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Issue Date: October 26, 2021

To: All Owners, Operators and Persons Responsible for facilities used for sports and recreational fitness activities in the County of Lambton, served by Lambton Public Health.

RE: Lambton Public Health Instructions regarding proof of vaccination requirements for persons entering facilities used for sport and recreational fitness activities.

Issued by: Dr. Sudit Ranade, Medical Officer of Health, Lambton Public Health.

Effective Date of Implementation: 12:01 a.m. on October 31, 2021 and until further notice unless otherwise specified.

The Province has recently enacted a regulation requiring that people aged 18 and over attending recreational facilities must show proof of immunization prior to entry as a participant or spectator. Although 12-17 year-olds are currently excluded from this requirement, the risk of COVID-19 transmission in this age group is similar to that of other age groups for both participants and spectators. Under the current requirements, coaches and volunteers are also excluded, but they may pose a similar risk of transmission within this setting if they are unvaccinated.

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 reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and improve protection from COVID-19, limiting the spread in the County of Lambton.

I, Dr. Sudit Ranade, as the Medical Officer of Health for the Lambton Public Health Unit am issuing 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/or 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 as of October 31, 2021.
 - 1 (b). Provide identification and proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or a valid medical exemption as of 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.

For the purpose of these instructions, the following definitions apply:

Persons Responsible means the holder of a permit/rental agreement to use the facility or designated individual which may include, but is not limited to, a coach, instructor, coordinator, trainer, organizer, or other person responsible for the compliance with public health measures related to COVID-19 and the facility.

Owner/Operator means an individual or organization responsible for the operations of a recreation facility located in the area served by Lambton Public Health.

Facility means an indoor facility located in the area served by Lambton Public Health where organized sports are played and/or practiced, including schools.

Organized Sport(s) means sport(s) and recreational fitness activities including, but not limited to, sports leagues, organized pick-up sports, dance classes, gymnastics, and martial arts and swimming classes, or as otherwise described in the Ministry of Health's Proof of Vaccination [Ministry of Health Proof of Vaccination Guidance](#) under the *Reopening Ontario Act* and also including extracurricular physical activity or recreational fitness events run, organized or hosted at a school.

Partially Vaccinated means that an individual has received only one (1) dose of a vaccine that requires two (2) doses to complete the vaccination series.

Fully Vaccinated means that an individual has received all required doses of a COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days previously, in accordance with the [Ministry of](#)

[Health Proof of Vaccination Guidance.](#)

Medical Exemption means an exemption confirmed by an individual who provides a written documentation as per the [Ministry of Health Proof of Vaccination Guidance.](#)

School means a school as defined in the Education Act (including private schools) as well as post-secondary educational institutions such as colleges and universities.

Enforcement

You are required to comply with the additional measures above, pursuant to regulations under the *Reopening Ontario Act* including any successor legislation or regulations. 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.

These instructions, including any revisions to these instructions 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.

Sincerely,



Dr. Sudit Ranade
Medical Officer of Health, County of Lambton