



Purpose

These requirements are being implemented to comply with mandatory public health orders, and to take steps to protect the health and safety of our participants, members (associations and leagues), and the general public.

We are implementing these requirements with the goal that it be short-term and temporary, being in place only as long as is necessary pursuant to recommendations and requirements from the government and health officials.

Sanctioning

Ringette Alberta will only sanction activities (games, practices, other training) within facilities that are participating in the [Restrictions Exemption Program \(REP\)](#) or, in cases where the facility is not participating in the REP, where the Local Ringette Association is participating and has implemented measures that meet at least the minimum requirements as outlined in the REP.

As written, the Restrictions Exemption Program does not apply to youth (under 18) while participating in their activity however, it *may* apply to youth in some circumstances (see [“More Restrictive Measures”](#)) and does apply to all others including coaches, officials, and spectators when the REP is in effect.

“More Restrictive Measures”

As per the REP, *“operators (facilities / ringette associations) are able to implement more restrictive measures (than those included in the Restrictions Exemption Program), but not less”*.

More restrictive measures could include, but may not be limited to:

- Proof of vaccine for participants 12-17 years of age
- Not accepting negative testing
- Requiring more recent sample for negative tests (than 72 hours prior to the activity)

Proof of Vaccine, Medical Exemption, Negative Test: Who is affected?

Group	Documentation Required ¹
Players under 12 years of age	Not required
Players 12-17 years of age <u>while participating in their activity</u>	May be required by the facility ²
All others 12 years of age or older	Required

¹ Individuals 18 and over are required to provide valid ID.

² The Chief Medical Officer of Health’s order is intended to exempt youth 12 to 17 years of age from the REP only while they are participating in their activity, however, facilities do have the right to go beyond the order and apply the REP to youth 12-17 years of age.

Documentation: Individual Requirement

When asked by the facility or your local ringette association for the purposes of complying with the REP, the requested documentation must be provided.

Acceptable Forms of Documentation

Acceptable forms of documentation for proof of vaccine, medical exemption, or negative PCR or rapid test are defined in the Province of Alberta's [Restriction Exemption Program Requirements](#).

Personal Information

Collecting and maintaining a list of individuals that can enter and re-enter a facility, so that repeat participants do not need to show proof of vaccination each time, is permitted (see [Related Legislation](#)).

To do this, comply with the Restrictions Exemption Program, and protect personal information, local ringette associations (including Officials Assignors) and / or Ringette Alberta are permitted to collect limited information as follows:

1. Only the information specified in the tables below may be collected

Proof of Vaccine

Participant Name	Proof of Vaccination Seen	Verified by:	Verification Date:
John Doe	Yes	[Name of individual who verified proof of vaccination]	[Date proof of vaccination seen]

Proof of Medical Exemption

Participant Name	Proof of Valid Medical Exemption Seen	Duration of Exemption	Verified by:	Date of Verification
John Doe	Yes	e.g., Expiration Date, indefinite, undetermined	[name of individual who has verified negative test]	[date proof of negative test seen]

Proof of Negative Test

Participant Name	Proof of Negative Test Seen	Type of Test	Date of Test	Time of Test	Verified by:	Date of Verification
John Doe	Yes	Rapid Test or PCR Test	[date of test]	[time of test]	[name of individual who has verified negative test]	[date proof of negative test seen]

2. Prior to collecting the information, individuals should be informed of the potential uses and disclosures of the information.
3. Only a limited number of individuals, authorized by the local association and / or Ringette Alberta, and only to verify an individual's status, may view the documentation of an individual's status and have access to this record.

4. **Originals or copies of the actual vaccine records, medical exemption letters or negative tests must NOT be retained.**
5. **Personal information collected should be retained only as long as needed to verify and record the individual's status.**
6. **Any personal information collected should be kept confidential and safeguarded in a secure manner. The personal information collected must be used solely for the purposes of implementing, enforcing, and complying with this requirement, and should only be disclosed on a need to know basis for purposes of this requirement.**

Requests for Accommodation

Some individuals may have legitimate grounds protected by the *Alberta Human Rights Act* for an exemption to this requirement and the REP. Individual requests for an exemption made pursuant to applicable legislation need to be considered on a case-by-case basis. Exemptions should only be granted where an original exemption letter from an approved healthcare professional is provided. Any accommodations should follow the details in the REP.

Officials Assignments

Officials Assignors must only assign officials who have provided, in advance of the assignment, the necessary documentation to show proof of vaccine, medical exemption or negative PCR or rapid test within 72 hours of the assignment.

It is recommended that Officials Assignors compile a list of officials who have provided the necessary documentation. The only information that needs to be on this list are the names of the approved officials.

Spectators

When in effect, the REP does apply to spectators, however, the Local Ringette Association is not responsible for documentation verification for spectators as these individuals are not registered participants.

Regardless, spectators must comply with the REP (when in effect) or other health restrictions (masking, physical distancing, etc.) when the REP is not in effect. We recommend that local ringette associations communicate to parents and other spectators so that they are aware of the applicable requirements in effect at each facility.

Host and Visiting Team Responsibilities

Where the facility is not participating in the REP, the Host is responsible to ensure all participants (host team and visiting team) provide the required documentation.

The visiting team is responsible for having the necessary records and providing them to the host.

It is recommended the visiting team connect with the host prior to game day to coordinate who and how the necessary information is to be provided.

Related Legislation

The following is intended to provide brief responses to common questions and objections based on related legislation.

Privacy Law

We have implemented these Vaccination Requirements pursuant to applicable privacy law in Alberta. We are limiting the collection of personal information (including vaccination status and certain accompanying data) to what is reasonably necessary to fulfill the specific purpose of the requirement. In particular, we are not retaining copies of proof of vaccine, and we are limiting the collection of personal information to those details required to confirm proof of meeting the requirements' objectives.

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP Act) does not apply to private organizations, such as Ringette Alberta or its Members. It only applies to governmental actors.

The Alberta Human Rights Act

The *Alberta Human Rights Act* protects individuals from differential and negative treatment on the basis of protected grounds. More from the Alberta Human Rights Commission on vaccines is [here](#).

Human rights commissioners in Canada have stated that vaccination policies and proof of vaccination requirements are generally permissible as long as accommodation protections are in place for those individuals with human rights protected reasons.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons in Alberta [Guidance for physicians: Requests for COVID-19 vaccination exemptions](#) states that an exemption to the vaccine is expected to be exceedingly rare. Further, the guide confirms that a patient's individual moral objection to vaccination is not considered sufficient clinical rationale for exemption of vaccination against COVID-19. Human rights commissioners in Canada have also confirmed that objecting to vaccination on principle or on moral grounds is not a protected ground. As such, an objection to the vaccine based on moral grounds will not exempt an individual from the requirements.

Individuals making an assertion of a human rights based ground for exemption must provide support of the exemption request in the form of original documentation from an accepted health care professional supporting the exemption request. Accommodation efforts will be made for individuals with a demonstrated human-rights based reason in accordance with these Vaccination Requirements.

The Charter of Rights and Freedoms

The Charter of Rights and Freedoms does not apply to private organizations, such as Ringette Alberta or its Members. It only applies to governmental actors.

Occupational Health and Safety

We have a legal duty to take every reasonable step in the circumstances to protect the health and safety of employees and members of the public. We have been following the information and recommendations from the provincial government, public health officers and healthcare professionals in concluding that implementing vaccination requirements is a reasonably necessary step in the circumstances to safeguard the health and safety of individuals who are involved with Ringette Alberta sanctioned activities.