

Recreation Division & Sport User Meeting - Sept 21, 2021

CHAT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Can we have access to showers?

- Showers in arenas will remain closed at this time. We do not have the staff capacity to maintain the cleaning required.

Does the spectator number include volunteers with the organization?

- Capacity is split as “on ice” and “in stands” and volunteers count within those capacities.

Are the spectator limits the same at all arenas?

- No. Spectator capacity is based on ability to 2m distance up to 50% fire code capacity. The number of spectators allowed will depend on a number of factors, including size and layout of stands.

If people and players have their first vaccine and a 2nd one scheduled, will they be allowed in the building or able to play after tomorrow?

- Proof of vaccination is determined by the Province of Ontario and can be found at www.hamilton.ca/ProofOfVaccination and as such, requires:
 - Full vaccination (2 doses of approved vaccine)
 - 14 days since last dose before visiting a recreation facility.
- Individuals who cannot demonstrate they are 14 days past their 2nd dose will not be admitted into the facility.

How long do associations have to keep the contract tracing?

- Contact tracing must be kept for 30 days.

What is acceptable ID for 12-18? Is health card or birth certificate okay?

- Identification requirements are set by the Province of Ontario and can be found at www.hamilton.ca/ProofofVaccination . Identification can be anything issued by a public body or institution and shows the individual's name and date of birth which matches the vaccination receipt shown.
- Photo ID is not required. ID can be expired.
- ID can be photocopied or shown as a picture or document on a phone.

Do coaches have to be vaccinated? There are references to coaches being exempt?

- The regulations do reference coaches and volunteers who are considered workers of the facility or business, and private organizations may allow.

- For City of Hamilton facilities, the worker exemption applies to City of Hamilton staff, volunteers, contractors, inspectors and/or delivery persons who are required to operate the facility.
- This does not extend to permit holders and proof of vaccination is required for their staff or volunteers, including coaches and officials. Coaches and volunteers aged 12-17 engaged in the organized sport will be exempt.

My sport governing body requires vaccinations for 12-17-year old's even though the facility doesn't. What do I follow?

- Provincial regulations determine measures in place for all of Ontario, including any additional restrictions for sport and recreation facilities. As per these regulations, proof of vaccination is required for anyone 12+ (or 18+ for organized sport).
- Governing bodies may determine additional measures to meet insurance or affiliation requirements and may require proof of vaccination for all athletes who are 12+ and eligible.
- Local health units may also determine additional measures for their local jurisdictions, and non-Hamilton teams will be required to meet as directed from the City of Hamilton health unit or EOC.

A player or coach has an exemption through our sports governing body. Can they show this at the arena?

- Exemptions will only be accepted in accordance with the Provincial regulations and as found at www.hamilton.ca/ProofOfVaccination including any medical exemptions (which must also be shown at time of entry).
- Governing bodies may have a separate exemption process for their membership requirements.

Do younger kids (10-11) require ID as spectators or will it be trusted if they say they are under 12?

- We will assume positive intent when individuals are accessing facilities. However, the regulations put the onus of proving age on the individual accessing the facility and if obvious the individual is not 11 or under, staff may ask to verify age.

In terms of building limits, will city staff be monitoring that and letting us know if there is an issue with numbers?

- Staff will notify the group if there are concerns with maintaining distancing and discuss the capacity and limits in order to address.
- Organization safety plans should identify steps being taken to stay within capacity limits, avoid gatherings, and encourage distancing between patrons not in the same household.

Can City staff do the vaccine screening?

- The regulations require the business or facility operator to screen for vaccinations. City staff or contractors will be responsible for verifying. User groups will continue to be responsible for contact tracing and health screening.

When will we be able to get access to meeting rooms at the rinks in order to have meetings?

- Meeting rooms may be available now, please discuss with facility staff. Some arenas have been identified as a vaccination site and rooms may not be available if anticipating future bookings.

When can we enter arena and what time must we leave?

- Renters will be permitted to enter the arena 15 mins prior to your booking. We ask that the previous renter leaves the facility within 15 minutes of the end of your booking. We ask for cooperation in ensuring that your members are aware of this requirement and are leaving promptly.

Are masks required in the dressing room both before and after play?

- Yes. Masks must only be removed while actively engaged in sport, which includes the field of play and benches. Masks and distancing are still required in changerooms.

