

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 29, 2021

### Town Facilities will adhere to Alberta Health Services guidelines

A Special Meeting of Council was held on September 29, 2021, where Town Council made the decision to adhere to Alberta Health Services (AHS) business capacity and operating restrictions at the Omniplex and Park Valley Pool. Town Council also rescinded their previous decision to implement a Restriction Exemption Program (REP) at Total Works Health and Fitness Centre and at the MacKenzie Conference Centre.

This decision only applies to Town owned facilities and does not apply to privately owned businesses, restaurants and shops. Those businesses have the responsibility to mandate and implement health restrictions they deem necessary to continue operations.

Town Council's decision will allow all user groups that provide or host adult indoor group classes, activities or competitions at these facilities to acquire exemptions through the province in order to continue with regular activities. Exemptions give user groups the ability to implement their own REP and would be responsible for enforcement within the group and would be responsible to the province. The municipality would not enforce, oversee or monitor these programs within individual groups. These organizations are encouraged to connect with the Town to help navigate the system and to implement the necessary agreements.

The Town has confirmed that public skating, lane swimming and public swimming activities have already received an exemption from AHS but will be required to follow capacity, masking, and social distancing protocols where applicable.

**Beginning immediately, the Omniplex, Total Works Health and Fitness Centre, MacKenzie Conference Centre and Park Valley Pool will operate under the following operational conditions and restrictions, except where vaccine exemptions have been implemented by a user group, including:**

- Capacity limited to 1/3 of fire code capacity
- Attendees must be with household members only, or 2 close contacts
- Adult indoor group classes are suspended
- Indoor one-on-one training and solo activities permitted with 3 metre physical distancing

**Adult (18 and over) sport, fitness and performance activities**

- Indoor group classes and activities are not permitted.
- Indoor competitions are paused
- Indoor one-on-one training and solo activities are allowed with 3 metre physical distancing.

**Youth (under 18) sport, fitness and performance activities**

- Indoor group classes, training, and competitions are permitted, but participants are required to:
  - screen for symptoms
  - maintain 2 metres distancing, except youth while engaged in physical activity
  - wear a mask, except youth while engaged in physical activity
- Spectator attendance is restricted to 1/3 fire code capacity, attendees are limited to a single household or 2 close contacts if living alone and must be masked and maintain 2 metres physical distancing.

*"This was a very difficult decision, probably the hardest one that we've had to make as a Council," commented Mayor Michael Doerksen. "The community is very divided on this issue and what approach to take. We've received numerous calls, texts and emails from people on both sides sharing their frustrations, concerns and opinions and I want to assure you that we read every email, text and listened to each call and have been weighing the consequences of each decision. The decision that we've made today will allow access to our facilities to the greatest number of people and will enable our residents, families and sport groups to make the choice for themselves and find the best way forward. I know this topic is extremely divisive and I encourage everyone, no matter what side of the fence you are on to please be kind to one another, this issue has ripped our community apart, we are better than this and Drayton Valley is stronger than this. The province has put everyone and every business in the position to make this awful choice. We don't all have to agree but I encourage everyone to be respectful of one another and the choices that others are making for themselves, their business and their families."*

# REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RESTRICTIONS EXEMPTION PROGRAM

## Overview

The Restrictions Exemption Program (REP) permits businesses/entities/organizers<sup>1</sup>, referred to as operators in this document, to operate without the majority of public health restrictions in CMOH Order 44-2021. The REP is an optional program, and operators who choose not to participate may continue to operate but must fully implement all of the public health restrictions outlined in CMOH Order 44-2021. This document has been developed to support operators in the implementation of their proof of vaccination program to qualify for the necessary exemption.

The REP is not intended or required for employees or contractors attending workplaces. Operators are strongly encouraged to promote COVID-19 vaccination to staff, volunteers, attendees and other eligible persons as part of their public health strategy, and any consideration of vaccine requirements for staff is an employer decision.

There is a chart of the in-scope and out-of-scope operators in the appendix of this document. In-scope operators that implement the REP must continue to follow indoor face mask requirements, but are otherwise exempt from public health restrictions in CMOH Order 44-2021. Out-of-scope operators for the REP, as listed in the appendix, are not exempt from public health restrictions even if they decide individually to introduce additional requirements.

