

# Implementing Ontario's Proof of Vaccination Requirements at Municipal Facilities

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*As of October 19, 2021. Subject to change.*

## Background

Rules for indoor sports, recreational facilities and event facilities in Middlesex County and across Ontario continue to change in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Established by the Province of Ontario and/or the Middlesex London Health Unit (MLHU), the rules are there to make sure that everyone is doing their part to keep themselves, and each other, safe and healthy.

As a facility operator, the Municipality of Middlesex Centre must follow Provincial and MLHU rules.

We know that some of these changing rules can be frustrating and we appreciate your patience and understanding as we take the necessary steps to provide a safe environment for patrons, participants, visitors and municipal staff in these challenging times.

## Provincial Proof of Vaccination Requirements

Effective September 22, 2021, as per Provincial regulation<sup>1</sup>, patrons<sup>2</sup> seeking access to the Wellness Centre, Ilderton Arena and all municipal community centres must show proof of identification and proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before they can enter the facilities, with limited exceptions.

Further, effective October 31, 2021, as per MLHU instructions<sup>3</sup>, we must "Require each person, age 12 years and older, who attends the indoor area of the Facility for the purpose of (a) actively participating in organized sports, (b) coaching, officiating organized sports, or volunteering, or (c) spectating at organized sports, to provide identification and proof of being

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<sup>1</sup> Relevant Regulation: Section 2.1 of Schedule 1 to O. Reg. 364/20: Rules for Areas at Step 3 and at the Roadmap Exit Step (O. Reg. 364/20) under the Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020 – online at [covid-19.ontario.ca](https://www.covid-19.ontario.ca)

<sup>2</sup> Patrons include, but are not limited to: program participants, parents/guardians and siblings of program participants, coaches and other program staff and/or volunteers, spectators, guests, and any other visitor to the facility, regardless of age.

<sup>3</sup> Letter of Instruction issued to Sports and Recreational Facilities by MLHU – online at [healthunit.com/section-22-orders-and-instructions](https://healthunit.com/section-22-orders-and-instructions).

fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or a valid medical exemption at point of entry.” This means the initial vaccine exemption for those 12 and older involved minor sports as a player or coach/staff is no longer valid.

Further, under the same letter of instruction the MLHU requires that we “develop and implement mandatory vaccination policies for facility staff, contractors and/or subcontractors and volunteers.” Middlesex Centre has developed such a policy. Mandatory vaccination for staff came into effect September 17, 2021, and council has approved the policy and has been extended to the other groups mentioned as of October 13, 2021.

An individual is considered to be fully vaccinated if they have received:

- The full series of a COVID-19 vaccine authorized by Health Canada, or any combination of such vaccines, or
- One or two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine not authorized by Health Canada, followed by one dose of a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine authorized by Health Canada, or
- Three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine not authorized by Health Canada; and
- They have received their final dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days before providing proof of being fully vaccinated

## **Proof of Vaccination – Process & Policies**

Patrons should plan to arrive at our facilities approximately 30 minutes before their scheduled time. Please note that entry may be delayed until previous groups depart due to COVID-19 venue capacity rules.

All patrons will be met by a security guard and/or association volunteer and/or municipal staff who will ensure the following documents are presented prior to entry:

- A paper or downloaded copy of their full dose vaccine certificate(s) or an enhanced “QR” code vaccine certificate (on paper or on your phone)
- Proof of identity showing the name and date of birth (e.g., Birth Certificate, Citizenship Card, Driver’s Licence, Government-Issued Identification Card, i.e. Health Card, Indian Status Card, Passport or Permanent Resident Card)
- A completed and successful COVID-19 Visitor Screening Result (completed via smartphone or paper copy) for contact tracing purposes (one per household).

Proof of identification and proof of vaccination against COVID-19 requirements do not apply to:

- a) A patron who is entering an indoor area solely for the following purposes:
  - to access the Middlesex County Library (Wellness Centre Branch)

- while paying/signing for a contract at the Customer Service Counter (Wellness Centre); or
  - as may be necessary for the purposes of health and safety.
- b) Children under 12 years of age.
- c) Patrons who provide a written document, completed and supplied by a physician (designated as “MD”) or by a registered nurse in the extended class (designated as “Registered Nurse (Extended Class)”, “RN(EC)”, “Nurse Practitioner” or “NP”) stating that the individual is exempt for a medical reason from being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and the effective time-period for the medical reason.

Patrons with a medical exemption are required to present identification and a written document stating the individual is exempt for a medical reason to the business or organization.

