



December 14, 2021

To: All owners, operators and persons responsible for any indoor areas of facilities used for organized sports and recreational fitness activities in Durham Region

Re: **Proof of vaccination requirements for persons 12 years of age and older attending or involved in (including participation) indoor organized sports and recreational fitness**

The Regional Municipality of Durham

Health Department

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Following consultation with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, these instructions are being provided pursuant to subsection 2 (2.1), Schedule 1 of [Ontario Regulation 364/20: Rules for Areas at Step 3 And At the Roadmap Exit](#) made under the [Reopening Ontario \(A Flexible Response to COVID-19\) Act, 2020](#). The Instructions are directed to owners, operators, and/or persons responsible for any indoor areas of facilities, or part of a facility, used for organized sports and recreational fitness activities in Durham Region.

Protecting the health and well-being of our community remains the top priority of the Durham Region Health Department. Currently, proof of vaccination requirements have exempted certain participants of organized sports, including volunteers, coaches and officials. Given the steady increase in COVID-19 cases in youth between the ages of 12 and 17, the number of COVID-19 cases associated with indoor organized sports, and new emerging variants of concern, I am instructing that the following preventive measures be implemented in facilities where organized sports are played and/or practiced.

Effective the prescribed dates provided below and until further notice, I am instructing all owners, operators, and/or persons responsible for any indoor areas of facilities used for organized sports and recreational fitness activities in Durham Region to implement the following measures:



If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 3324.



1. Effective **December 20, 2021** at 12:01 a.m., implement and enforce a policy that requires each individual, age 12 years of age and older, on the date of entry and at the point of entry, who attends the indoor area of the facility for the purpose of: **volunteering, coaching, teaching, instructing and/or officiating at organized sports or recreational fitness activities** in any capacity, for any purpose, to provide:

- i) personal identification; and
- ii) proof of being fully vaccinated* against COVID-19 or proof of a valid medical exemption,

each time they enter the facility.

* Acceptable proof of vaccination going forward shall be in the form as required by the [Ministry of Health Proof of Vaccination Guidelines](#).

2. Effective **December 20, 2021** at 12:01 a.m., implement and enforce a policy that requires each participant, between the ages of 12 and 17 years old, who attend an indoor area of the facility for the purpose of **participating**, in any capacity, in indoor organized sports and/or indoor recreational fitness activities; to provide, at the point of entry:

a) For participants **born between 2004 and 2009** (12 to 17 years of age)

- i) personal identification and proof of being **fully vaccinated** against COVID-19 for any entry on or after **December 20, 2021**; or
- ii) a valid exemption as set out in subsection 2.1(6) of Schedule 1 of O. Reg. 364/20, for any entry on or after **December 20, 2021**.

b) For participants **born in 2010** (turning 12 years old by December 31, 2022)

- i) personal identification and proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 for any entry on or after the grace period of 12 weeks after their birthdate; or
- ii) a valid exemption as set out in subsection 2.1(6) of Schedule 1 of O. Reg. 364/20, for any entry on or after the grace period of 12 weeks after their birthday.

Note: For the purposes of **participation** in organized sports and/or recreational fitness activities, children turning 12 in 2022 will have a grace period of **12 weeks from their 12th birthday** to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19. This is to allow a reasonable opportunity for vaccination to be completed, and to accommodate the current recommended 8-week interval between dose 1 and dose 2. Children may be required to provide identification, at the point of entry, to indicate their age and that they are exempt from providing proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

3. Otherwise comply with, and implement the above instructions, in accordance with all applicable requirements under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020*, including the Proof of Vaccination requirements in subsection 2.1 of Schedule 1 of O. Reg. 364/20, and the [Ministry of Health Proof of Vaccination Guidance](#).

Activities related to organized sports have the potential to enhance COVID-19 transmission. Specifically, close contact, forceful exhalation, prolonged exposure, crowded indoor spaces and the absence of masks and face coverings during physical activity contribute to enhanced likelihood of COVID-19 transmission. Verifying proof of vaccination for persons 12 years and older in facilities where organized sports are played and/or practiced, will strengthen protections in the community by helping curb the spread of COVID-19.

The instructions set out above shall be in full force and in effect until further notice despite any changes that may be made by the Province to Durham Region's step of reopening under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020*, as amended from time to time.

You are required to comply with the additional measures above, pursuant to subsection 2 (2.1) of Schedule 1 of O. Reg. 364/20 under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020*, including any successor legislation or regulations. Individuals and corporations who do not comply with the above noted requirements may be fined, pursuant to the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020*.

For the purpose of these Instructions:

"Facility" means any indoor facility or premises located in Durham Region where organized sports or recreational fitness activities are participated in, played and/or practiced for any part of the day, even if that facility or premises operates as another business or organization during other parts of the day(s).

"Fully Vaccinated" is as defined within subsection 2.1(5) of Schedule 1 of [Ontario Regulation 364/20: Rules for Areas at Step 3 and at the Roadmap Exit Step](#) issued under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020*.

"Owner/Operator" means an owner/operator of a facility, located in Durham Region, where indoor organized sports and recreational fitness activities are participated in, played and/or practiced.

"Organized Sport(s)" means sport(s) and recreation including, but not limited to, organized sports leagues, organized pick-up sports, dance classes, gymnastics classes, martial arts classes and swimming classes, or as otherwise described in the [Ministry of Health Proof of Vaccination Guidance](#) issued under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020*.

"Medical exemption" means a written exemption confirmed by an approved individual as per the [Ministry of Health Proof of Vaccination Guidance](#).

"Person Responsible" means the holder of a license/permit/rental agreement or otherwise authorized to use the facility or designated individual which may include, but is not limited to, a coach, instructor, coordinator, trainer, organizer, or other person responsible for the compliance with public health measures.

Should you require additional information, please contact Durham Region Health Department at (905) 668-2020 (toll-free 1-800-841-2729). Visit [durham.ca/novelcoronavirus](https://www.durham.ca/novelcoronavirus) for additional information and resources.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Robert Kyle, BSc, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC, FACPM
Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health