



Lambton Public Health
160 Exmouth Street
Point Edward, ON N7T 7Z6

Telephone: 519-383-8331
Toll free: 1-800-667-1839
Fax: 519-383-7092
www.lambtonpublichealth.ca

MEMO

Date: October 26, 2021

To: Municipal CAO's and Recreation Managers

From: Michael Gorgey, Manager, Health Promotion

cc: Ron Van Horne, Chief Administrative Officer
Dr. Sudit Ranade, Medical Officer of Health Officer
Andrew Taylor, General Manager

Re: Lambton County's Medical Officer of Health issues Letter of Instruction mandating proof of vaccination requirements for persons entering facilities used for sport and recreational fitness activities.

The County of Lambton and the Province of Ontario is experiencing another wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Lambton County continues to have one of the highest rates of cases of COVID-19 and one of the highest positivity rates in the province. In Lambton County, the risk of a COVID-19 infection is 15 times higher for people that are unvaccinated and unvaccinated people over 60 years of age are 30 times more likely to be hospitalized than vaccinated people.

Activities related to organized sports, particularly contact sports and high intensity fitness and recreation put participants at greater risk for COVID-19 transmission due to heavy breathing, close contact and length of contact and lack of personal protective equipment (e.g. mask use). This risk is significantly increased when activities take place indoors. Requiring and verifying proof of vaccination for all people 12 years of age and older accessing indoor facilities used for sport and recreational fitness activities can greatly reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and improve protection from COVID-19, limiting the spread in the County of Lambton.

To mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission in facilities used for sport and recreational fitness activities, Lambton County's Medical Officer of Health has issued instructions pursuant to *Ontario Regulation 364/20: Rules for areas in Step 3 and at the Roadmap Exit Step* under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020, S.O. 2020, c. 17*. Where this Letter of Instruction imposes an additional requirement not set out in the *Reopening Ontario Act*, the requirement under this Letter of Instruction must be followed.

All Owners, Operators and Persons Responsible for a Facility used for sports and recreational fitness activities located in the Lambton Public Health service area are instructed to:

1. Require each person, age 12 years and older, at the point of entry, who attends the indoor area of the Facility for the purpose of (a) actively participating in Organized Sports, (b) coaching, officiating at Organized Sports or volunteering, or (c) spectating at Organized Sports to:
 - 1(a) Provide identification and proof of being fully or partially vaccinated against COVID-19 or a valid medical exemption by October 31, 2021.
 - 1(b) Provide identification and proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or a valid medical exemption by November 30, 2021.
2. Comply with all other requirements under the *Reopening Ontario Act* and its regulations as they apply to the above noted facilities.

Municipalities that own or operate a facility used for sports and recreational fitness activities are required to follow these instructions. Failure to comply with the requirements under Ontario Regulation (O. Reg. 364/20) and those identified under this letter of instruction pursuant to [O. Reg. 364/20](#) is an offence under the *Reopening Ontario Act* for which an individual and/or the business or organization may be liable. Set fines under Part 1 of the [Provincial Offences Act](#) (POA) is \$750 for individuals and \$1,000 for corporations. Maximum penalties based on prosecution under Part I or Part II of the POA includes fines of up to \$100,000 and up to one year in jail for an individual; up to \$500,000 and up to one year in jail for an individual who is a director or officer of a corporation; and up to \$10 million for a corporation.

The letter of instruction, including definitions and revisions can be found on the Lambton Public Health website www.lambtonpublichealth.ca. Inquires about these instructions should be directed to Lambton Public Health at workplacewellness@county-lambton.on.ca.