

British Columbia

Métis Nation in B.C. introduces mandatory vaccine policy

Policy rollout begins Oct. 4; unvaccinated staff will be placed on unpaid leave, nation says

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Beginning Oct. 4, staff, vendors and visitors will need to show proof of vaccination in order to enter Métis Nation British Columbia offices. (Lars Hagberg/The Canadian Press)

Métis Nation British Columbia will soon require proof of vaccination from all staff, vendors and visitors who wish to enter its offices.

The rollout for the nation's mandatory vaccination policy is broken into two stages, much like B.C.'s vaccine card.

Starting Oct. 4, people will be required to show proof of at least a single dose of the vaccine. By Nov. 15, proof of a second dose will be mandatory.

The nation says any staff who fail to meet the requirements will be placed on unpaid leave.

"Part of being leaders is to make difficult decisions," says Lissa Dawn Smith, MNBC acting president, in a release.

"I am confident that this is the necessary action to protect our staff, our citizens, our elders and our communities.

- [**Hospitalizations rising as B.C. records 525 new cases of COVID-19 and 1 more death**](#)

MNBC represents nearly 90,000 people and is one of the largest Indigenous governments in the province, with regional offices spread out across B.C. The policy applies to all of its offices.

So far, the province has only required mandatory vaccination for [workers in any type of health-care setting.](#)

The province is currently gripped in a fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. On Monday, health officials announced that COVID-19 patients in northern B.C. [would need to be flown elsewhere for care](#) as local hospitals are being pushed to their limits.

Across the province, there are 332 people in hospital with the disease.

- [**B.C. workplaces need to clear 'high bar' before imposing vaccine mandates, experts say**](#)

"We need to do our part to help get us through the last leg of this pandemic," says Daniel Fontaine, CEO and deputy minister at MNBC.

"We support the provincial health office and their work in getting our population [vaccinated]. We support the science on the vaccines."

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