



## VACCINATION POLICY

### 2021-22 SEASON

ISSUED: September 27, 2021

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**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 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 written document completed and supplied by a registered 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.

**"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 of an Accepted COVID-19 Vaccine.

**“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 born in 2009 or earlier (per current Health Canada 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 this policy, 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 born after 2009 but may be subject to change at any time.

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.

Additionally, this policy only applies to Employees, Districts, Associations, Teams, Leagues, and participants who are members of, or who are registered with HEO. It is not intended to apply to teams and participants of any Minor, Junior, Special, and Para hockey associations or Leagues operating outside of HEO, even if they are participating in an HEO Sanctioned Activity (e.g.: tournaments/exhibition games). This policy is also not intended to limit any HEO Teams from participating in sanctioned hockey events and activities in other hockey jurisdictions outside HEO that may be governed by a different vaccination policy.

## **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 born in 2009 or earlier;
- 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 born in 2010 or later.

#### **4. Vaccination Requirement & Records**

All Affected Persons are required to be Fully Vaccinated (i.e.: including the 14-day period after receiving their completed dose) by November 8, 2021, or earlier. All Affected Persons must present to their Association/District/League/Team designate, as applicable, evidence satisfactory to HEO demonstrating that they have received the completed series of an Accepted COVID-19 Vaccine.

#### **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:

- A digital or physical Dose Administration Receipt;
- Medical record signed by a licensed health care provider (as noted) indicating vaccine name and date(s) of administration; and
- Government verification/language (e.g., Government issued vaccine passport, certificate, card, or electronic record).

Note: HEO reserves the right to perform future random spot checks to confirm the accuracy of an individual's vaccination history and this may include an individual having to produce confirmation of their COVID-19 vaccination records.

#### **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](#)).

If an Affected Person cannot provide HEO or their Association/District/League/Team with satisfactory evidence of vaccination, the following may be taken into consideration by exemption only:

- The Affected Person's reason for not being vaccinated; and
- Documentation to substantiate a medical exemption.

Any Affected Person requiring accommodation must provide HEO with documentation to substantiate their reason for not being vaccinated. **Refer to Appendix A**, as applicable.



Where accommodation is not possible, the Affected Person will not be permitted to be involved in any Sanctioned Activity for the duration of the pandemic or until such time that COVID-19 no longer poses a significant public health risk.

HEO reserves the right to have medical documentation reviewed by an HEO designated medical professional.

Any Affected Person who is granted an accommodation must undergo regular COVID-19 testing, (at their own cost and expense) and must provide evidence to their Association/District/League/Team, as applicable and as requested, of a negative test taken not more than 48 hours prior to each Sanctioned Activity.

## **8. Reporting & Record Keeping**

All Affected Persons need to provide proof to their Association designate who will record the proof of vaccination. However, the Association will not be required to keep any medical records or vaccination receipts on file. The Association/District/League/Team designate will simply be required to confirm that proof of vaccination has been provided and recorded and maintain such on file as a list of all Affected Persons who have provided such proof of vaccination. All individuals making an application for accommodation under this policy shall be filed directly with HEO, as noted above.

All documentary records regarding 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**

On November 8, 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 an HEO approved accommodation.

## **10. Players born in 2010 or later**

At the present time, Health Canada has not approved a COVID-19 vaccine for children born in 2010 or later. However, once a COVID-19 vaccine has received Health Canada approval for such persons, HEO will re-evaluate this policy and consider extending the definition of Vaccine-Eligible Players to include players born in those years.



## **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 do not qualify for an exemption to provide proof of identification and proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to entering a facility.

## **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.



## APPENDIX A

### HEO COVID-19 VACCINATION EXEMPTION FORM REQUEST

#### HEO COVID-19 VACCINATION EXEMPTION FORM REQUEST

I, \_\_\_\_\_ am a Participant of Hockey Eastern Ontario and request that I be awarded exemption from the HEO Vaccination Policy to be fully COVID-19 vaccinated.

Please explain:

\* All medical exemptions must be verified with a letter from the Participant's Family Doctor, attending physician, or qualified medical practitioner (as defined in HEO's Vaccination Policy). It must specify which vaccine(s) cannot be given and certify that the Family Doctor, attending physician, or qualified medical practitioner has personally examined the Participant and is of the opinion that the HEO Participant's health would be endangered by the immunization.

**I understand and agree** if granted accommodations from the HEO Vaccination Policy that I, at my own cost and expense, may be required to do any or all of the following:

- a) produce a negative PCR COVID 19 Test taken before the Participant may participate in HEO Sanctioned Activities, produce a negative PCR COVID-19 Test as applicable and as requested during the season to be submitted to HEO [DAYS OF SUBMISSION TBD].
- b) wear a face covering or non-medical mask at all times including all team on and off-ice activities.
- c) provide their own transportation to and from all sanctioned activities and are not permitted to travel on any team transportation; i.e. team bus, car pooling, ride sharing;
- d) provide their own accommodations on all team out of town games at their own expense;
- e) must remain physically distant from others in the arena, sports, training or club facility; and
- f) must self-quarantined for 14 days after High-Risk exposure to COVID-19.



_____ Participant's Name (please print)	_____ Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)
_____ Participant's Signature	_____ Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
_____ Participant's Team	_____ Participant's League
_____ Participant's Parent/Guardian's Name (If Participant is Under the age of 18)	_____ Participant's Parent/Guardian's Signature (Participant's signature if over the age of 18)

Please submit completed form to Hockey Eastern Ontario and [League Commissioner Junior Hockey].

HEO or League Commissioner will forward this form to the appropriate third-party advisor (as required) for determination on approval of the exemption.



**HEO COVID-19 VACCINATION MEDICAL EXEMPTION REQUEST FORM**

**HEO COVID-19 VACCINATION MEDICAL EXEMPTION REQUEST FORM**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a duly registered Physician / Registered Nurse (Extended Class) / Registered Nurse Practitioner in the Province/State of \_\_\_\_\_, hereby attest to have reviewed the information below. Despite this information, it is still my medical opinion that my patient,

\_\_\_\_\_, who I have personally examined, is at greater health risk in receiving any/all of the Health Canada-approved COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, Astra-Zeneca, Janssen (Johnson and Johnson)) than if they were exposed to the delta variant of SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for causing COVID-19 during their participation in HEO Sanctioned Activities. Furthermore, I am prepared to defend my decision if a complaint to my regulatory body is brought forward against me by any other person participating in HEO Sanctioned Activities who is thought to have been subsequently infected by my patient.

Due to the potential for serious health impairment and death, Health Canada and the CDC in the U.S. strongly recommend that every person of every ethnicity and every state of mental and physical health receive a complete dosing regimen of COVID-19 vaccination. This includes individuals who are frail, suffering from severe anxiety/mental illness, immunocompromised and receiving chemotherapy.

Also, The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada most recently stated that given that pregnant people and breastfeeding mothers are at increased risk of morbidity from COVID-19 infection, all should be eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination at any time during pregnancy or while breastfeeding if no contraindications exist.

Note: Allergists have created widely accepted protocols to manage allergic reactions to the components of the COVID-19 vaccines. Please provide the name and contact info any Allergist/Immunologist consulted.

(Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

(Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Registration/license # \_\_\_\_\_

Province/State \_\_\_\_\_

(Date) \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** The Physician or Registered Nurse in the extended class must provide their attestation on their letterhead with logo and any effective time-period for the medical reason, which includes the date the Participant is seeking the exemption.