To review proof of a medical reason for not being vaccinated against COVID-19, Middlesex Centre must ensure:

- The name of the person in the written documentation matches the identification provided.
- The physician’s or registered nurse in the extended class’s information is complete by including:
  - Name and contact information of the physician or registered nurse in the extended class;
  - Logo or letterhead identifying the physician or registered nurse in the extended class;
  - Statement that there is a medical reason for the individual’s exemption from being fully vaccinated against COVID-19; and
  - Any effective time-period for the medical reason which includes the date the patron is seeking access to the business or organization.

Under Middlesex Centre policy, staff, contractors, subcontractors, consultants, interns, council appointed committee members and Members of Council who are medically exempt must provide proof of a negative antigen test taken no more than 48 hours prior to attending the municipal facility or site work location.

## **Community Centre Rentals**

For those renting any one of our five community centres, the individual or group holding the Facility Rental Agreement must actively screen individuals who enter the facility as noted above.

Permit holders will be required to provide the attached declaration to municipal staff after every rental to declare participants/visitors to their event/program have been screened prior to entry (see Appendix A).

The permit holder is responsible for the following:

- a) Ensure those attending the program/event show proof of identification and proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before they can enter the facility.
- b) Record the name and contact information for everyone entering who is attending the event or program.
- c) Maintain the records for a period of at least one month.
- d) Only disclose the records to a medical officer of health or an inspector under the Health Protection and Promotion Act on request for a purpose specified in section (2) of that Act or as otherwise required by law.

## **Masks & Face Coverings**

Any individual entering all Middlesex Centre facilities must wear a face mask that covers their mouth, nose, and chin unless exempt through the exemptions set out in subsection (4) of O.Reg 364/20.

Note that children under 2 are exempt from wearing a mask.

**Arenas:** Masks must be always worn in the arena. Users must wear them when entering the facility, while they are in the dressing rooms, and while exiting the facility. They may remove their mask when exiting the dressing room to go onto the ice surface but must put them back on when re-entering the dressing rooms after their ice time.

**During Programs/Practices/Games:** During games or while on ice, participants are not required to wear masks. Participants do not require masks while on the bench; however, all coaching staff and trainers must wear masks while on the bench.

**Spectators:** Spectators must always remain masked. They may pull their mask down in order to consume food and drink, but otherwise must remain masked even if they are physically distanced from people outside of their household.

Those who may have a medical exemption for wearing a mask are to let staff/security know at check in so the appropriate accommodations can be made. If a medical exemption from wearing a face mask is provided, a face shield may be requested as an alternative.

## **Respecting Staff**

It bears reminding that Middlesex Centre facility staff don't set the rules, but do have an important role to play in enforcing them.

If a staff member, contracted security guard or association volunteer reminds you about the COVID-19 rules and requirements, they are doing their job. Please take their comments as a friendly reminder, and do your part by following the rules.

If you don't agree with the rules or have questions about them, please:

- Contact your sporting association (if applicable) to learn about their COVID-19 safety protocols
- Review the policies set by the Province ([covid-19.ontario.ca](https://covid-19.ontario.ca)) and/or the MLHU ([healthunit.com/novel-coronavirus](https://healthunit.com/novel-coronavirus))
- Contact Scott Mairs, Director of Community Services (contact information below).

The Municipality of Middlesex Centre has a zero-tolerance policy – the R Zone – for violence, vandalism and inappropriate behaviour at recreational facilities, community centres, parks and programs. This policy applies to everyone – coaches, parents, players, performers, audiences and visitors.

No form of violence, vandalism or inappropriate behaviour is acceptable on municipal properties, in facilities or programs. Failure to abide by the R Zone Policy will lead to immediate removal from the premise and/or trespass for up to 3 years and/or escalation to the OPP.

## **Questions & Comments**

For any questions regarding the provincial proof of vaccine mandate, mask requirements or other related issues, please contact Scott Mairs, Director of Community Services at [mairs@middlesexcentre.on.ca](mailto:mairs@middlesexcentre.on.ca) or 519-666-0190 / 1-800-220-8968, ext. 227.

**Appendix A: Declaration of Proof of Vaccine by Community Centre Renters**

**Municipality of Middlesex Centre – Facility Rental**

**PROOF OF VACCINATION SCREENING  
DECLARATION**

Permit Holder (name): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Rental: \_\_\_\_\_

Community Centre: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby declare that all patrons attending our program/event on the above date have been screened for Proof of Vaccination as per section 2.1 of Schedule 1 to O.Reg. 364/20.

Further, a record of the contact information for everyone that attended the program/event will be maintained for a period of at least one month, and will be kept confidential, being disclosed only to a medical officer of health or an inspector under the Health Protection and Promotion Act on request for a purpose specified in section (2) of that Act or as otherwise required by law.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_