Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – November 17, 2021

REPORTS

Item No. 10 Vaccination Requirements for Delegations

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and recommended to Council:

1. That this report be received as information.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Browaty,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Yea:	Bowman, Allard, Browaty, Gillingham, Gilroy, Mayes, Rollins	7
Nay:		0

Carried

David Grant submitted a communication dated November 16, 2021, in support of the matter.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On October 28, 2021, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Governance Committee of Council, as amended, which included the following recommendation:

6. That the issue of vaccine requirements for in-person delegations at Council and Committee meetings be referred to the public service for report back and recommendation to Council within 30 days.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Vaccination Requirements for Delegations

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee - Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
M. Lemoine	M. Lemoine	N/A	M. Jack

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On October 28, 2021, Council adopted Item 1 of the Report of the Governance Committee of Council dated October 14, 2021 entitled "2022 Schedule of Meetings and Update on Remote Participation in Council and Committee Meetings". Recommendation 6 of this report states as follows:

> "6. That the issue of vaccine requirements for in-person delegations at Council and Committee meetings be referred to the public service for report back and recommendation to Council within 30 days."

The attached administrative report is in response to the above recommendation and provides a cross jurisdictional scan and other information to assist Council in its decision in regards to vaccine requirements for in-person delegations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That this report be received as information.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

On October 28, 2021, Council adopted Item 1 of the Report of the Governance Committee of Council dated October 14, 2021 entitled "2022 Schedule of Meetings and Update on Remote Participation in Council and Committee Meetings". Recommendation 6 of this report requested report back to Council within 30 days.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no implications arising from receiving this report as information.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

On October 31, 2020, as a result of Winnipeg being elevated to the Critical / Red stage in the Province of Manitoba's Pandemic Response System, the Council Building was closed to the public. All delegations to Council and its committees, except for City Councillors, were required to make delegations remotely and were accommodated via Zoom or any telephone.

On July 28, 2021, the Council Building re-opened to in-person citizen delegations with the option for remote delegations continuing.

On September 29, 2021, Council adopted Item 19 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated September 21, 2021, entitled "Vaccine Requirement for Council and Political Staff". Recommendations adopted from this report included that all Council Members and their staff must be fully vaccinated by November 15, 2021 and that any members or staff who were not fully vaccinated by that date be accommodated to work remotely.

On October 28, 2021, Council adopted Item 1 of the Report of the Governance Committee of Council dated October 14, 2021 entitled "2022 Schedule of Meetings and Update on Remote Participation in Council and Committee Meetings". Recommendation 6 of this report reads as follows:

> "6. That the issue of vaccine requirements for in-person delegations at Council and Committee meetings be referred to the public service for report back and recommendation to Council within 30 days."

For all decisions regarding the pandemic, the public health orders issued by the Province of Manitoba are first considered. While the public health orders do apply to municipal operations, the City looks to follow the best practices set out in these orders wherever possible.

Currently, all in-person visitors to the Council Building, including delegations, are required to attend a security desk upon entry and respond to self - assessment questions including "Do you have symptoms of Covid-19 such as coughing" and "Have you been in contact with anybody who has recently tested positive". Depending upon the answers, they may be denied access to the building. All persons who enter the building must wear a mask at all times, although delegations are able to remove the mask when speaking at the podium. Seating in the Council Chamber gallery is limited and all chairs are marked as available / not available to ensure appropriate social distancing occurs.

A cross jurisdictional survey of comparator cities was done and is presented in the table below. As shown, many major comparator cities remain closed to in-person delegations, likely based on the status of the pandemic in that area. Edmonton does allow in-person, with delegations required to be masked at all times while inside, including while speaking. In most cities, as shown below, all employees and contractors are also required to be fully vaccinated.

The Province of Manitoba currently requires that all Members of the Legislative Assembly be vaccinated to attend in-person, but this does not apply to all employees or other attendees.

The Government of Canada has advised that as of November 22, 2021, all persons entering the House of Commons must be fully vaccinated, including Members of Parliament, administration, visitors and members of the press.

City	Administration required to be fully vaccinated	In Person Delegations allowed	Comments
Winnipeg	No	Yes	Only employees who deal with vulnerable persons required to be vaccinated; in-person delegations allowed, masked while indoors, but may remove mask to speak
Vancouver	Yes	Yes	All employees must be fully vaccinated by December 6, 2021; remote delegations are encouraged, but in-person is allowed, masked while indoors, but may remove mask to speak
Edmonton	Yes	Yes	All employees required to be fully vaccinated by November 15, 2021; in-person delegations must wear mask at all times including while speaking
Calgary	Yes	No	All employees required to be fully vaccinated by October 31, 2021; only remote delegations allowed
Regina	Yes	No	All employees required to be fully vaccinated by September 15, 2021; only remote delegations allowed
Toronto	Yes	No	All employees required to be fully vaccinated by October 30, 2021; only remote delegations allowed
Ottawa	Yes	No	All employees required to be fully vaccinated by November 1, 2021; only remote delegations allowed
Hamilton	Yes	No	All employees required to be fully vaccinated by November 1, 2021; only remote delegations allowed

Where there is a desire to require all in-person delegations in Winnipeg to be fully vaccinated prior to entry to the Council Building, it would require a decision by Council or the Chief Administrative Officer to require that proof of vaccination be presented prior to admittance to the building being granted, similar to what is required at restaurants, City arenas and other places.

The City's security staff could provide this service through scanning of QR Codes and checking of identification. While there will be some additional time required, the relatively low volume of visitors to the Council Building will likely result in little disruption to visitors. The Commissionaires of Manitoba, who provide security staff in the Council Building have advised in writing that all security staff who are working at the Council Building are fully vaccinated.

Should a decision be made to scan all in-person delegations for proof of vaccination, it would likely make sense to extend to this process to all non-employee visitors to the Council Building. Should a decision be made to implement such a system, an expiry date should also be set, so the requirement does not carry on in perpetuity. A date of December 31, 2022 was adopted by Council as the expiry date for the other recommendations adopted regarding meetings of Council and its Committees during the pandemic. A similar expiry date for this process would be suggested and Council can revisit this decision at any time, should the current state of the pandemic change.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement **Date:** November 5, 2021

Project Name:
Vaccination Requirements for Delegations

COMMENTS:
There are no financial implications associated with the recommendation in this report.

Electronically approved by J. Peters
Jocelyn Peters, CPA, CGA
Manager of Finance (Campus)
Corporate Finance Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:
Office of the CAO

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

The recommendations contained in this report align with OurWinnipeg Direction 1: Provide efficient and focused civic administration and governance.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

N/A

SUBMITTED BY

Department: City Clerks Department
Prepared by: M. Lemoine, City Clerk
Date: November 8, 2021
File No: