

Public Health Orders for Indoor Youth Sports Provincial Implementation Guidance

As of Dec. 6, 2021, public health orders require youth aged 12 to 17 years attending indoor sporting and recreational facilities (including schools) to provide proof they have received at least one dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine for COVID-19.

If they have not had at least one dose, they must provide proof of a pharmacist-confirmed negative result from an approved rapid antigen test, from a test taken within the 72 hours before they participate. The public health orders do not allow other health care providers to confirm a test result.

Families are encouraged to contact their local pharmacy to confirm if the pharmacy provides these tests. In addition, pharmacies set their own prices for the service, so people are encouraged to ask about the cost.

For clarification, approved rapid COVID-19 tests include (a) the Abbott PanBio COVID-19 antigen test; (b) the BD Veritor COVID-19 antigen test; and (c) any other test for COVID-19 approved by the chief provincial public health officer.

All other public health orders and guidance will continue to be followed. It is the responsibility of the facility operator (including public and independent schools) to ensure the public health orders are followed.

Scope of the Orders

The orders apply to all youth aged 12 to 17 years entering any indoor sporting or recreational facility to watch or participate. These facilities include but are not limited to: school gymnasiums, classrooms, multi-purpose rooms and municipal/community sports and recreation facilities, such as arenas. Both indoor practices and competitions are subject to the orders.

The orders require operators of indoor sporting and recreational facilities to restrict access to youth aged 12 to 17 years unless they provide proof that they have received at least one dose of a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine or proof of a negative result from an approved rapid antigen test, administered by a pharmacist, within the 72 hours before the activity.

Participants, coaches, volunteers and spectators aged 18 years and older (whether teachers, parents, or members of the public) must provide proof of full vaccination or medical exemption approved by Manitoba Health and Seniors Care. Rapid antigen testing for this age group is not an option.

The orders do not apply to physical education classes or any other physical activity that is part of the instructional day and that takes place on the grounds within the youth's school. It does not apply to intramural activities taking place within the school at recess or noon hour.

Collection and Management of Personal Health Information

Public schools are subject to *The Personal Health Information Act* (PHIA), and therefore any collection of personal health information must be in compliance with PHIA. Independent schools and other organizations must comply with applicable privacy laws. The personal health information that is collected should be protected against any unauthorized collection, access, retention, destruction, storage, or disposal. Ultimately, the facility operator has the obligation to comply with the order and any applicable legislation.

Proof of Vaccination and Testing

Proof of full vaccination (required for those 18 and older) will require a government-issued immunization card that contains a QR code, as well as government-issued identification or a school ID card to verify the person's identity. Manitoba immunization cards can be requested on the government of Manitoba website at www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/immunizationrecord/residents.html#immunization-cards or by calling 1-844-MAN-VACC (1-844-626-8222).

Proof of a single dose of vaccination will require a printout or web view of the individual's government-issued immunization record as well as government-issued identification or a school ID card to verify the person's identity. A printout or web view of proof of a single dose of vaccination is available by registering on the Shared Health website at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/test-results/>.

Proof of a negative result from an approved rapid antigen test within the 72 hours before participation must be confirmed by a pharmacist and supported by government-issued identification or a school ID card to verify the person's identity. The orders do not allow other health care providers to confirm a test result. Youth that choose testing should verify with their local pharmacy that test kits are available.

Youth choosing to test are responsible for the cost of purchasing the test. Families are encouraged to contact their local pharmacy to confirm if the pharmacy provides these tests. In addition, pharmacies set their own prices for the service, so people are encouraged to ask about the cost.

Youth subject to the orders who have been granted a medical exemption are not required to undergo testing. Only Manitoba Health and Seniors Care can approve medical exemptions.

Provincial COVID-19 testing sites are not to be used for testing pertaining to these orders. Provincial COVID-19 testing sites are for the testing of symptomatic individuals and individuals directed to be tested by public health officials.

Managing Disclosure

Facility operators (including schools) are responsible for determining, implementing and maintaining processes and procedures for verifying proof of vaccination status and negative test results for all individuals attending indoor sport activity. Some facilities may have additional COVID-19 safety protocols that are specific to the facility.

The documents required to prove vaccination status and negative test results contain personal health information; verification, collection and management of these documents is subject to *The Personal Health Information Act* (PHIA) or other applicable privacy legislation. The processes and procedures implemented to verify vaccination status and negative test results must include privacy and security measures to protect the privacy of individuals' information and/or documents.

Facility operators may seek their own legal advice with respect to the collection of personal health information to ensure that they are complying with the order and any applicable privacy legislation.

Additional Considerations for Schools

The provision of proof of vaccination is voluntary. Youth may choose testing if they do not want to disclose their vaccination status. They may also choose not to participate in the activity in question. Verifying either vaccination status or test results will be done in a way that protects the privacy of the information being disclosed by the youth. Schools will use established processes for the collection and management of personal health information under PHIA and The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA), if applicable.

When school programs, including those for credit attainment, take place in community facilities off campus, the facilities are required to apply the proof of vaccination requirements. If a student is unable to access the facility, schools can determine alternative opportunities to achieve the learning outcomes of that course.

Vaccination Status

Once a school has received and verified their own students' vaccination status, further disclosure is not required while practising or competing in a school facility in which the student is enrolled. However, the student will be required to provide proof of vaccination status if entering another location. Other types of facilities, such as municipal/community sports and recreation facilities, must check participants' proof of vaccination each visit.

