



Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut

COVID-19 Update following Provincial Announcement

Date: September 22, 2021

From: Lisa Hardy, Executive Director Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut

Good afternoon, Clubs / Skating Schools, Coaches and Officials:

We appreciate your patience as we continue to seek clarity and answers as to how the new restrictions, the restrictions exemption program (REP), and youth programming impact how programming is delivered by our members. Please know that we have actively been working to get answers or clarity since the original announcement was made, and as soon as we receive answers, we will continue to provide updates to our membership.

Over the course of the weekend and into Monday, various pieces of information including the health orders and guidance for the restriction exemption program have been released. Monday evening, Chief Medical Officer of health, Dr. Hinshaw issued a statement on public health measures for youth sports and recreation, which creates an opportunity for youth under age 18 to not be required to show proof of vaccination for those under age 18 who are taking part in sport, recreation, and performance activities.

Unfortunately, the way the information has rolled out has created confusion or a variety of interpretations by sport organizations, facility operators, and municipalities resulting in inconsistencies across the province in how the new health orders are being implemented.

As clearly stated by Dr. Hinshaw, municipalities and facility operators can choose to have more restrictions than what Alberta Health requires. As such **Clubs & Skating Schools are required at minimum to follow the restrictions or measures put in place by the facility operator, or municipality and as required by Alberta Health.** We understand that Alberta Health has a meeting scheduled this week with facility operator stakeholders to provide clarity and answer questions and could result in policies being revised based on the operations and capacity of each facility or municipality. There is also a meeting with Alberta Health and a select group of Provincial Sport Organizations of which we are included tomorrow. Please be patient with both us and the facility operators as we all work through the information and requirements imposed by the Province.

Are masks still required in the facility?

Yes, there are provincial requirements for masks to be always worn indoors, unless engaged in a physical activity, or have a medical exemption from an authorizing health professional. This requirement is in place for all facilities regardless of whether there is a Restriction Exemption Program in place.

If a facility implements the Restrictions Exemption Program can a club/skating school implement their own instead?

No. If the facility has adopted the Restrictions Exemption Program, then user groups are required to fall under their program and not implement a separate one as well. It would be redundant for a user group to implement a restriction exemption program if the facility already has one in place.



If a facility does not implement the Restrictions Exemption Program (REP) can a club/skating school implement their own?

Our understanding is that yes, a club / skating school can implement the restrictions exemption program themselves in the event their facility has not chosen to do so. The club/skating school is required to ensure full compliance in the implementation if they choose to implement the restrictions exemption program.

Our facility has implemented the Restrictions Exemption Program (REP) but want us to manage the screening of our participants. Is this ok?

If a facility implements the REP, it is ultimately their responsibility for implementation and adherence to public health restrictions in their facilities.

If you are asked to sign a declaration which includes an indemnity clause, collect personal health information (which includes copies of vaccination records, negative tests, or medical exemption) we strongly recommend that you do not sign the document until you have had legal counsel review the document or you have confirmed that you have the proper policies and software in place to meet the legal requirements around the protection of personal health information.

There is risk to the club/skating school collecting or storing copies of proof of vaccine from your registrants if not done correctly. We have questions to the Province and are seeking best practices from other partners for the best way clubs and skating schools can manage this sensitive information if it is collected and stored in any form by the organization.

If a facility has implemented the Restrictions Exemption Program (REP), are coaches and volunteers required to be screened or are they classified as employees and workers?

We are still seeking clarification to this. Our understanding at this time is that coaches and volunteers belonging to the facility user groups are not considered employees or contractors of the facility and therefore fall under the screening requirements related to the restriction exemption program.

At this time, in facilities that have implemented the restrictions exemption program, coaches and volunteers aged 18 & older should expect to be screened for proof of vaccination, proof of a negative privately-paid test result within 72 hours of arriving at the facility, or an original copy medical exemption letter.

Can age 17 and younger skaters participate in youth sport without being screened for vaccination?

Yes, **if** the facility is allowing youth aged 12 – 17 to enter the building to participate in youth sport without being screened. As a reminder, **it is within the rights of the facility or municipality to impose stronger measures** than what Alberta Health allows by requiring anyone over the age of 12 entering the facility to be screened.

In cases where a club / skating school has members between the ages of 12-17 that are unvaccinated we recommend you look to see if there are other clubs or facilities in the nearby area that your participants can continue to skate while the current measures are in place.



Are unvaccinated parents, guardians or spectators allowed in the facility if the facility has implemented the Restrictions Exemption Program (REP)?

Our understanding at this time based on conversations with AHS and our Provincial contacts is any facility that has implemented the REP is required to screen for proof of vaccination, proof of a negative privately paid test result within 72 hours of arriving at the facility, or an original copy medical exemption letter for everyone age 18 and older which includes parents/guardians and spectators.