Good public health practices are always encouraged, and can minimize transmission of respiratory infections, including COVID-19, influenza and common colds. These practices include: immunization, proper hand washing or use of hand sanitizer, respiratory etiquette, and enhanced cleaning and disinfecting. In addition, staying home when sick with COVID-19 symptoms is legally required even if a test is not done.

## PROGRAM DETAILS

<b>General</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Operators participating in the REP must implement their program in alignment with this guidance document, unless otherwise noted.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Operators are able to implement more restrictive measures, but not less.</li><li>○ Youth participating in youth activities, where all participants are under the age of 18 years of age, are not required to be under the REP (see youth section for more details).</li></ul></li><li>• Face masks are required in all indoor public spaces, regardless of whether the operator is participating in the REP.</li><li>• Individuals who have COVID-19 symptoms must isolate, in accordance with <a href="#">CMOH Order 39-2021</a>.</li></ul>
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<sup>1</sup> Examples of entities/organizers may include not for profit organizations, municipalities, or community groups, as long as there is a responsible party overseeing the Restrictions Exemption Program.

# REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RESTRICTIONS EXEMPTION PROGRAM

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Operators should review the <a href="#">general mitigation for COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses guidance</a> document and are encouraged to implement public health measures that are applicable to their settings.</li><li>• At minimum, operators participating in the REP should clearly communicate to the public/clients/staff:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ that they are participating in the program, and</li><li>○ what is required to enter/receive services.</li><li>○ Operators may use the <a href="#">poster</a> available on <a href="#">alberta.ca/COVID19</a>.</li></ul></li><li>• Operators participating in the REP that provide rental spaces to others must ensure their renters are aware of and adhere to the REP requirements</li><li>• Operators not participating in REP that rent facilities to other groups (for private events) are responsible for ensuring the renting group is aware of the need to adhere to public health orders unless the rental group implements the REP.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ If the rental group implements the REP, they must strictly adhere to the requirements of this document.</li><li>○ Operators remain responsible for the adherence to public health restrictions in their facilities.</li></ul></li><li>• Operators participating in the REP must maintain a written plan that outlines the processes and requirements of the program. Staff need to be trained on the plan including processes and steps to protect personal information.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ This should include training for staff, information for clientele, a written plan for auditing purposes and policies for what to do if individuals are non-compliant.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Screening Process</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Operators must screen all attendees for one of the following at the point of entry:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Proof of vaccination; or</li><li>○ Proof of a negative privately-paid test result from a sample that is taken within the prior 72 hours (Results from Alberta Health Services are not eligible for consideration for this program), or</li><li>○ An original (non-copied) medical exemption letter.</li></ul></li><li>• Individuals 18 years or older must produce valid personal identification as defined in the personal ID section below.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Individuals who are under the age of 18 do not need to show personal identification.</li></ul></li><li>• Individuals must maintain physical distancing until they have been screened into the facility.</li></ul>

# REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RESTRICTIONS EXEMPTION PROGRAM

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At minimum, the process must include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The name and the date of birth of the individual listed on the proof of immunization or testing must be matched with the name and date of birth on the identification (for 18+).</li> <li>○ Verification that the proof of vaccination is appropriate (see below) OR the test result indicates the individual has tested negative for COVID-19 within the last 72 hours (see below), or the medical exemption letter is an original and in the prescribed form.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Operators may implement an electronic offsite validation program (e.g., application-base or mobile-application) to validate that the vaccination requirements have been met.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What is valid proof of vaccination</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The patron/attendee seeking entry to the business/entity/event is solely responsible for demonstrating that they are the legitimate holder of the vaccination record, and that the information being provided is complete and accurate.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If they cannot demonstrate that to the business/entity/event, the individual must not be allowed to enter.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Business must make a reasonable attempt to assess the validity of the proof of vaccination of each patron or attendee. If a businesses is unsatisfied that the documentation is genuine, the business should deny entry.</li> <li>• Proof of vaccination includes:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A picture or paper record of a valid Alberta Health Services, MyHealth Records, pharmacy, First Nations, or physician immunization record prominently displaying the name, type of vaccine and date of administration, or</li> <li>○ Canadian armed forces immunization record, displaying the name, type of vaccine and date of administration, or</li> <li>○ An immunization record from another Canadian Province or Territory, displaying the name, type of vaccine and date of administration, or</li> <li>○ Valid Government of Alberta Vaccination QR code (when available).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Operators must verify that the date of administration of the last required dose in the series is at least fourteen days prior to the date the patron is seeking access to the business/entity/event.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Up to October 25: At least one dose is required at least 14 days prior.</li> <li>○ October 25 and later: Two doses of a two-dose series are required, with the second at least 14 days prior. (Note that the</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RESTRICTIONS EXEMPTION PROGRAM

