



VACCINATION POLICY

2021-22 SEASON

Issued: September 27, 2021

Amended: January 31, 2022

Purpose of Policy: To continue to protect the health and safety of all HEO Participants by requiring that certain individuals be fully vaccinated as a condition of participating in HEO Sanctioned Activities in accordance with defined timelines, including all Provincial, Municipal laws and regulations.

Effective Date: This policy is effective immediately, with regard to the availability of Accepted COVID-19 Vaccines.

Definitions:

“Accepted COVID-19 Vaccine” means a COVID-19 vaccine that has been approved for use by Health Canada.

“Affected Persons” means any Vaccine-Eligible (12 years of age or older) Players, Team Officials, Game Officials, HEO Officials, Employees, Directors, Officers, Instructors, Service Providers and Contractors, including Association, League and District Executives and Volunteers.

“Association” means any Registered Minor Hockey association as defined in HEO Regulations.

“District” means any recognized District as defined in HEO Regulations.

“Exemption” means a Province of Ontario approved and granted exemption.

“League” means any Registered League as defined in HEO Regulations.

“Association Officials” means any member of the board of directors, officers, executive, volunteers and employees (including interns) of an Association.

“Facility” means a municipally or privately run ice hockey arena or multi sport complex in which HEO Teams, Associations, and Leagues contractually rent time for usage pertaining to the game of ice hockey.



“Fully Vaccinated” means fourteen (14) days after an individual has received a completed series (two (2) doses) of an Accepted COVID-19 Vaccine. This may be subject to change based on guidance received from Health Canada, Province of Ontario or Local Public Health Units.

“Game Officials” means any referee, linesperson, timekeeper, scorekeeper, (off ice officials) or other person engaged in officiating a hockey game as may be designated by HEO.

“Instructor” means any person engaged by an Association, District, League or Team to provide specialized instruction (e.g., power skating, goaltending coaching, training) to players, who is not registered to any Association.

“HEO” means Hockey Eastern Ontario.

“HEO Official” means any member of the board of directors, officers, executive and employees (including interns) of HEO.

“Participant” or **“participant”** means any person registered in HEO through any Association or Team, including the parents or legal guardians of any minor aged participant.

“Sanctioned Activity” means any game, tournament, on-ice practice, off-ice training, or any other activity involving registered hockey players, Team Officials, or individuals that is approved by HEO or any registered Association, District or League, or Hockey Canada (or any of its member organizations).

“Team” means any group of certified Team Officials, rostered hockey players, who are qualified in a division and category under HEO Regulations, who have gathered for a Sanctioned Activity, including any Instructors, Volunteers or Association Officials.

“Team Official” means any person involved in the management of a Team and includes the coach, trainer, manager and any assistant coach or assistant trainer and safety officer where applicable.

“Vaccine-Eligible Individual” means any individual 12 years of age or older (per current Health Canada, Province of Ontario, and Public Health guidelines).

“Volunteer” means any person registered by HEO or Association, District or League as a volunteer.

1. Policy Statement

HEO requires that all Affected Persons be Fully Vaccinated against COVID-19, in accordance with Province of Ontario legislation **O. Reg. 263/20**, as a condition of participating in any Sanctioned Activities during the 2021-22 hockey season. At present, this policy does not apply to hockey players 11 years of age or younger but may be subject to change at any time.

HEO encourages all eligible Affected Persons and players five years of age and older to receive their Public Health approved complement of COVID-19 vaccinations and applicable booster shots.

Public Health guidance on measures for fully vaccinated, partially vaccinated, and unvaccinated individuals continue to evolve and may affect this policy in the future. HEO reserves the right to amend this policy in response to any new guidance received from or regulations passed by



federal, provincial, and local Public Health and governmental authorities in respect of the COVID-19 pandemic. This policy applies to all Vaccine Eligible Individuals who are taking part in any HEO Sanctioned activity.

2. Reason for Policy

The health and safety of all Participants is the top priority of HEO. The purpose of this policy is to protect the health and safety of all participants by reducing the risk of exposure to and the transmission of COVID-19, and to promote the health and safety of all members through vaccinations.

This policy is necessary to prevent, respond to, and alleviate any outbreak of COVID-19 in HEO because of the significant risk factors for COVID-19 infection that are present while participating in an organized and sanctioned hockey setting.

The close contact nature of organized hockey makes compliance with social distancing requirements difficult in certain circumstances and can reduce the effectiveness of other infectious disease transmission protocols such as masking.