For children currently under 12 (turning 12 in 2022) will there be a grace period in January for vaccination?

- There is no grace period in the regulations, individuals must be fully vaccinated at least 14 days prior to their visit. However, 11-year old's turning 12 continue to be exempt as long as visiting as athletes.
- Governing bodies requiring vaccinations for 12+ may provide grace periods and you should refer to direction provided.

What is included in a contact tracing template? What do we need to collect for contact tracing?

- Contact tracing must include the persons name and phone number for a time period or program.

Is a valid exemption only a medical exemption from a physician?

- The full list of exemptions to vaccine verification can be found at www.hamilton.ca/recreation. For those requiring a medical exemption, this must be provided from: a doctor or registered nurse, on letterhead, stating the individual is exempt from being vaccinated, with a time period valid for.

If a member of our group tests positive, who is that to be reported to? Do we need to call Public Health?

- Public Health will follow up with the individual testing positive to assess risk and activity during any period they may have been contagious. If this includes a time period where they participated in sport at a facility, Public Health will assess if any other individuals are considered "close contacts".
- Public Health may then:

- Follow up with the sport organization to identify close contacts to advise players or their families of need to isolate
- Follow up with facility staff, who will redirect to the main contact of the permit holder of the organization.
- If a player advises the organization of a positive case, they do not need to call Public Health. Action is only required if Public Health contacts the organization for follow up.

Is this the plan for the entire season? If numbers stay the same? even if #'s decrease?

- Regulations and requirements for vaccine verification will be determined by the Provincial government and we will loosen requirements as they allow.

Will the concessions be open when the season starts?

- No. The focus currently is to get all sport groups back into facilities.

What happens if the screener doesn't come in and we have ice booked? Will time be refunded?

- Staff will be backfilled as any employee who calls in for a shift at a site. If the rental cannot be honoured due to a staffing issue, the rental will not be charged.

Are parents allowed in the dressing room area to tie players skates where necessary, or will the coaches/trainers have to do this?

- Yes, parents are permitted in dressing rooms. However, changerooms and dressing rooms are considered program spaces and vaccination verification will be required to access.

What if we don't have anyone to contact trace/health screen can we close the rink to coaches and players only?

- Organizations are responsible for anyone invited to the arena as part of their permit. They may restrict spectators or visitors based on capacity to contact trace or health screen.

Visiting teams are our responsibility to screen and contact trace?

- Yes. Organizations are responsible for anyone invited to the arena as part of their permit.

In private rinks like Gateway and Mohawk 4 ice, who is responsible for checking Vaccination status? The arena or the permit holder?

- Staff of the private rinks will be completing.

Is TeamSnap to track attendance acceptable for Contact Tracing? Or our own QR Code tracing solution? Or does it need to be paper and pen?

- Apps can be used as long as they collect the name, phone number, and date/time, and can be retrieved for up to 30 days at the request of Public Health.

Is there a max capacity to dressing rooms?

- Capacity in dressing rooms is based on the ability to distance. The same space may only allow 8 adults to distance, but 8 children with 8 parents tying skates may also be able to distance.
- Individuals must wait to enter a dressing room until they are able to distance. If it is taking too long for players to access the dressing room, organizations can further restrict parents, time limits, or request additional chairs for changing in the hallways (if available).

Vaccine Verification Cheat Sheet

Person Entering INDOOR FACILITY	Vaccine Verification By Facility Staff	Contact Tracing/ Health By Facility Staff or Permit Holder
NOT REQUIRED		
Customer Transaction Does not intend to stay after the purchase	✗	✗
Washroom Only Does not include changerooms	✗	✓
Children 11 and under Born: tomorrow's date, 2009-Present	✗	✓
ORGANIZED SPORT Participants 17 & Under Born: tomorrow's date, 2003-Present Must be actively playing	✗	✓
City of Hamilton Staff or Contractors	✗ Per Corporate policy	✓ Emailed to Supervisor & Sign In
REQUIRED		
Non-Sport Participant (12+) Arts, Music, Open Gym, Fitness, NL/SFA	✓ 12+ Required	✓
Parent or Spectator (12+)	✓ 12+ Required	✓
Sport Participant, Athlete, Coach, or Official (18+)	✓ 18+ Required	✓