	<p>Janssen vaccine is the only Health Canada approved vaccine that requires only a single dose for a complete series – if an individual has received one dose of a Janssen vaccine at least two weeks prior, this would be considered sufficient)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For international travellers, the ArriveCan app code and a valid international travel identification document is acceptable.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What is valid proof of a negative test result</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Testing <u>must not</u> be sourced from the Alberta Health Services public COVID-19 testing system.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This system is currently reserved for symptomatic individuals and those in outbreak situations. If an individual has COVID-19 symptoms, they must isolate.</li> <li>○ A self-test completed offsite is not sufficient evidence to support entry into a facility operating under the REP program.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The test result should be a written or printed copy that indicates the individual has tested negative for COVID-19 on a Health Canada approved rapid antigen, rapid PCR, or lab based PCR test approved by Health Canada or the lab accreditation body of jurisdiction.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Self-produced documentation of a negative result is not sufficient evidence to support entry into a facility operating under the REP program.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Operators are permitted to offer on-site rapid testing.</li> <li>• It is recommended that operators seek expert advice including medical oversight prior to implementing a rapid test program.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, that individual must isolate, per CMOH Order 06-2021 and CMOH Order 39-2021.</li> <li>○ Most rapid tests do not have paper-based results.</li> <li>○ Businesses that implement a rapid testing program (for the purposes of immediate entry) should not provide written confirmation of a negative test result unless being implemented by a regulated and competent health professional. However, a business may allow entry to that individual for up to 72 hours after the negative result was obtained.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Documentation of a test completed offsite must include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A clear indication of the laboratory or the health care professional that completed the test (e.g., DynaLIFE), the type of test, time of sample collection, and clear indication of a negative result.</li> <li>○ If the result of a rapid test is being verified by a health care professional, a written record must also include the name, phone number, contact information, professional registration number, and signature of the physician or nurse practitioner.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RESTRICTIONS EXEMPTION PROGRAM

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A picture or any other written documentation of a rapid test result taken off site is not sufficient evidence for entry.</li> <li>○ Businesses may implement programs that include rapid testing completed offsite provided the integrity of the results and reporting is congruent with an onsite program and the business maintains quality control and assurance oversight.</li> <li>○ Individuals must not bring completed rapid tests or self-tests to operators, as they can pose a communicable disease risk during transportation.</li> <li>○ Only a regulated health care professional (acting within their scope of practice, in accordance with the College’s Standards of Practice) or an accredited laboratory may provide written diagnostic confirmation of near care or rapid care test results to an individual for the purposes of the REP.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What is a valid medical exemption</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A valid medical exemption is the original signed letter from a physician or nurse practitioner that includes:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The name of the person in the written documentation that matches the identification provided.</li> <li>○ The physician’s or nurse practitioner’s information is complete by including:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Name, phone number, contact information, professional registration number, and signature of the physician or nurse practitioner;</li> <li>○ Statement that there is a medical reason for the individual’s exemption from being fully vaccinated against COVID-19; and</li> <li>○ The duration that the exemption is valid.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>What is a valid Personal ID</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Individuals who 18 years of age or older must also present personal ID.</li> <li>● Proof of identity can be established using documentation issued by an institution or public body, provided it includes the name of the holder and date of birth.</li> <li>● Examples of identification documents that may be used to confirm the identity of the holder of the vaccine receipt include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Birth certificate,</li> <li>○ Citizenship card,</li> <li>○ Driver’s licence,</li> <li>○ Provincial or Territorial Government issued identification card, including health card (Alberta or other),</li> <li>○ Metis card, Treaty card, Inuit Status card, or</li> <li>○ Passport, or</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RESTRICTIONS EXEMPTION PROGRAM

