Media Release

Direction for dually employed healthcare workers in Chatham-Kent

The COVID-19 pandemic has upset the working lives of the vast majority of employed citizens, spanning across all types of industry in Chatham-Kent. Healthcare workers (HCWs), who have been vital to the successful management of the pandemic, were not exempt.

Because many healthcare workers are employed by more than one organization across the healthcare system, a number of directives and orders were put in place early in the pandemic. These orders and directives restricted the number of workplaces staff could work at in an attempt to decrease the risk of spreading COVID-19 between organizations.

Based on the low rates of COVID-19 within Chatham-Kent and the rising vaccination rate of our population both locally and provincially, Chatham-Kent's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. David Colby, does not believe that there is a need for restrictions to be in place that limit the number of sites in which fully vaccinated HCWs can work.

While this is Dr. Colby's recommendation, the onus is still on the employee to ensure they are abiding by any existing workplace policies and procedures at their place(s) of employment.

All HCWs are encouraged to become fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as possible to protect themselves, their patients, and health care system capacity. CK Public Health would like to remind the public that people are considered "fully vaccinated" 2 weeks after their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

You can book your COVID-19 vaccination appointment online at <u>www.GetYourShotCK.ca</u> OR by calling 519-351-1010 and leaving a message. Please note that due to extremely high call volume, it may take up to 7 business days to return your call.