Facilities that have NOT implemented the Restrictions Exemption Program are not required to do screening however the following health restrictions outlined in CMOA Order 42-2021 are then required:

- Anyone (Spectators and Skaters) age 18 and older are required to maintain 2 metres of physical distance from any other person who is not part of their cohort (household, or for a person who resides alone up to 2 other persons with whom the person regularly interacts with) when not engaged in physical activity
- Adults (18 & older) are NOT permitted to participate in any group physical activity or programming. Only 1:1 or solo indoor physical activities are permitted (exception is that members of the same cohort/household can train together). A minimum of 3 metres distance from any person not in their household or part of their cohort (household, or for a person who resides alone up to 2 other persons with whom the person regularly interacts with) is required during physical activity
- A maximum of 1/3 of the fire code capacity
- Participants must screen for symptoms daily

We recognize there is different interpretations of this being implemented in facilities currently and we anticipate receiving a clearer response from Alberta Health in the near future as to what is or is not required or permitted.

Can youth and adults skate together?

If the facility or club/skating school has a restrictions exemption program in place and are screening anyone over the age of 12 then YES, youth of any age and adults can continue to skate together. This includes Pairs, Dance and Synchro Teams.

We are still waiting on Alberta Health to make the determination on whether vaccinated age 18+ skaters can be on the ice at the same time as skaters aged 17 & under that may or may not be vaccinated. We hope to have a clear answer on this soon.

Is Isolation & Quarantine Still a requirement?

Yes, [Isolation](#) is still a current requirement in Alberta if an individual has tested positive for COVID-19 or is sick with fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell, sore throat* or runny nose* and have not been tested.

- *Children under 18 are exempt from mandatory isolation for runny nose or sore throat but should stay home until well.*

As of July 29, close contacts of positive cases are no longer required to quarantine. For more information, see [close contact or household contact of a confirmed case](#).

Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Section– it is strongly recommended that clubs/skating schools continue to implement 2 metres of physical distancing between participants and enhanced cleaning measures to reduce the risk of transmission with the relaxation of certain quarantine requirements.

Are there restrictions for people coming back from International Travel?

Yes. The Government of Canada has the following measures still in place for those returning to Canada from international travel (which includes travel from the United States). These federal measures apply to Alberta as well. Click on the blue text below for hyperlinks to Federal Government information or printable pdf handouts for each area.

FULLY VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

- Must wear a well-constructed, well-fitting mask to minimize the risk of introducing or spreading COVID-19, if they are in a public setting for 14 days
Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Section: In this situation, skaters must wear masks at all times including during on-ice training. Consider low-intensity training during the 14 days as Public Health does not recommend mask wearing during high-intensity activity.
- Maintain a list of the names and contact information of each person with whom you came into close contact and the locations visited during that period
- Keep a copy of your COVID-19 pre-arrival and on-arrival test results and proof of vaccine

UNVACCINATED OR PARTIALLY VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

- Must quarantine for at least 14 days
- Quarantine will end after day 14 if they do not have symptoms and do not receive a positive test result from required tests.

OVER 12 YEARS OF AGE WITHOUT SYMPTOMS WHO ARE MEDICALLY EXEMPT FROM RECEIVING A COVID-19 VACCINATION

- Only enter public settings with a well-constructed, well-fitting mask to minimize the risk of introducing or spreading COVID-19 for 14 days.

UNVACCINATED CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS ARRIVING WITHOUT COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AND TRAVELLING WITH FULLY VACCINATED PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- Not allowed to attend school, camp or day care for 14 days
Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Section: skaters that fall under this category should not be participating in club/skating school programming during the time they are not permitted to attend school, camp, or day care

Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 upon return to Canada is required isolate themselves from others immediately for a period of 14 days that begins from the time they took the test with positive results (i.e., date/time of specimen collection).



Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Section Mandatory Enhanced Measures

In addition to the Provincial and Federal requirements outlined above, the Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Section continues to require the following enhanced measures outlined in the Phase 3 protocols be followed at a minimum:

- **Compliance with Regulations** - This includes Federal, Provincial, Territorial, Municipal or facility-imposed regulations or protocols as they may exist from time to time
- **Contact Tracing** for all individuals at ice level which includes all skaters, coaches, officials, and volunteers (spectator contact tracing is not a current requirement)
- **Signed Waivers and Risk of Assumption** by all participants – This form must be kept current (annually) or completed prior to the start of participation in club or skating school activities
- **Health Screening** - Confirm that all attendees, including participants, parents, coaches, volunteers have screened themselves using the Alberta Health Daily Checklist for symptoms of COVID-19 before attending the facility or activity
- **Rapid Response Plan** - Club / Skating School continues to have a plan in place which includes a process to safely manage those who become symptomatic for COVID-19 while on-site, as well as procedures for reporting
- **First Aid/Emergencies** – COVID-19 protocols and procedures for First Aid/Emergencies are followed and appropriate PPE is available.

COVID-19 transmission continues to increase, and the health care system is at its capacity. Those in hospital and ICU are largely unvaccinated Albertans and so we continue to encourage all those that are eligible to get vaccinated.

We are also **strongly encouraging clubs / skating schools to refer to and implement the best practices and guidelines provided in the July 1st [Phase 3 Section protocols](#)** that are not mandated to reduce the risk of transmission, and reduce the risk of interruptions or cancellations in programming that could occur as a result of an outbreak.

Once again, we thank you for your understanding and patience while we work on getting clarity on the new targeted measures. If you have any questions, please email returntoskating@skateabnwtun.ca.

Sincerely,

Lisa Hardy
Executive Director