



## DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

September 22, 2021

Dear Reverend Monsignor, Reverend Father, and my Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As a Christian community, we are called to love and care for one another, as Christ taught us. In the face of the COVID-19 virus which has plagued our communities for the past eighteen months, and the threat of the more recent Delta and other pernicious variants, we in the Diocese of Hamilton have sought to ensure that our Churches and the people with whom we minister are kept as safe as possible. We have complied with the various public health directives, including the wearing of masks, hand sanitization, distancing, and have even adjusted some of our liturgical practices to provide safe environments in our parishes. In addition, we have encouraged everyone to receive whatever approved vaccines are available not only for their personal protection against the virus, but also to mitigate as much as possible the spread of the virus in our communities.

In recent weeks, governments, public institutions and local businesses have developed policies designed to promote an increase of vaccinations as a proven means of diminishing the further spread of the COVID-19 virus and its variants and lessening the strain on our health care system.

Accompanying this letter, you will find the ***COVID-19 Vaccination Policy of the Diocese of Hamilton***. While vaccines are not being required for clergy, employees and volunteers in our parishes and institutions at this time, the Diocese will require confirmation of their vaccination status, which may impact their ability to perform certain duties. Please read the policy carefully and follow the required reporting process.

You are also asked to publish the attached announcement in your parish bulletin, both printed and on-line editions for the next three weeks, and on your parish website home page.

In closing, I ask that all clergy, employees and volunteers in the Diocese of Hamilton renew their commitment to work together to safeguard the health and safety of all whom we are called to serve. *“Above all, clothe yourselves in love”* (Col. 3.14).

Sincerely in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

*+ Douglas Crosby, OMI*

(Most Rev.) Douglas Crosby, OMI  
Bishop of Hamilton.

Enclosures (2)  
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## ***Bulletin Announcement***

### ***COVID Vaccines***

The official position of the Catholic Church is that all available COVID vaccines are ethical and all Catholics who are able are encouraged to receive the vaccine. All employees serving in the Diocese of Hamilton are encouraged to be fully vaccinated or to submit to a COVID rapid test every Monday and Thursday in order to carry out their responsibilities. Volunteer liturgical ministers are required to be fully vaccinated. Bishop Douglas Crosby, OMI, encourages every member of the Catholic Church within our Diocese of Hamilton to be fully vaccinated.