduction planning. This information can be sent to the Occupational Health Team through maggie.jinks@hpha.ca .

HPHA highly recommends all HPHA Volunteers to be fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus.

By signing this I agree to follow the above procedures and providing the appropriate proof of vaccination to the HPHA Occupational Health Team, in collaboration with the HPHA Corporate Lead Volunteer Services.

I have had the opportunity to ask questions, and have had them answered to my satisfaction. I understand I can stop volunteering at any time.

Please sign below to acknowledge all of the above.

Volunteer Name (PRINT)

Volunteer Signature

Date