

Proof of Vaccination at City of Windsor Facilities

Effective Friday, October 1, 2021

Overview:

On September 27, 2021, Dr. Shanker Nesathurai, Acting Medical Officer of Health for the Windsor Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) issued a Letter of Instruction to be effective as of 12:01 am on Friday, October 01, 2021 and until further notice unless otherwise specified.

This new instruction sets a stricter standard than the existing City policy. Under the Reopening Ontario Act, this stricter standard will take precedence over the existing City policy and as noted, begins at 12:01 am on Friday, October 01, 2021. We will continue with our City policy until end of day Thursday, September 30, 2021.

Effective Friday, October 01, 2021 at 12:01 am, all Owners, Operators and Persons responsible for facilities used for sports and recreational fitness activities located in the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit service area are instructed to:

1. Require each person, age 12 and older to be fully vaccinated, at the point of entry, who attends the indoor area of the Facility for the purpose of
 - (a) actively participating in organized sports,
 - (b) coaching, officiating at organized sports or volunteering, or
 - (c) spectating at organized sports,to provide identification and proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or a valid medical exemption.
2. Comply with all other requirements under the Reopening Ontario Act and its regulations as they apply to the above noted activities.
3. Minimize pre and post-game or practice activities and gathering time by arriving immediately before the beginning of an activity and leaving immediately following an activity.

“Fully Vaccinated” means that an individual has received all of the required doses of COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days previously, in accordance with the Ministry of Health Proof of Vaccination Guidance.

“Medical Exemption” means an exemption confirmed by a physician or registered nurse in the extended class that sets out in accordance with the Ministry of Health’s guidance, a documented medical reason for not being fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and the effective time period for the medical reason.

Proof of Full Vaccination applies to all community programming at the locations below including sport participation, coaching, officiating, volunteering and/or spectating at:

- Adie Knox Herman Recreation Complex
- Capri Pizzeria Recreation Complex
- Constable John Atkinson Memorial Community Centre
- Forest Glade Community Centre and Arena
- Gino and Liz Marcus Community Complex
- Malden Park Visitors Centre
- Optimist Community Centre
- WFCU Centre
- Windsor International Aquatic and Training Centre

When You Arrive – effective Friday, October 1, 2021:

Plan to arrive on site with sufficient time to ensure all the required pre-entrance verifications are completed. We are training staff this week and we all need time to become accustomed to these new processes. Lines should be expected and we appreciate your patience. Aggressive and/or intimidating behaviour, harassment or coarse language will not be tolerated.

Step 1: Complete your COVID Screening at <https://publicscreening.citywindsor.ca> and staff will verify

To reduce time at the door, you are encouraged to complete the screening online in advance. If passed, a confirmation email will be sent which can be provided to staff at the entrance to the facility. Paper copies will also be available.

Participants under the age of 12 (with proof of age) will be admitted after this stage.

Step 2: Staff will verify your proof of full vaccination, or if applicable, your medical exemption.

Step 3: Staff will verify your proof of identification.

Step 4: Once all three steps above are verified, you will be able to enter the facility.

Definition of “Fully Vaccinated”

For the purposes of the proof of vaccination requirements, a person is considered fully vaccinated against COVID-19 if:

(a) They have received,

(i) the full series of a COVID-19 vaccine authorized by Health Canada, or any combination of such vaccines; currently Health Canada has approved AstraZeneca Vaxzevria, Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty, Moderna Spikevax and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccines,

(ii) one (1) or two (2) doses of a COVID-19 vaccine not authorized by Health Canada, followed by one (1) dose of a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine authorized by Health Canada; currently, Health Canada approved mRNA vaccines are Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty and Moderna Spikevax COVID-19 vaccines, or

(iii) three (3) doses of a COVID-19 vaccine not authorized by Health Canada; and

(b) they received their final dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at least **fourteen (14) days** before providing the proof of being fully vaccinated.

Acceptable Proof of Vaccination

- an Ontario receipt issued at the time of vaccination,
- any format of receipt downloaded or a screenshot from Ontario.ca that shows the holder is fully vaccinated against COVID-19,
- a receipt signed by an Indigenous Health Provider,
- a receipt or confirmation from another jurisdiction (e.g. USA) that shows the holder is fully vaccinated against COVID-19, or
- a QR code provided by the Province of Ontario for the purposes of verifying vaccination status, once available.

Note - the date of administration of the final shot in the vaccine series must be at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date the participant is seeking access to the business or organization.

Exemptions

The proof of full vaccination prior to does NOT apply in the following cases:

- Where a participant or spectator is under 12 years of age
- A participant provides a written document completed and supplied by a physician or registered nurse in the extended class, that sets out in accordance with the Ministry of Health's guidance, a documented medical reason for not being fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and the effective time period for the medical reason.

Acceptable Proof of Identity

Validation of vaccination will be based on two key identifiers and **photo identification is NOT required**:

1. Name of the identification holder; and
2. Date of birth.

Examples of identification documents that may be used to confirm the identity of the holder of the vaccine receipt include:

- Birth certificate, Citizenship card or Driver's licence
- Government (Ontario or other) issued identification card, including health card
- Indian Status Card /Indigenous Membership Card
- Passport or Permanent Resident card

Participants turning 12 years old are eligible for Vaccination if born in 2009

Anyone born in 2009 is considered eligible as vaccination is available to anyone turning 12 in this calendar year.

Exemption under Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC) /Duty to Accommodate for Medical Reasons and/or Preferences and/or Beliefs

- While receiving a COVID-19 vaccine remains voluntary, the OHRC takes the position that mandating and requiring proof of vaccination to protect people at work or when receiving services is generally permissible under the *Human Rights Code (Code)* as long as protections are put in place to make sure people who are unable to be vaccinated for *Code*-related reasons are reasonably accommodated. This applies to all organizations.
- Some people are not able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine for **medical or disability-related reasons**. Under the *Code*, organizations have a duty to accommodate them, unless it would significantly interfere with people's health and safety
- Consistent with the duty to accommodate, the provincial proof of vaccine regime says that people who are unable to receive the vaccine must provide a written document, supplied by a physician (MD) or by a registered nurse extended class [RN (EC)] or nurse practitioner (NP) stating they are exempt for a medical reason from being fully vaccinated and how long this would apply. The written document may be required until recognized medical exemptions can be integrated as part of a digital vaccine certificate. The OHRC's position is that exempting individuals with a documented medical inability to receive the vaccine is a reasonable accommodation within the meaning of the *Code*.
- Receiving a COVID-19 vaccine is voluntary. At the same time, the OHRC's position is that a person who chooses not to be vaccinated based on personal preference does not have the right to accommodation under the *Code*. The OHRC is not aware of any tribunal or court decision that found a singular belief against vaccinations or masks amounted to a creed within the meaning of the *Code*.
- While the *Code* prohibits discrimination based on creed, personal preferences or singular beliefs do not amount to a creed for the purposes of the *Code*.

For more information regarding proof of vaccination, please visit:

<https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca/>