



Canada Games Council Games Policy and Procedures

NAME:	Policy on Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccines
FUNCTIONAL UNIT:	58 - Medical
APPROVED BY:	CGC Board of Directors, 2022 Canada Games Board of Directors, 2023 Canada Games Board of Directors
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RELATED POLICIES:	

PREAMBLE

Since 1967, the Canada Games have been the catalyst for the growth of sport across Canada. Held every two years, alternating between summer and winter, the Games are Canada's largest multi-sport event and represent the pinnacle of interprovincial/territorial sport competition. Since 1967, nearly 100,000 athletes have participated in the Games. Add to that the over 100,000 coaches, officials and volunteers that have been directly involved in the planning and staging of the Games and you have some idea of the enormous reach of the Canada Games.

This Policy has been developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its objective is to maintain the health and safety of Canada Games participants and other stakeholders who engage in the 2022 & 2023 Canada Games.

The primary stakeholders of this policy are Provincial/Territorial Teams, National Sport Organizations and Host Societies.

Spectators of the 2022 & 2023 Canada Games will be subject to the requirements of the respective host communities and or the respective venues being used for the Games.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions will apply

Fully vaccinated: Having received a complete and up-to-date series (as determined by an individual's respective Provincial/Territorial Government) of a Health Canada approved COVID-19 vaccine **no later** than 14 days prior to the start of the 2022 or 2023 Canada Games (or other timeframe required by Health Canada to be considered fully vaccinated). A list of Health Canada approved vaccines can be found here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/drugs-vaccines-treatments/vaccines.html>.

In the event that a Province/Territory does not have a definition of fully vaccinated or “up-to-date series of vaccines”, fully vaccinated will be defined as having received at least two (2) doses of a Health Canada approved COVID-19 vaccine no later than 14 days prior to the start of the 2022 or 2023 Canada Games.

Eligible individuals: Individuals who meet the minimum eligibility requirements to receive a Health Canada approved COVID-19 vaccine in the Province/Territory of residence.

Protected Grounds: The reasons for which an individual can not be discriminated against. While each Canadian Provincial/Territorial Human Rights Code established its own grounds, they all generally contain the following: age, ancestry citizenship, colour, creed (religion), disability, ethnic origin, family status, gender identity/expression, marital status, place of origin, race, sex, sexual orientation. For the purposes of this policy, protected grounds are limited to creed (religion).

Medical Grounds: The medical (health) reasons for which an individual is unable to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

Participants: Participants refers to individuals accredited for the Canada Games as athletes, coaches, managers, technical support, participant assistants or Provincial/Territorial mission staff.

Guests: Guests refers to individuals accredited for the Canada Games as VVIPs, VIPs, Games Observers and Sport Observers, as defined within the [CGC VIP Policy](#) and [CGC Observer Policy](#). Guests do not include Games spectators.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Canada Games Council, the 2022 Canada Games Host Society and the 2023 Canada Games Host Society collectively believe the best mechanism to ensure the health and safety of the Canada Games family and members of the public in host communities during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is through vaccination.

As such, **eligible individuals accredited within one of the categories** listed below are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in order to attend or participate in the 2022 & 2023 Canada Games.

- Athletes
- Para Athlete support including guides and tappers
- Coaches
- Managers
- Technical Support
- Participant Assistants
- **Major Technical Officials**
- Mission Staff
- **The following eligible and accredited Guests:**

- VVIPs / VIPs as defined by the [CGC VIP Policy](#)
- Sport Observers as defined by the [CGC Observer policy](#)
- Games Observers as defined by the [CGC Observer policy](#)
- Venue Pass Holders as defined by the [CGC Venue Pass Policy](#)
- Accredited Media
- Accredited Broadcasters

Individuals **subject to this policy, as listed above**, who have not provided proof of vaccination and have not received an exemption will not be permitted to attend or participate in the 2022 or 2023 Canada Games.

NOTE: CGC staff and volunteers, 2022 staff and volunteers as well as 2023 staff and volunteers **are required** to be fully vaccinated for the 2022 and 2023 Canada Games under separate organizational policies, and are outside the scope of this policy.

EXEMPTIONS

The Canada Games Council will work with the respective Host Society to implement a review process for individuals seeking an exemption from the mandatory COVID-19 vaccine requirement. Individuals who are granted an exemption from the requirement may be subject to additional COVID-19 mitigation measures at the Games, such as testing and quarantines.

The Canada Games Council, the 2022 Canada Games Host Society and the 2023 Canada Games Host Society will make accommodations for individuals who are either ineligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination, or have received an exemption on medical or protected grounds.

APPENDIX A - 2022 CANADA GAMES IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Canada Games Council (CGC)

The CGC is responsible for administering the Policy on Games Time COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccines, including dissemination of the policy, clarifications to the policy and supporting stakeholders in implementing the policy. In the case of Exemption requests, the CGC will administer non-medical exemption requests and make a decision with the Host Society.

The CGC is responsible for administering its own COVID-19 vaccination policy as it relates to its own staff and volunteers.

2022 Canada Games Host Society

The 2022 Canada Games Host Society is responsible for supporting the CGC on the administration of the Policy on Games Time COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccines, including, but not limited to:

- Ensuring **VVIPs, VIPs, Games Observers, Sport Observers**, Media, Broadcasters and Major Technical Officials who are issued an accreditation have been confirmed as being vaccinated against COVID-19 or being exempt.
- Administering medical exemption requests.