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Permanent Resident card.</li> <li>● Photo identification is not required.</li> </ul>
<b>Collecting and Storing Personal Health information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Operators should obtain legal advice about the impact of this program in their business/industry context.</li> <li>● Operators should obtain legal advice to inform their program if collecting and maintaining a list of individuals that can enter and re-enter a facility (e.g., so that repeat clients do not need to show proof of vaccination each time).</li> <li>● Personal health information should not be stored onsite.</li> </ul>
<b>Participation and application</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Operators may implement a program that is more restrictive than outlined above.</li> <li>● Once the program is implemented, it must be operated consistently for daily operations and throughout the facility.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It is not permitted to have the program operate some days and not others, for certain times during a business day and not others, or in some areas and not others.</li> <li>○ Specifically, restaurants that have implemented the program must apply the program to the entire area of food service, both inside and outside.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Operators must operate the program continuously during the time of restrictions and may not implement and de-escalate over time.</li> <li>● Operators that wish to exit the program should notify their clientele through posters, online information, or any other appropriate mechanism.</li> </ul>
<b>Workers, contractors, staff etc.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Employees, contractors, repair workers, delivery workers, volunteers, inspectors or others who are entering the business/entity/event for work purposes and not as patrons are not required to be screened.</li> </ul>
<b>Enforcement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Operators will be audited for compliance. Alberta Health Services, Alberta Gaming, Liquor, Cannabis and police units in Alberta are able to enforce the requirements of this program.</li> <li>● Additionally, public complaints will support increased compliance and enforcement efforts.</li> <li>● If operators are not complying with these requirements or the current public health restrictions, then enforcement and prosecution may result in fines up to \$100,000 (for a first offence).</li> </ul>
<b>Delivery, Pick-Up, Take Out</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Individuals who are entering a facility participating in REP for only delivery, pick-up and take out are not required to show their proof of vaccination if the items are collected at the point of screening.</li> </ul>

# REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RESTRICTIONS EXEMPTION PROGRAM

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All individuals entering for this purpose must continue to mask the entire time they are in the facility and maintain 2 metres physical distancing from all other persons.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mutual Support Groups, Elections and Jury Selection</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals participating in mutual support groups, elections, and jury selection in a facility that is participating in REP are not required to be screened as part of the REP.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If not screened per REP requirements, individuals participating in these activities are subject to physical distancing at all times.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• If individuals participating in mutual support groups, elections, and jury selection wish to access amenities in a facility participating in REP, they will be required to be screened per the REP, as applicable (12+ years of age).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Youth Activities and Youth Participation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the purposes of this program, a youth is someone who is under the age of 18 years of age.</li> <li>• Youth participating in youth activities in a facility that is participating in REP are not required to be screened as part of the REP.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Parents who are required to support youth in their activities (e.g. parent and tot groups) would be required to follow REP requirements in order to attend.</li> <li>○ Youth are subject to physical distancing at all other times when not engaged in the physical activity (e.g. locker rooms, common areas etc.)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• If youth wish to access other amenities beyond youth-specific sports, recreation or performance activities in a facility participating in REP, for these purposes they will be required to be screened per the REP, as applicable (12+ years of age).</li> <li>• Coaches, instructors, trainers, referees etc. for youth activities, who are 18 years or older, are subject to the public health measures or REP requirements in the facility.</li> <li>• School groups accessing facilities otherwise under REP (for the purposes of K-12 curriculum) are not required to be screened as part of REP.</li> </ul>

Note: Publicly funded post secondary institutions identified in the PSLA, First Nations College entities, private colleges, private faith based institutions will be addressed in a separate, specific exemption.

This document and the guidance within it is subject to change and will be updated as needed.

Last Revised: September 2021.



# REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RESTRICTIONS EXEMPTION PROGRAM

In-Scope Operators	Out-of-Scope Operators
Restaurants and Food Courts with closed access to the public	Events in Private Dwellings
Nightclubs	Retail & Shopping Malls
Casinos, Bingo Halls, VLT Lounges	First responders attending for the purposes of responding to an emergency situation
Entertainment/Rec Centres, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bowling, racing entertainment, arcades, billiards halls, other similar entertainment.</li> <li>Museums, art galleries</li> </ul>	Workers/employees in/on a worksite for the purposes of their employment
Movie theatres	Places of Worship – for faith services
Recreation facilities for physical activity, performance activity and recreational facility, <i>excluding</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>youth physical activity, performance activity and recreational facility</li> <li>mutual support meetings</li> <li>jury selection</li> <li>elections purposes and related activities</li> </ul>	Schools, K-12
Conferences / Meeting Spaces / Halls/ Rented spaces (excluding private dwelling units), <i>excluding</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mutual support meetings</li> <li>places of worship – for faith services</li> <li>jury selection</li> <li>elections purposes and related activities</li> </ul>	School curriculum based activity
Weddings and Funerals held in public facilities where the facility maintains responsibility for adherence to these requirements	Child care settings (e.g., daycares)
Private social events held in public facilities where the facility maintains responsibility for adherence to these requirements	Accommodations (e.g., hotel)
Spectator settings for professional sport or performance activity	Health Services
Recreation classes/activities (outside physical activity)	Personal Services

