



FIELD HOCKEY ONTARIO
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Field Hockey Ontario: COVID-19 Vaccination Guidelines

Field Hockey Ontario has been actively monitoring developments and public health recommendations over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. This document aims to provide more information about Field Hockey Ontario's COVID-19 vaccination policy. As of September 22nd, 2021, the province of Ontario is requiring all eligible Ontarians to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and provide proof-of-vaccination and photo identification to access higher-risk indoor public settings, which includes sports and recreation facilities (with limited exemptions), as well as sporting events. Due to the nature of field hockey, the continuing spread of COVID-19 in Ontario, the higher incidence of COVID-19 infection (and increased severity among the unvaccinated, the increased levels of contacts between individuals as the province reopens, and increased indoor activities due to the colder weather, **Field Hockey Ontario will be requiring all eligible participants be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, in order to participate in FHO-sanctioned events and programming, as of October 18th, 2021. This applies to all participants born in 2009 or earlier (12 years old and up), and includes all athletes, coaches, officials, and support staff.** Please note, spectators will also be required to provide proof-of-vaccination for indoor events, as per Ontario Regulation 645/21.

Field Hockey Ontario recognizes that the provincial government has allowed an exemption for youth aged 12-18 years old participating in organized sport, however Field Hockey Ontario and its board of directors feel it is imperative that we take all necessary precautions to protect our participants and communities, and thus is taking this approach to vaccination requirements. It is also important to note that several events and organizations are requiring all participants to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, including the Ontario Winter Games, the Ontario Summer Games, and the Ontario University Athletics (OUA). Please note, the Ontario government's proof-of-vaccine requirements do not preclude businesses or organizations from establishing their own additional policies or requirements pertaining to their patrons and participants.

"Fully-vaccinated" is defined as 14-days post-vaccination after receiving a second shot of a double-dose COVID-19 vaccine (ie. Pfizer, Moderna, Astra-Zenca, other approved COVID-19 vaccines, or a combination) or 14-days after receiving a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The COVID-19 vaccine is readily available for individuals born in 2009 or earlier (12 years old or older). Currently, there are 3 vaccines available in Canada, with each requiring a two-dose schedule. The COVID-19 vaccine is not yet currently available for individuals born in 2010 or later (11 years old or younger).



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Field Hockey Ontario recognizes that there are circumstances in which vaccination may not be possible, due medical exemption, being 11 years old or younger (born in 2010 or later), or religious/creed exemption. For individuals who are unable to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, a medical exemption letter or Ontario Human Rights Code exemption declaration must be submitted. Participants born in 2010 or later do not need to provide exemption documentation, but will need to provide birthdate information. Individuals who are unable to be vaccinated against COVID-19 or who are partially vaccinated will be required to complete a rapid-antigen test before entering the facility and participating in FHO programming. Depending on the facility's, organizing committee's, and/or local public health unit vaccination policies, these individuals may not be permitted to participate in FHO-programming or FHO-sanctioned events held at these facilities or events.

Participants will be asking to show FHO staff proof-of-vaccination plus one piece of identification. It is anticipated that the provincial government will soon have a QR-code app-based vaccine verification system to assist with this process. Please note, spectators for indoor events will be required to provide proof-of-vaccination, and depending on the facility, spectators for outdoor events will also be required to provide proof-of-vaccination. Field Hockey Ontario will not be collecting vaccination receipts. FHO staff will create a list of participants and proof-of-vaccination confirmations. This list will include participant names, role(s), confirmation of proof-of-vaccination, and the date that proof-of-vaccination was reviewed and confirmed. Field Hockey Ontario will work to ensure that only those necessary individuals will have access to this list.

Due to the evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, this policy may be revised, updated, and or amended as updates become available.

Resources

For questions, please contact: athletictherapy@fieldhockeyontario.com

To download your electronic vaccination receipt, please visit: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/get-proof/>

To book a first or second COVID-19 vaccine dose, please visit: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/>