

## Public Health Restrictions

### 1. **Can you clarify the requirements for outdoor gatherings, sports, performance events? What are the requirements for recreation centres? If a recreation facility implements the Restrictions Exemption Program (REP), can you confirm how that will affect organized youth sports/activities? Are all participants/spectators over 12 required to provide proof of vaccination/exemption/negative test? Or are organized youth activities exempt from having to do that?**

- Entertainment and recreation facilities (including any indoor venues, libraries, conferences, rental spaces, concerts, nightclubs, casinos and similar) are under the following restrictions:
  - Attendance is limited to one-third fire code capacity, and attendees are only permitted to attend with their household or two close contacts for those living alone. Attendees must be masked and have two-metre physical distancing between households.
  - Alberta's government has decided against requiring proof of vaccination for youth under age 18 who are taking part in sport, recreation and performance activities, whenever possible with other precautions in place.
- Restrictions for adults' (over 18 years old) sport, fitness, performance, and recreation are as follows:
  - Indoor activities:
    - No indoor group classes or activities are permitted.
    - One-on-one training or individual workouts are permitted but three-metre physical distancing is required.
    - No contact between players; indoor competitions are paused except where vaccine exemptions have been granted.
    - These facilities and programs are eligible to implement the Restrictions Exemption Program. Specific exemptions may also be granted on a case-by-case basis.
  - There are no restrictions on outdoor sport or fitness activities.
- To enter spaces participating in the Restrictions Exemption Program, people ages 18 and older can provide proof of vaccination or a negative test result or a medical exemption document. Details:
  - Valid photo identification that matches the vaccine record (only required for adults 18 and over)
  - Valid paper or digital vaccine record that shows name, vaccine type and date of administration:
    - From September 20 to October 25: proof of partial vaccination (one dose) is considered acceptable as long as the dose was given more than two weeks before the time of service.
    - After October 25: proof of full vaccination (two doses) is required.
  - Negative test result must be privately-paid, Health Canada approved rapid antigen, rapid PCR or lab-based PCR test completed within the previous 72 hours.
  - A valid medical exemption is the original signed letter from a physician or nurse practitioner that includes the person's name that matches their identification, and complete information on the signing Physician or nurse practitioner.
- Outdoor events and facilities with no indoor portion (excluding washrooms):
  - No attendance restrictions; however, two-metre physical distancing must be in place.

- These same rules apply whether you are a participant or spectator, as per an individual's age.
- For more information, visit: [alberta.ca/COVID19](https://alberta.ca/COVID19).

**2. Are youth between 12 and 18 years old registered in youth sports exempt from showing proof of vaccination?**

- Youth under age 18 who are taking part in sport, recreation and performance activities do not require proof of vaccination.
- Vaccines are safe and parents are strongly encouraged to vaccinate their children.
- The orders set out the minimum standard to which entities accessing the Restriction Exemption Program must comply; however, operators may implement a program that is more restrictive than outlined in the guidance. Operators should obtain legal advice about the impact of additional measures in their business/industry context. Additionally, municipalities may have more stringent requirements than those outlined in the provincial orders.

**3. Under the REP, can bars return to having last call at 2 a.m.?**

- Under REP restaurants can return to having last call as directed by their liquor licence.

**4. Can you tell me if Seniors Lodges fall under AHS direction of mandating vaccines for employees?**

- Yes, if they have a contract with Alberta Health Services.

**5. What supports are in place for rural municipalities?**

- Guidance for all Albertans, including municipalities, is available here: <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-public-health-actions.aspx>.
- In addition, resources for municipalities to address governance, administration and finance topics during COVID-19 are available here: <https://www.alberta.ca/municipal-governance-during-covid-19.aspx>.

**Vaccine Passports/QR code**

**6. For organizations that choose to implement the vaccine passport, can they accept proof of vaccination only and NOT accept the proof of negative rapid test as there are many issues with the test and associated time frames?**

- Under the Restrictions Exemption Program, operators must follow or exceed the program requirements at all times, including requiring all patrons/attendees aged 12 and over to provide valid:
  - proof of vaccination, or
  - proof of a privately-paid negative rapid test result taken within 72 hours of service, or
  - documentation of a medical exemption.
- Certain businesses and entities who implement a proof-of-vaccination program will be eligible to operate without most restrictions.
- A list of all the in-scope and out-of-scope businesses are listed online at: [alberta.ca/COVID](https://alberta.ca/COVID).

