

City of Bethel Action Memorandum

Action memorandum No.	22-02		
Date action introduced:	January 11, 2022	Introduced by:	Councilmember Hessler
Date action taken:		Approved	Denied
Confirmed by:			

Action: Direct City Administration to Repeal Personnel Policy #51-20, Covid-19 Vaccination Policy for the City of Bethel, Effective September 13, 2021, and Reinstate Personnel Policy #51-19, COVID-19 Vaccination Policy with Testing Exemptions, Effective August 13, 2021.

Attachments: Former Policy #51-19

Amount of fiscal impact:		Account information:
x	No fiscal impact	

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City Manager implemented two personnel policies of varying restrictiveness in order to ensure the health and safety of City employees, volunteers, contractors, and the general public.

First, on August 13, 2021, the City Manager adopted Policy #51-19 which required COVID-19 vaccination of staff, volunteers, and contractors under the purview of Administration or otherwise be subject to weekly testing for the virus. Second, on September 13, 2021, on the medical and scientific advice of YKHC, the City Manager adopted Policy #51-20, which eliminated the testing alternative and required the aforementioned individuals to show proof of a COVID-19 vaccination or receive a valid medical or religious exemption from the vaccine requirement.

Given the scope, nature, and course of the pandemic, it is now safe to return to Policy #51-19. Given these developments, requiring vaccination without giving personnel, volunteers, and contractors an opportunity to test for the virus in lieu of vaccination unnecessarily limits the City's access to a wider pool of employees, volunteers, and contractors.

Therefore, the City Council finds it necessary to direct Administration to repeal Policy #51-20 and reinstate Policy #51-19