The 2022 Canada Games Host Society is responsible for administering its own COVID-19 vaccination policy as it relates to their staff and volunteers, including Games time volunteers.

Additionally, the 2022 Canada Games Host Society is responsible for coordinating with local governments as well as sport and non sport venue owners/operators around any COVID-19 vaccinations requirements for spectators.

Provincial/Territorial Teams

Provincial/Territorial Teams are responsible to ensure individuals representing their jurisdiction at the Canada Games are aware of this policy and the related procedures.

Provincial/Territorial Teams are responsible to confirm that their team members **as well as venue pass holders**, are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or have received an exemption from the Host Society or CGC and to ensure the information is entered into the Games registration system.

National Sport Organizations

National Sport Organizations are responsible to ensure Major Technical Officials representing the National Sport Organizations at the Canada Games are aware of this policy and the related procedures.

REGISTRATION AND PROOF OF VACCINATION

- As part of the Canada Games registration process, individuals will be asked to indicate their COVID-19 vaccination status.
- Individuals will not be required to upload proof of vaccination into the registration system. The process for an individual's vaccination status to be confirmed is outlined below under each accreditation type.

Participants, Mission Staff & Venue Pass Holders

- It will be the responsibility of the Chef de Mission for each Province and Territory to ensure that all members of their jurisdiction's team are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, as defined by the jurisdiction's Provincial/Territorial Government, or have received an exemption. Because the policies and procedures for checking individuals vaccination status varies by jurisdiction, the methodology for confirming an individual's vaccination status will be deferred to each Province/Territory. The Chef de Mission, or their representative, will be able to attest to an individual's vaccination status in the administration section of the registration system. The deadline for Chefs de Mission to attest to an individual's vaccination status will be 14 days prior to the opening ceremonies.
- An individual's accreditation badge will act as their proof of vaccination or exemption from vaccination (there will be no distinction between the two on the accreditation badge). However, the 2022 Canada Games Host Society, the Canada Games Council, Brock University and other 2022 Canada Games sport and non-sport venue owners and operators reserve the right to request to see an individual's proof of vaccination.

Guests (VVIPs, VIPs, Observers), Media, Broadcast, and Major Technical Officials

- Guests, **Media, Broadcast and Major Technical Officials** will be asked to provide proof of vaccination (Provincial/Territorial QR code or print out) when they pick up their accreditation badge for the Games.
- For individuals picking up accreditation badges for a group, the individual picking up the badges will be required to sign an attestation that all individuals for whom they are picking up accreditation badges, are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or have received an exemption.
- An individual's accreditation badge will act as their proof of vaccination or exemption from vaccination (there will be no distinction between the two on the accreditation badge).

EXEMPTIONS

Medical

- Individuals who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 will require an exemption prior to being accredited for the 2022 Canada Games.
- Individuals wishing to apply for a medical exemption must complete the [exemption request form](#) and submit it, along with all supporting medical documentation to Dr. Katie Dalziel by fax at (855) 953-3537. Forms must be submitted no later than July 4, 2022 or within 24 hours of being named to a team if named to the team after July 4, 2022.

Non Medical

- Individuals wishing to apply for a creed based exemption must submit their request, with supporting documentation, in writing to Aaron Bruce (abruce@canadagames.ca) no later than July 4, 2022 or within 24 hours of being named to a team if named to the team after July 4, 2022.
 - The following information is required:
 - Name
 - Contact Information
 - Provincial/Territorial Team
 - Signed letter from Commissioner of Oaths clearly stating why an exemption is required.
 - Any documentation supporting the exemption request.
 - A note on sincere religious beliefs and COVID-19 vaccine. Leaders and members of a number of religions and religious denominations have released public statements indicating their **support for the COVID-19 vaccine** specifically in the interest of public health. These include:
 - [Islam](#)
 - [Roman Catholicism](#)
 - [Judaism](#)
 - [Greek Orthodox](#)
 - [Mennonites](#)
 - [Jehovah's Witnesses](#)
 - [Christian Science](#)
 - In addition, a number of provincial human rights commissions have taken the position that objection to vaccination for personal reasons is not a protected ground under their respective Code and does not need to be accommodated.
- Applications for creed based exemptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis..

Jurisdiction

- Exemptions from the Canada Games Council's Games Time Mandatory Policy on COVID-19 vaccines are limited to this policy and may not be recognized by third party entities such as airlines, Brock University or any other Games venue or service provider who have their own mandates and exemption policies and processes.

Public Health Measures

- Individuals who are granted an exemption from the vaccination requirement may be subject to additional public health measures, such as testing, to be determined by the Niagara 2022 Host Society in consultation with Niagara Public Health.

NON COMPLIANCE

- Individuals who do not provide their Chef de Mission or designated representative proof of COVID-19 vaccination and have not received an exemption from the requirement from the Canada Games Council, will not be issued accreditation for the 2022 Canada Games.
- Should the Canada Games Council become aware that an accreditation was issued to an individual who is not vaccinated against COVID-19 nor received an exemption from the Canada Games Council, the accreditation will be revoked, along with the privileges associated with the accreditation.