- To enter spaces participating in the Restrictions Exemption Program, people aged 12 and older can show proof of a negative test result. Details on how to access a valid test are online at [alberta.ca/COVID](http://alberta.ca/COVID) under the section on “proof of negative test”.
- We know these restrictions are disruptive to Albertans and businesses, but we must bend down the curve.
- These measures will buy us some time for additional COVID-19 vaccines to be provided to those who choose to get vaccinated.

**7. Are these COVID vaccine passports going to be permanent?**

- Restrictions will remain in place until we see a change in trends. After that time, any changes would be made based on the spread of COVID-19 and the state of the health system in the province.
- The Restrictions Exemption Program and new public health measures are designed to work hand-in-hand. They offer options to Albertans and will help to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our province and take the pressure off our health-care system.
- Health officials will continue to closely monitor the spread of COVID-19 and health system to assess whether additional action is needed to reduce transmission.

**8. Is there any timeframe that can be shared for when the QR code may be available?**

- The Government of Alberta is working to make QR codes available in October. More information on this support will be available in the near future.

**9. Will the QR code display the name of individuals so organizations can confirm it matches the individual presenting it?**

- This feature is expected.

**10. Will there be financial supports for business that have to hire more workers to respond to the new restriction?**

- At this time, there is not a program in place to compensate businesses for expenses due to the costs of implementing the Restriction Exemption Program.

**11. Do you foresee any problems for people receiving their vaccination records and will the Alberta MyHealth site have the ability to handle thousands trying to obtain their vaccination proof?**

- Starting Sept. 21, and over the following days, Albertans can visit a local registry agent to request a printed version of their vaccination card at no cost. They will need to provide the month and year of any dose of vaccination, their Alberta Personal Health Number and their date of birth.
- Starting September 19, Albertans 12 and older can get a card-sized vaccine record through the new express system at [alberta.ca/CovidRecords](http://alberta.ca/CovidRecords).
  - It's fast and easy, download your card and print out or save on your phone.
  - If you were vaccinated recently it may take up to two weeks for your records to be available online.
- [MyHealth Records](#) is still available for Albertans 14 and over who wish to use a verified account to view their health records, including lab tests and medications.
- Albertans will receive a paper record of their vaccination record at their vaccination appointment.

- If you lost your paper record given to you when vaccinated or require another paper copy, print one from [alberta.ca/CovidRecords](https://alberta.ca/CovidRecords) or request a copy through your vaccination provider:
  - pharmacy or physician's office – contact the location you received your vaccination;
  - AHS Clinic – call 811 to request a copy be mailed to you.

**12. Why has your government decided to download the responsibility of deciding whether or not to require vaccination proof to the individual business causing these business to bear the brunt of customer displeasure, rather than do your job and make the hard decisions?**

- Businesses in Alberta have a choice. They can select the best option that works for their business and clients. Businesses, except retail, have the option to implement the Restrictions Exemption Program or adhere to the new health measures.
- For more information, visit [alberta.ca/COVID](https://alberta.ca/COVID).

**13. Will there be a reinstatement of CMOH weekly calls with municipal officials?**

- The CMOH will be on calls with municipal officials as often as needed, to share new information and answer questions.

**14. Can households host gatherings if they participate in the Restrictions Exemption Program?**

- The Restrictions Exemption Program is an option for certain businesses only.
- Here are the rules for households for private social gatherings:
  - Indoor social gatherings
    - Vaccinated: Indoor private social gatherings are limited to a single household plus one other household to a maximum of 10 vaccine-eligible, vaccinated people, with no restrictions on children under 12.
    - Unvaccinated: Indoor social gatherings are not permitted for vaccine-eligible people who are unvaccinated.
  - Outdoor social gatherings
    - Outdoor private social gatherings limited to a maximum of 200 people, with two metre physical distancing at all times.