COVID-19 INFORMATION

# REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RESTRICTIONS EXEMPTION PROGRAM

Adult recreational sport groups (players/participants)	Wellness Services
Amenities in hotels and condos, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• fitness rooms, pools</li><li>• game rooms, movie rooms</li><li>• other similar amenities</li></ul>	Youth activities, where all participants under the age of 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Note that coaches, instructors, trainers, referees subject to the requirements of the facility if under REP.</li></ul>
Fitness facilities	Libraries
	Public Transit
	Mutual Support Groups
	Jury selection
	Election purposes and related activities

## **RECORD OF DECISION – CMOH Order 45-2021**

### **Re: 2021 COVID-19 Response – Alberta Government’s Restrictions Exemption Program; Rescinding and replacing RECORD OF DECISION – CMOH Order 43-2021**

Whereas I, Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) have initiated an investigation into the existence of COVID-19 within the Province of Alberta.

Whereas the investigation has confirmed that COVID-19 is present in Alberta and constitutes a public health emergency as a novel or highly infectious agent that poses a significant risk to public health.

Whereas under section 29(2.1) of the *Public Health Act*, I have the authority by order to prohibit a person from attending a location for any period and subject to any conditions that I consider appropriate, where I have determined that the person engaging in that activity could transmit an infectious agent. I also have the authority to take whatever other steps that are, in my opinion, necessary in order to lessen the impact of the public health emergency.

Whereas a state of public health emergency was declared in the province of Alberta on September 15, 2021.

Whereas I have determined it is possible to exempt eligible businesses, entities and events and patrons and attendees at their premises from certain restrictions found in Record of Decision CMOH Order 44-2021 provided that eligible participants screen patrons or attendees for proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test result, I hereby make the following order:

#### **Table of Contents**

- Part 1 – Application
- Part 2 – Definitions
- Part 3 – Restrictions Exemption Program
- Part 4 – Masking Requirements
  - A. Indoor masking requirements
  - B. General exceptions to indoor masking
  - C. Masking exceptions for health conditions
- Part 5 – Obligations of eligible participants
  - A. Screening of patrons or attendees
  - B. Forms of proof of vaccination
  - C. Exceptions for proof of vaccination
  - D. Positive test result
- Part 6 - General

## Part 1 – Application

- 1.1 This Order rescinds CMOH Order 43-2021.
- 1.2 This Order is effective September 20, 2021, and applies throughout the Province of Alberta.
- 1.3 Record of Decision CMOH Order 44-2021 is not in force in respect of eligible participants and patrons and attendees who are in compliance with this Order.
- 1.4 Record of Decision CMOH Order 45-2021 is not in force in respect of an employee of an eligible participant or first responders attending an eligible participant for the purposes of responding to an emergency situation.

## Part 2 – Definitions

- 2.1 In this Order and the Appendix A to this Order, the following terms have the following meanings:
  - (a) “authorizing health professional” means
    - i. for the purposes of a masking exception, one of the following regulated members under the *Health Professions Act* who holds a practice permit:
      - A. nurse practitioners;
      - B. physicians;
      - C. psychologists.
    - ii. for the purposes of the vaccine exception, one of the following regulated members under the *Health Professions Act* who holds a practice permit:
      - A. nurse practitioners;
      - B. physicians.
  - (b) “COVID-19 test” means a Health Canada approved rapid screening test or a lab based PCR test approved by Health Canada or the lab accreditation body of the jurisdiction in which the test is performed which:
    - i. a person has taken within the last 72 hours;
    - ii. clearly outlines the laboratory that completed the test, if applicable the type of test, time of sample collection, and clear indication of a negative result; and
    - iii. is not sourced from the Alberta Health Services public COVID-19 testing system.
  - (c) “discretionary business, entity or event” means a business, entity or event described as “in scope” in Appendix A of this Order.

