

Public Health Orders for Indoor Youth Sports Provincial Implementation Guidance - Facilities

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 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.

Collection and Management of Personal Health Information

Any collection of personal health information must be in compliance with The Personal Health Information Act, and 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 (photo not necessary) 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 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.

Vaccination Status

For community based sport, verification will be required each time a youth enters the facility.

Negative Test Results

Facilities verifying a youth'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. Facilities are not required to maintain a permanent record of the test result.

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

The operator of the 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: 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: 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 facilities add additional measures beyond the public health orders?

Facilities have the discretion to implement additional safety measures for staff and all those attending their facility.

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 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.