**15. Why are you insisting that young people should get vaccinated yet their risk is low and you are allowing them to continue some activities?**

- Getting vaccinated makes us all safer. A [one-time incentive of \\$100](#) is available for Albertans 18+ who get their first or second dose between September 3 and October 14.
- Rules for young adults 12+ entering spaces participating in the Restrictions Exemption Program (restaurants, etc.) are the same as required for all Albertans.
- Alberta's government has decided against requiring proof of vaccination for youth under age 18 who are taking part in sport, recreation and performance activities, whenever possible with other precautions in place.
- For young adults 12+ rules set out in schools are also required.
- Masks and distancing are not required by youth under 18 while engaged in physical activity.
- For more information visit [alberta.ca/COVID](https://alberta.ca/COVID).

**16. Would it be safe to use this as a rule of thumb: if a business/facility/service does not implement a restriction exemption program, then they need to abide by their industry-specific restrictions? The exception being blanket restrictions such as indoor masking, work from home where possible, etc.**

- Yes, if a business/facility/service does not implement a restriction exemption program, then they need to abide by their industry-specific restrictions.
- For more information, visit [alberta.ca/COVID](https://alberta.ca/COVID).

**17. In regards to the Truth and Reconciliation Day at the end of the month, does a round dance ceremony fit into the indoor social gathering or entertainment part of the exemption?**

- If it is a private social gathering, then the indoor or outdoor social gathering rules apply.
- If it is organized as a public event then the entertainment, event and recreation facilities part of the exemption applies, as below:
  - Indoor entertainment, event and recreation facilities:
    - Indoor facilities that do not implement the Restrictions Exemption Program must follow these restrictions:
      - Capacity limited to 1/3 fire code occupancy.
      - Attendees must be with household members only, or two close contacts if they live alone.
  - Outdoor entertainment, event and recreation facilities:
    - Events and facilities that are fully outdoors (excluding washrooms), have no capacity restrictions but must maintain two metres distancing between households or two close contact for those living alone.

### **Healthcare and Vaccination plans**

**18. If you have a history of heart inflammation, are you exempt from the vaccine?**

- Please check with your physician or heart specialist on exemptions that apply to you, including vaccinations.

**19. Is the province considering expanding the availability of booster shots?**

- Yes, the province has expanded eligibility for an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine to more immunocompromised Albertans. Individuals with advanced HIV infection, immunodeficiency syndromes and patients receiving high-dose systemic corticosteroids are among those now able to get an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- For more information, visit [Alberta.ca/COVID](https://Alberta.ca/COVID), click the link marked: Get Vaccinated.

### **Municipalities' Responsibilities**

**20. Do voters have to provide proof of vaccination to vote on October 18, 2021?**

- Proof of vaccination is not required to enter a polling station and cast a ballot.
- However, there are other restriction considerations at polling stations:
  - A municipality may choose to pass a bylaw requiring election workers show proof of vaccination, or a negative test result, if they believe such a bylaw is needed.
  - As of September 4, 2021, masks are mandatory in all indoor public spaces.

- In the specific settings where a mask is required, anyone unable to wear a mask due to a medical condition will require a medical exception letter from an authorized health professional. The medical exception letter may be presented when in a public setting if requested by enforcement officials.

**21. How will the public health restrictions affect municipal election campaigns?**

- Election campaigning such as door knocking and open houses can proceed while following current health restrictions including physical distancing and wearing masks.

**22. Will there be guidance for municipalities on how to implement the REP in their facilities?**

- Guidance for all Albertans, including municipalities, is available here: <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-public-health-actions.aspx>.
- In addition, resources for municipalities to address governance, administration and finance topics during COVID-19 are available here: <https://www.alberta.ca/municipal-governance-during-covid-19.aspx>.

