

COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination Protocol

The provincial proof of vaccination system is law pursuant to Section 2.1 of Schedule 1 of Ontario Regulation 364/20 Rules For Areas at Step 3 and at the Roadmap Exit Step. Pursuant to Subsection 2 (2.1) the Medical Officer of Health for the Thunder Bay District Health Unit issued Instructions regarding the proof of vaccination system, which also are law. The following protocol is based on the Regulation, Instructions plus other guidance provided by Ontario and/or the Thunder Bay District Health Unit and Council resolution.

1. Proof of vaccination applies to patrons. Patrons includes participants and spectators. Parents and guardians of participants are also patrons.
2. Proof of vaccination does not apply to other persons including municipal employees, contractors, inspectors and others who are entering the facility for work or business purposes and not as patrons. Per the Medical Officer of Health's Instruction, effective Oct. 14/21 the proof of vaccination system **does** apply to persons coaching, officiating or volunteering at organized sports.
3. Patrons 11 years of age and under are exempt from proof of vaccination.
4. To be admitted any patron who is 12 years of age and up must present proof of vaccination and proof of identification.
5. Fully vaccinated means having two doses at least 14 days ago.
6. Proof of vaccination is the vaccination receipt issued by Ontario or equivalents issued by other jurisdictions for out-of-province persons or equivalents for Indigenous persons.
7. Proof of Identification documents must provide the (1) name of the identification holder and (2) the date of birth of the identification holder. Photo ID is not required for proof of identification. Proof of identification documents include:
 - Birth Certificate
 - Citizenship Card
 - Driver's License
 - Government (Ontario or other) issued identification card, including health card
 - Indian Status Card/Indigenous Membership Card
 - Passport
 - Permanent Resident Card
8. Persons who cannot receive the vaccine due to medical exemptions will be permitted entry with a doctor's note.
9. There are NO other exemptions other than those listed above. Parents and Guardians of persons under 18 years of age who are patrons are not exempt. See the Section below on exemptions in O. Reg. 645/21.
10. The Municipality is prohibited from retaining any information provided by patrons for proof of vaccination.

Hockey Northwestern Ontario - Mandatory Vaccination, Nov. 27/21

On Oct. 2/21 Hockey Northwestern Ontario announced effective Nov. 27/21 all players born in 2009 or earlier, team officials, game officials, association officials, HNO officials and volunteers must be fully vaccinated. On Nov. 24/21 Oliver Paipoonge Council decided to require proof of vaccination for youths aged 12 to 17 years of age participating in organized sports to be consistent with Hockey Northwestern Ontario.

Other Exemptions in Subsection 2.1 (3) of O. Reg. 364/20 – Not Applicable

This Subsection gives other exemptions for patrons. That subsection and its exemptions are listed below along with an explanation why they do not apply at the municipal facilities, specifically the Nor West Arena, Murillo Community Hall and Rosslyn Community Hall.

O. Reg. 364/20 Subsection 2.1 (3):

Subsection (1) [proof of vaccination and proof of identification] does not apply where a patron is entering an indoor area solely,

- (a) To use a washroom

There are no public washrooms in the municipal facilities for use by persons solely for that purpose. The washrooms are used by patrons who have entered the facilities as participants, parents or guardians of participants or spectators of events or activities.

- (b) To access an outdoor area that can only be accessed through an indoor route

This circumstance does not apply at the municipal facilities.

- (c) To make a retail purchase

The Nor West Arena concessions are used by patrons who have entered the facilities as participants, parents or guardians of participants or spectators of events or activities. The concessions are not available to persons solely to make a retail purchase.

- (d) While placing or picking up an order, including placing a bet or picking up winnings in the case of a horse racing track

- (e) While paying for an order

- (f) To purchase admission

These circumstance do not apply at the municipal facilities.

- (g) As may be necessary for the purposes of health and safety

This exemption does not apply to parents or guardians of persons under 18 years of age participating in organized sports. The parents or guardians enter the facility because the persons participating in organized sports are under 18 years of age so the parents and guardians themselves are participants. Since these parents or guardians are over 12 years of age, they are subject to proof of vaccination. This interpretation is consistent with Ontario's "Proof of Vaccination Guidance for Businesses and Organizations under the Reopening Ontario Act".