Negative Test Results

Schools verifying a student's negative test result will do so before every practice or competition, regardless of the facility. These negative rapid antigen test results must be from within the 72 hours before the activity and confirmed by a pharmacist. Schools are not required to maintain a permanent record of the test result.

Schools are not required to submit records of either vaccination status or test results to the Province.

Before visiting a facility outside of a school's administrative authority, schools are advised to check the process that the host facility uses to verify proof. Venues outside the school may have additional or different measures in place. The operator of the host facility is responsible for ensuring that any youth aged 12 to 17 years who enters the facility provides proof that they have received one dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine for COVID-19 or proof of a pharmacist-confirmed negative result from an approved rapid COVID-19 test result from within the 72 hours before participation. Those 18 years of age and older will need to provide proof of being fully vaccinated or medical exemption approved by Manitoba Health and Seniors Care.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Would open gym or intramurals during a lunch hour be considered part of the order?

No, intramural activities occurring at the school during recess or lunch are not subject to these orders at this time.

Q: What government issued ID is acceptable?

Acceptable government issued ID includes provincial driver's licences, provincial health cards, passports, status cards, permanent resident cards, citizenship cards, social insurance cards and birth certificates. Students may also use school-issued student ID cards.

Q: Will students be exempt from the order if they are participating in an activity off of their school site for credit attainment? For example, hockey academies that are for credit, but take place in an arena.

Orders for the indoor recreation facility indicate that those 12 to 17 need to prove they have received at least one dose of Pfizer or Moderna. Those 18 and older will need to prove they are double-vaccinated in order to enter the facility.

When school programs, including those for credit attainment, take place in community facilities off campus, the facilities are required to apply the proof of vaccination requirements. If a student is unable to access the facility, schools can determine alternate opportunities to achieve the learning outcomes of that course.

Q: Could there be some 'runway' for 18 year olds given that, as students, they have been attending with the same criteria as 12 to 17 year olds?

Participants aged 18 years and older were required to provide proof that they are fully vaccinated under the previous orders in order to access an indoor recreation facility and participate in sport.

To access an indoor recreation facility, 18 year olds must provide proof that they are fully vaccinated by December 6, 2021.

Q: Are vaccinations required for coaches and volunteers?

Coaches and volunteers age 18 and over are required to provide proof that they are fully vaccinated in order to access an indoor recreation facility and participate in sport.

Q: Will health screening still be performed? Who will be responsible for this prior to games?

Screening activities will continue to be completed as is the current practice for each facility.

Q: Can school divisions or independent schools add additional measures beyond the public health orders?

Schools and school divisions have the discretion to implement additional safety measures for staff, students and guests.

Q: Are activities like e-sports, chess and musical groups included in these orders?

These orders apply to all youth aged 12 to 17 who enter an indoor sport or recreational facility to watch or participate. For the purposes of this order, "sports" includes activity where there is athletic activity. Other types of non-sport group instructional classes which are held in indoor sport and recreational facilities require proof of full vaccination for all participants 12 and older.

Q: With regard to proof of the first dose, is the proof valid on the date of the first dose or is it valid two weeks after the first dose?

Youth aged 12 to 17 are eligible to participate in indoor sporting and recreational activities as soon as they receive their first dose. There is no waiting period.

Q: Do individuals who receive a medical exemption receive a QR code? If so, how would a school/facility know that they require testing?

Youth subject to the orders who have been granted a medical exemption are not required to undergo testing and will be provided a Manitoba Immunization card with a QR code. Only Manitoba Health and Seniors Care can approve medical exemptions. For more information on medical exemptions, see www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/eligibility-criteria.html#exemptions.

Q: Can a person verifying vaccination status take a picture of the QR code?

No. The collector of information cannot accept or take pictures of QR codes.

Q: Can an individual send a photo of their QR code and ID ahead of time to accelerate entrance to the facility?

No. The collector of information cannot accept or take pictures of QR codes.

Q: What happens if the 72 hours expire during the event or transportation after?

The orders apply to the admission of the participant. Participants must provide proof of a negative result from an approved rapid antigen test, administered by a pharmacist, within the 72 hours before participation.

Q: How can I find out what pharmacists have been authorized to sell and approve the antigen test?

Families are encouraged to contact their local pharmacy to confirm if the pharmacy provides these tests. A Pharmacy Public Register that includes all the pharmacies in the province is available at <https://cphm.in1touch.org/company/roster/companyRosterView.html?companyRosterId=5>.

Q: How much will rapid antigen tests cost and can these tests be administered from home?

Participants must take the rapid antigen test at the pharmacy. When you take a test, pharmacists will provide you with a document that confirms the test was taken, as well as the result. Families are encouraged to contact their local pharmacy to confirm if the pharmacy provides these tests. In addition, pharmacies set their own prices for the service, so be sure to ask about the cost.

Q: If a participant or spectator tests positive the day after a game, what process needs to be followed for reporting and contact tracing?

Public health officials are responsible for investigating and contact tracing once a case has been confirmed positive. Facility operators do not need to collect names during an event. If participants have tested positive on a rapid antigen test, a confirmatory PCR test will initiate contact tracing with public health officials.

Q: I have a permit with a community facility to provide additional classroom space for my school and I have questions. What can I do?

If a school division or independent school has extenuating circumstances with community facilities that require discussion or follow-up, please reach out to EDUCOVID19@gov.mb.ca with details surrounding your unique situation. For sports programming or academies that take place in community facilities off campus, schools will have to determine alternate opportunities to achieve the learning outcomes of that course for those students who are unable to provide proof of vaccination (one dose) or proof of a negative test.