- (d) “eligible participant” means an operator of a discretionary business, entity or event that chooses to implement the Restrictions Exemption Program under this Order.
- (e) “eligible person” means a person who is living, working or going to school in Alberta who is eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- (f) “first responders” means emergency medical responders registered with the Alberta College of Paramedics, police officers as defined in the *Police Act* and firefighters.
- (g) “employee” means workers, contractors, repair workers, delivery workers, volunteers, inspectors, or others who are entering the eligible participant for work purposes and not as patrons or attendees.
- (h) “face mask” means a medical or non-medical mask or other face covering that covers a person’s nose, mouth and chin.
- (i) “fitness activity” means a physical activity that occurs at a gym, fitness studio, dance studio, rink, pool, arena or recreation centre and includes dance classes, rowing, spin, yoga, boxing, boot camp, Pilates and other activities of a similar nature.
- (j) “Guidelines” means the Requirements for the Restrictions Exemption Program, as amended from time to time and as published on the Government of Alberta website.
- (k) “health condition” means the following mental or physical limitations:
  - i. sensory processing disorders;
  - ii. developmental delays;
  - iii. mental illnesses including: anxiety disorders; psychotic disorders; dissociative identity disorder; and depressive disorders;
  - iv. facial trauma or recent oral maxillofacial surgery;
  - v. contact dermatitis or allergic reactions to face mask components; or
  - vi. clinically significant acute respiratory distress.
- (l) “masking medical exception letter” means written confirmation provided to a person by an authorizing health professional which verifies that the person has a health condition that prevents the person from wearing a face mask while attending an indoor public place and:
  - i. clearly sets out the information required by section 4.5 of this Order; and
  - ii. is valid for a period of one year from the date on which it is made.
- (m) “medical contraindication to vaccination” means a condition diagnosed by an authorizing health professional as determined by guidance provided by the College of Physicians and Surgeons or the College and Association of Registered Nurses.

- (m) “personal identification” means a valid:
- i. birth certificate issued by a government of a province of Canada and including the photograph of the holder;
  - ii. citizenship card;
  - iii. driver’s licence issued by a government of a province of Canada and including the photograph of the holder;
  - iv. provincial or territorial issued identification card, including health card;
  - v. certificate of Indian Status;
  - vi. Métis Nation of Alberta Association citizenship and identification card;
  - vii. Inuit Status card;
  - viii. passport attesting to citizenship or other national status, issued by a government of any jurisdiction and including a photograph of the holder;
  - ix. Permanent Resident Card.
- (n) “patron or attendee” means an eligible person attending at a business, entity or event participating in the Restrictions Exemption Program under this Order.
- (o) “PCR test” means the polymerase chain reaction test for COVID-19.
- (p) “performance activity” means singing, playing a musical instrument, dancing, acting or other activities of a similar nature and includes, but is not limited to, a rehearsal, concert, theatre, dance, choral, festival, musical and symphony events.
- (q) “physical activity” means a fitness activity or sport activity.
- (r) “premises” means the site or location where the eligible participant operates.
- (s) “rapid screening test” means a COVID-19 testing device that is listed in *Authorized medical devices for uses related to COVID-19: List of authorized testing devices by Health Canada* published on the Government of Canada website and is approved for point-of-care molecular or antigen COVID-19 testing, including but not limited to, Panbio COVID-19 AG Rapid Test Device (nasal), Bd Veritor System For Rapid Detection Of SARS-CoV-2, Id Now COVID-19 and the Spartan COVID-19 System Cube.
- (t) “recreational activity” means any structured or organized activity or program where the purpose of the activity or program is intended to develop a skill, including but not limited to, Girl Guides, Scouts, choir, arts and crafts, pottery or other substantially similar activities.
- (u) “sport activity” means sports training, practices, events, games, scrimmages, competitions, gameplay, league play, and other activities of a similar nature.
- (v) “vaccinated” means a person who is eligible for vaccination who has:

