

To: RHC Members

Date: September 25, 2021

**SUBJECT: RHC Vaccine Passport Program**

**City of Calgary Mandatory Application of Restriction Exemption Program to Arenas**

The City of Calgary passed a Vaccine Passport Bylaw 65M2021 (“Bylaw”), which requires many businesses and organizations to require proof of vaccination, recent negative COVID-19 test, or valid medical exemption letter to gain entry or participate in a program. This Bylaw aligns closely with the Government of Alberta (GOA) announcement on September 15 regarding the Restrictions Exemption Program (“REP”), as outlined by the GOA.

Essentially, the Bylaw requires all facilities in Calgary to follow the REP program for all 12 and up participants, regardless of whether or not the activity is classified as youth sport. This Bylaw applies to all facilities in the city of Calgary, which has implications on the users of these facilities, including hockey arenas. ***As a user group of the arenas in the City of Calgary (“City Arenas”), we are now required to follow the Restriction Exemption Program proposed by the Alberta Government via the Bylaw as well.***

**Vaccination Passport, Medical Exemption or Negative Test Result**

Through consultation with Hockey Calgary (HC) and the City of Calgary, RHC will be required to verify the vaccine status of each player and coach within our league (please see below regarding spectators and volunteers). As such, the below is some detailed information required to substantiate the foregoing.

**Any person aged 12 years and older must show identification and one of the following:**

* + 1. **1. Proof of Vaccination**

Your proof of vaccination must display the name, type of vaccine and the date it was received.

This can be a paper COVID-19 vaccination record or shown on an electronic device from:

* 1. Alberta Health Services
	2. A First Nation
	3. Your pharmacy
	4. Your physician
	5. Another province or territory
	6. Canadian armed forces

You can print your own card online or get one printed for free at any Registry Agent.

* 1. **2. Proof of negative test result**

You can show a COVID-19 negative test result. Tests must be:

1. Provided as an original or printed copy (photos are not sufficient);
2. Privately-paid for;
3. A Health Canada approved rapid antigen, rapid PCR or lab-based PCR test; and
4. Completed within the past 72 hours

Test results must show the type of test, time of sample collection, clear indication of a negative result, and laboratory that completed the test. Our current understanding is that **home-based rapid test kits are not a valid** **test** for this purpose and are, therefore, ineligible.

Tests **must not** be from Alberta Health Services or Alberta Precision Laboratories.

* 1. **3. Medical exemption from vaccine letter**
1. You must show an original signed letter from a physician or nurse practitioner that includes:
2. Your name that matches your identification (only required for adults 18 & over);
3. Physician’s or nurse practitioner’s complete information, including their name, phone number, contact information, professional registration number and signature;
4. A statement that there is a medical reason for not being fully vaccinated against COVID-19; and
5. The duration that the exemption is valid.

**Dosage requirements for vaccination**

• Between Sept. 20 to Oct. 25: proof of a single dose is accepted if you received the dose more than two weeks before entering the facility.

• After October 25: proof of double vaccination (or single Janssen dose) with the final dose administered at least 14 days prior to entry is required for all persons 12 years and older to access facilities.

**RHC Action Plan**

Currently, the City of Calgary is creating a permanent plan for compliance with the Bylaw and is contracting with private security firms to verify vaccine status of all patrons entering the city of Calgary owned facilities. Non-city owned facilities may also implement similar protocols. **Therefore, all players, coaches, volunteers, officials, and spectators, including parents of players, may be asked to produce each time you enter City Arenas your proof of vaccination, medical exemption letter or negative test results.** Since this process will be managed by the City Arenas and not RHC, this process may be subject to change without notice by RHC. RHC advices all individuals to always be prepared to produce their proof of vaccination, medical exemption letter or negative test results at every game.

In addition to the forgoing, the City of Calgary is also asking the users of their facilities, including arenas, to also ensure that its players, and coaches are compliant with the Bylaw. This will require RHC to also check the vaccine status of its players and coaches. RHC recognizes that this obligation raises many concerns by our membership and has developed the following the process that will ensure efficient and effective management of our league and compliance with the Bylaw and REP, while protecting your individual privacy rights.

**At your first game, your team coach, or designate thereto, will conduct a visual inspection of your proof of vaccination or medical exemption records. Each team will report to the League Coordinator the results of this inspection for the purpose of any future Bylaw audit process and will not include any copies of the person’s medical information. For negative test results, it will be responsibility of each player to produce physical records of a valid negative test result, as outlined previously, prior to each game where the coach, or designate thereto, will conduct a visual inspection at that time.**

**For greater certainty, RHC does not plan to store, retain or collate any copies of proof of vaccination, medical exemptions letters or negative test results, and will only conduct a visual inspection at this time. However, this policy may be subject to change in the future depending on guidance provided by Hockey Calgary or the City of Calgary.**

**Masking**

As a reminder, the City of Calgary has mandated this use of masks in all indoor public facilities, which does impact our program and City Arenas. As such, all players, coaches, referees, volunteers and spectators are required, at all time, to wear a mask when in a City Arena, unless on the ice participating in physical play or coaching. For greater certainty, coaches and volunteers are required, at all times, to wear a mask, including on the bench or in time keeping/penalty booths.

If you have any questions, please direct them to the registrar, Cathy Hosowich, at rechockeyregistrar@hockeycalgary.com.