3. Affected Persons

This policy applies to the following Affected Persons, which includes the following individuals:

- Players 12 years of age or older;
- Team Officials (Coaches, Trainers and Managers, etc.);
- Game Officials (referees, linespersons, timekeepers, etc.);
- District, Association and League Officials (Junior League, District executive, minor hockey association directors, officers, executive and staff);
- HEO Officials (directors, officers, executive and employees, including hockey development personnel);
- Volunteers; and
- Instructors (third parties engaged by Associations, Districts, Leagues or Teams to provide specialized instruction (e.g., power skating, goaltending coaching)).

At present, this policy does not apply to hockey players 11 years of age or younger.

4. Vaccination Requirement & Records

Effective December 20th, 2021, all Affected Persons are required to be Fully Vaccinated (i.e.: including the 14-day period after receiving their completed dose). All Affected Persons must present to their Association/District/League/Team designate (as the case may be), their enhanced COVID-19 vaccine certificate (with an official QR code) as evidence of their completed COVID-19 vaccination requirement, along with identification showing a person's name and Date of Birth issued by an institution or public body. If applicable, the official QR code must contain a Province of Ontario approved exemption.

Only an enhanced COVID-19 vaccine certificate with official QR code in digital or printed format shall be accepted.

This re-verification will need to be completed prior to a team's first session coming out of the pause on February 1, 2022.



5. Acceptable Vaccines

HEO recognizes all vaccines approved by Health Canada. All Affected Persons will be required to confirm they are vaccinated regardless of which Health Canada approved vaccine they received.

6. Acceptable Documentation

Acceptable documents serving as evidence of COVID-19 vaccination include:

- Government issued enhanced COVID-19 vaccine certificate (with an official QR code) as proof of vaccination (e.g., Government issued vaccine passport, certificate, card, or electronic record).

7. Accommodation

HEO will comply with the Province of Ontario's current legislation and will provide an accommodation to any Affected Person who is unable to be vaccinated for substantiated medical reasons ([Medical Exemptions to COVID-19 Vaccination Guidance](#)).

All accommodation exemption requests shall be made through the Province of Ontario and applicable local Public Health Unit.

No exemptions will be granted by HEO without approval from the Province of Ontario and the Local Public Health Unit.

HEO reserves the right to have medical documentation and requests for accommodation reviewed by its Chief Medical Officer. HEO also reserves the right to confirm with the appropriate authorities any exemption granted by the Province of Ontario and Local Public Health Unit.

8. Reporting & Record Keeping

Association/District/League/Team designates as applicable, must download, and use the Verify Ontario mobile app to scan and confirm that an Affected Person's QR code meets the Ontario government's requirements for entry into recreation and sports facilities and in accordance with contract holder agreements. [Download the Verify Ontario mobile app](#)

All Affected Persons need to provide their identification and enhanced vaccine certificate (with an official QR code) as proof of vaccination to their Association/District/League/Team designate, who will record that the individual has met the vaccination/exemption requirements of this policy. The Association/District/League/Team will not retain any medical records or vaccination receipts. The Association/District/League/Team designate will simply be required to confirm that proof of vaccination was provided and retain such on file as a list of all Affected Persons who have provided such proof of vaccination.

All documentary records regarding Provincially approved COVID-19 accommodations will only be collected, used, retained, or disclosed by HEO as may be necessary for operational purposes, as directed or requested by governmental authorities or as may be required by law.



Until no longer required, all records retained under this policy must be kept in a secure location to which access is provided to only a limited number of designated persons who are involved in administering this policy. Once an Affected Person's accommodation status has been verified and it is determined that there is no further need for the retention of such records, they shall be immediately destroyed in a secure manner.

9. Unvaccinated Affected Persons

As of December 20th, 2021, any Affected Person that is not Fully Vaccinated (including the 14-day period after receiving their completed dose) or not having been granted an accommodation in accordance with Section 7, will no longer be permitted to participate in any Sanctioned Activities until such time as they have presented satisfactory evidence to HEO that they have been Fully Vaccinated or granted a Province of Ontario approved accommodation.

10. Players 11 years old or younger

The Province of Ontario has currently not required players 11 years old or younger to be Fully Vaccinated to enter a recreation facility. HEO will adjust this policy to remain compliant with the Province of Ontario, if required.

HEO encourages all eligible Affected Persons and players five years of age and older to receive their Public Health approved complement of COVID-19 vaccinations and applicable booster shots.

11. Spectators

Ontario Provincial Legislation as outlined in section 2.1 of Schedule 1 of O Reg. 364/20 outlines that businesses or organizations must require patrons who are 12 years of age or older and who have not been granted a Province of Ontario approved exemption to provide proof of identification and proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to entering a facility. This proof must be in the form of an enhanced vaccine certificate (with an official QR code) as provided by the Province of Ontario.

12. Facility

Facilities are governed by Provincial, Municipal, and Public Health Legislation. Facilities may have other regulations or policies outside of the scope of this policy that must be adhered to at all times.