- i. during the period between September 17, 2021 and October 24, 2021:
    - A. proof of receiving at least one dose of a World Health Organization approved COVID-19 vaccine and has had fourteen or more days elapse since the date on which the person received the first dose of vaccine;
  - ii. on or after October 25, 2021:
    - A. proof of receiving two doses of a World Health Organization approved COVID-19 vaccine in a two dose vaccine series and has had fourteen or more days elapse since the date on which the person received the first dose of vaccine;
    - B. proof of receiving one dose in a one dose World Health Organization approved COVID-19 vaccine series and has had fourteen days or more elapse since the date on which the person received the one dose of vaccine.
- (w) “vaccine medical exception letter” means an original, signed written confirmation provided to a person by an authorizing health professional which verifies there is a medical contraindication to vaccination that prevents the person from being vaccinated or verifies the person is a participant in a COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial and:
- i. clearly sets out the information required by section 5.5 of this Order; and
  - ii. is valid for a period of one year from the date on which it is made.

### **Part 3 – Restrictions Exemption Program**

- 3.1 A discretionary business, entity or event which chooses to implement the Restrictions Exemption Program must do so in accordance with this Order.
- 3.2 A business, entity or event described as “Out of Scope” in Appendix A is ineligible for participation in the Restrictions Exemption Program.

### **Part 4 – Masking requirements**

#### **A. Indoor masking requirements**

- 4.1 Except as set out in this Order, a patron or attendee must wear a face mask at all times while attending at an eligible participant’s premises.
- 4.2 For greater certainty a patron or attendee must wear a face mask in

- (a) all indoor spaces on the premises of an eligible participant that all patrons or attendees may attend; and
- (b) at a wedding ceremony or reception or at a funeral service or reception that is held at the premises of an eligible participant.

**B. General exceptions to indoor masking**

- 4.3 Despite this Part of this Order, a patron or attendee is not required to wear a face mask at all times while attending an eligible participant's premises if the patron or attendee is:
- (a) a youth under two years of age;
  - (b) participating in an indoor physical activity or performance activity;
  - (c) a person marrying another person during a wedding ceremony, and the individuals in their wedding party;
  - (d) unable to place, use or remove a face mask without assistance;
  - (e) seated at a table while consuming food or drink or, if standing at a standing table while consuming food or drink, as long as the person remains at the standing table at all times while consuming the food or drink;
  - (f) providing or receiving care or assistance where a face mask would hinder that caregiving or assistance;
  - (g) a person who needs to temporarily remove their face mask while in an eligible participant's premises for the purposes of:
    - i. receiving a service that requires the temporary removal of their face mask;
    - ii. an emergency or medical purpose, or
    - iii. establishing their identity.

**C. Masking exceptions for health conditions**

- 4.4 Despite this Part of this Order, a patron or attendee who is unable to wear a face mask due to a health condition as determined by an authorizing health professional is excepted from wearing a face mask while attending the eligible participant's premises.
- 4.5 For the purposes of section 4.4, the health condition must be verified by a masking medical exception letter that includes the following:
- (a) the name of the patron or attendee to whom the exception applies;
  - (b) the name, phone number, email address, professional registration number, and signature of the authorizing health professional; and
  - (c) the date on which the written confirmation was provided.



- 4.6 For greater certainty, although the masking medical exception letter must verify that a health condition applies, the medical exception letter must not include specific information about the health condition.

## **Part 5 – Obligations of eligible participants**

### **A. Screening of patrons or attendees**

- 5.1 An eligible participant must screen every patron and attendee for one of the following at the point of entry in accordance with the Guidelines:
- (a) proof of vaccination as set out in section 5.3;
  - (b) proof of a negative COVID-19 test result from a sample that is taken within the prior 72 hours;
  - (c) original vaccine medical exception letter.
- 5.2 A patron or attendee must provide an eligible participant with personal identification and one of the following at the point of entry:
- (a) proof of vaccination as set out in section 5.3;
  - (b) proof of a negative COVID-19 test result from a sample that is taken within the prior 72 hours;
  - (c) original vaccine medical exception letter.

### **B. Forms of proof of vaccination**

- 5.3 One of the following is acceptable as proof of vaccination:
- (a) a picture or paper record of a valid Alberta Health Services, MyHealth Records, pharmacy, First Nations, or physician immunization record prominently displaying the name of the recipient, type of vaccine and date of administration;
  - (b) valid Government of Alberta vaccination QR code;
  - (c) an immunization record from another Canadian province or territory displaying the name of the recipient, type of vaccine and date of administration;
  - (d) Canadian armed forces immunization record, displaying the name of the recipient, type of vaccine and date of administration.
  - (e) For international travellers, an ArriveCan app and a valid international travel identity of the recipient document is acceptable as proof of vaccination.