**23. What are the rules and guidelines for council and committee meetings? Can councils continue to meet in person? If so, do councillors and the public in attendance need to be vaccinated?**

- Councils can continue to meet in person. However, councils are encouraged to use electronic meetings wherever possible as a way to minimize COVID-19 transmission.
- The Public Meeting Procedures (COVID-19 Suppression) Regulation is still in effect and can be found here: <https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/laws/regu/alta-reg-50-2020/latest/alta-reg-50-2020.html>
- Under the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA), councils can pass bylaws respecting the safety, health, and welfare of people and the protection of people and property. This could include a requirement to show proof of vaccine or negative test results to attend a council meeting.

**24. How do you suggest we continue to conduct public hearings?**

- Municipalities are encouraged to use electronic meetings wherever possible as a way to minimize COVID-19 transmission.
- During the COVID-19 health emergency, when the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) requires a council, board or commission to hold a meeting, an electronic meeting (e.g., live-stream, teleconference, etc.) meets that requirement as long as:
  - notice of the electronic meeting is provided and states the electronic means being used and gives the information necessary for the public to access the meeting;
  - the public is able to hear the meeting as it is occurring;
  - eligible parties can send submissions before and during the meeting by email or any other method the council, board or commission considers appropriate; and
  - the following people attend by electronic means:
    - CAO or designated officer;
    - for a commission, growth management board or subdivision and development appeal board, the chair or vice-chair;
    - for a composite or a local assessment review board, the presiding officer.

**25. Are you considering extensions of spending of the MSP funding grant to allow completion past the end of 2021?**

- Program funding is meant to be fully expended by December 31, 2021 in order to support the goals of economic stimulus and job creation.
- However, we recognize that extenuating circumstances such as supply chain disruptions, weather issues, and the continued impacts of the pandemic have caused some delays.
- The Minister will consider requests for additional time to spend the funding on a case-by-case basis, providing there is a strong rationale.

**Libraries**

**26. Could you please provide direction on library programs? In some communities, all library programs are going ahead while in others programs have been cancelled.**

- Libraries are considered entities that need to be accessed by the public for daily living purposes, and as such are not included in the organizations/businesses that can implement the Restrictions Exemption Program. Libraries are directed to take other steps to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
- Adult indoor programming is not able to continue indoors. Library programs for youth under 18 can continue if they follow the guidance for youth activities, which include:
  - Screen youth for symptoms prior to participation.
  - Maintain two metres physical distancing, except between youth who are engaged in a physical activity.
  - Maintain masking indoors, except for youth who are engaged in a physical activity.
- Youth programming that requires adults to support the youth (ex: a parent & tot story time) may continue under the guidance for youth activities, with the addition that adults must be masked at all times and remain two metres distanced from those outside their household at all times.
- Programming which contains a mix of adult and youth, where the adults are not required to support the youth (ex: a book club), will follow the guidance for adult activities and are not permitted to continue indoors.

**Enforcement**

**27. Can community peace officers enforce the recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health?**

- Peace officers currently do not have authority to enforce the CMOH orders. The Ministerial Order expired early this summer and was not renewed.

**28. How does the government of Alberta intend to enforce the new rules and what role do you anticipate municipalities have in enforcement? Will the CMOH extend enforcement authorities to peace officers? How will proof of REP be enforced without further reluctance by businesses?**

- The Alberta government will continue to respect the independence of law enforcement agencies and their discretion, including when it comes to issuing tickets.
- As for extending enforcement authority to peace officers, we currently do not feel additional authorities are needed beyond those who already have them, such as police

and some Alberta Health Services staff. We are trusting Albertans to act responsibly, get vaccinated, and follow the new restrictions.

- If you violate a public health order, you may be subject to a \$2,000 fine. Or you could be prosecuted for up to \$100,000 for a first time offense.
- People can make a COVID-19-related complaint [here](#), or submit a complaint to AHS public health inspectors online or call 1-833-415-9179.

**29. How is enforcement of the restrictions on people's homes possible? This issue of the government getting into the business or directives of what people do in their homes is a huge one. Any past directives have only encouraged education and there appears to be very few police officers or bylaw officers who would get involved in entering people's homes.**

- Day-to-day enforcement of public health orders is handled by Alberta Health Services and/or local law enforcement agencies. Public health order violations can be reported, including to Alberta Health Services.