**C. Exceptions for proof of vaccination**

- 5.4 Despite this Part of this Order, a patron or attendee who is unable to be vaccinated due to a medical contraindication to vaccination is excepted from the requirement of showing proof of vaccination to attend at an eligible participant's premises.
- 5.5 For the purposes of section 5.4 the medical contraindication to vaccination must be verified by a vaccine medical exception letter that includes the following:
- (a) the name of the patron or attendee to whom the exception applies;
  - (b) the name, phone number, contact information, professional registration number, and signature of the authorizing health professional;
  - (c) the date on which the written confirmation was provided; and
  - (d) the length of time the exemption is valid.
- 5.6 For greater certainty, although the vaccine medical exception letter must verify that a medical contraindication to vaccination applies, the vaccine medical exception letter must not include specific information about the nature of the medical contraindication to vaccination.
- 5.7 Despite section 5.2, the following persons are not required to provide proof of vaccination:
- (a) a person ineligible for immunization under the Alberta COVID-19 immunization program;
  - (b) a person with a medical exemption letter for vaccination;
  - (c) a person with a written or printed copy of a negative COVID-19 test.
- 5.8 Despite section 5.2, a patron or attendee who is 17 years of age or younger is not required to provide personal identification.

**D. Positive Test Result**

- 5.9 An eligible participant is prohibited from allowing a person presenting a positive COVID-19 test result from attending at the eligible participant's premises and must advise a person who presents a positive COVID-19 test result that the person must isolate in accordance with CMOH Order 06-2021.

**Part 6 – General**

- 6.1 This Order provides the minimum standards for public health measures in Alberta for those matters addressed by this Order.

- 6.2 For greater certainty, nothing in this Order relieves a person from complying with any provision of any federal, provincial or municipal law or regulation or any requirement of any lawful permit, order or licence covering those matters which are addressed in this Order.
- 6.3 This Order remains in effect until rescinded by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Signed on this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021.

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Deena Hinshaw, MD  
Chief Medical Officer of Health



**Document:** Appendix A to Record of Decision – CMOH Order 45-2021

**Subject:** CMOH Order 45-2021 Alberta Government's Restrictions Exemption Program

**Scope of Application:** As per Record of Decision – CMOH Order 45-2021

<b>In Scope</b>	<b>Out of Scope</b>
Restaurants and Food Courts with closed access to the public	Events in Private Dwellings
Nightclubs	Retail & Shopping Malls
Casinos, Bingo Halls, VLT Lounges	First responders attending for the purposes of responding to an emergency situation
Entertainment/Rec Centers, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bowling, racing entertainment, arcades, billiards halls, other similar entertainment</li> <li>• Museums, art galleries</li> </ul>	Libraries
Movie theatres	Employees in/on a worksite for the purposes of their employment
Recreation facilities for physical activity, performance activity or recreational activity <i>excluding</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• youth physical activity, performance activity and recreational activity</li> <li>• mutual support meetings</li> <li>• jury selection</li> <li>• elections purposes and related activities</li> </ul>	Schools, K-12
Conferences / Meeting Spaces / Halls/Rented space (excluding dwelling units) <i>excluding</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mutual support meetings</li> </ul>	School curriculum based activity, K-12

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• places of Worship – for faith services</li> <li>• jury selection</li> <li>• elections purposes and related activities</li> </ul>	
Weddings and Funerals held in public facilities where the facility maintains responsibility for adherence to these requirements	Child care settings (e.g., daycare)
Spectator at a professional sport or performance activity	Accommodations (e.g., hotel)
Indoor adult sport and performance activities (participants)	Places of Worship – for faith services
Private social events held in public facilities where the facility maintains responsibility for adherence to these requirements	Health Services
Adult recreational activities (e.g., classes, groups)	Personal Services
Hotel and condo amenities such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fitness rooms, pools</li> <li>• game rooms, movie rooms</li> <li>• other similar amenities</li> </ul>	Wellness Services
	Youth physical activity, performance activity and recreational activity, where all participants are under the age of 18.
	Public transit
	Mutual support meetings
	Jury selection
	Elections purposes and related activities