

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RESTRICTIONS EXEMPTION PROGRAM

Overview

The Restrictions Exemption Program (REP) permits businesses/entities/organizers¹, referred to as operators in this document, to operate without the majority of public health restrictions in CMOH Order 44-2021. The REP is an optional program, and operators who choose not to participate may continue to operate but must fully implement all of the public health restrictions outlined in CMOH Order 44-2021. This document has been developed to support operators in the implementation of their proof of vaccination program to qualify for the necessary exemption.

The REP is not intended or required for employees or contractors attending workplaces. Operators are strongly encouraged to promote COVID-19 vaccination to staff, volunteers, attendees and other eligible persons as part of their public health strategy, and any consideration of vaccine requirements for staff is an employer decision.

There is a chart of the in-scope and out-of-scope operators in the appendix of this document. In-scope operators that implement the REP must continue to follow indoor face mask requirements, but are otherwise exempt from public health restrictions in CMOH Order 44-2021. Out-of-scope operators for the REP, as listed in the appendix, are not exempt from public health restrictions even if they decide individually to introduce additional requirements.

Good public health practices are always encouraged, and can minimize transmission of respiratory infections, including COVID-19, influenza and common colds. These practices include: immunization, proper hand washing or use of hand sanitizer, respiratory etiquette, and enhanced cleaning and disinfecting. In addition, staying home when sick with COVID-19 symptoms is legally required even if a test is not done.

PROGRAM DETAILS

General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operators participating in the REP must implement their program in alignment with this guidance document, unless otherwise noted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operators are able to implement more restrictive measures, but not less. ○ Youth participating in youth activities, where all participants are under the age of 18 years of age, are not required to be under the REP (see youth section for more details). • Face masks are required in all indoor public spaces, regardless of whether the operator is participating in the REP. • Individuals who have COVID-19 symptoms must isolate, in accordance with CMOH Order 39-2021.
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¹ Examples of entities/organizers may include not for profit organizations, municipalities, or community groups, as long as there is a responsible party overseeing the Restrictions Exemption Program.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operators should review the general mitigation for COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses guidance document and are encouraged to implement public health measures that are applicable to their settings.• At minimum, operators participating in the REP should clearly communicate to the public/clients/staff:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ that they are participating in the program, and○ what is required to enter/receive services.○ Operators may use the poster available on alberta.ca/COVID19.• Operators participating in the REP that provide rental spaces to others must ensure their renters are aware of and adhere to the REP requirements• Operators not participating in REP that rent facilities to other groups (for private events) are responsible for ensuring the renting group is aware of the need to adhere to public health orders unless the rental group implements the REP.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ If the rental group implements the REP, they must strictly adhere to the requirements of this document.○ Operators remain responsible for the adherence to public health restrictions in their facilities.• Operators participating in the REP must maintain a written plan that outlines the processes and requirements of the program. Staff need to be trained on the plan including processes and steps to protect personal information.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ This should include training for staff, information for clientele, a written plan for auditing purposes and policies for what to do if individuals are non-compliant.
Screening Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operators must screen all attendees for one of the following at the point of entry:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Proof of vaccination; or○ Proof of a negative privately-paid test result from a sample that is taken within the prior 72 hours (Results from Alberta Health Services are not eligible for consideration for this program), or○ An original (non-copied) medical exemption letter.• Individuals 18 years or older must produce valid personal identification as defined in the personal ID section below.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Individuals who are under the age of 18 do not need to show personal identification.• Individuals must maintain physical distancing until they have been screened into the facility.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At minimum, the process must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The name and the date of birth of the individual listed on the proof of immunization or testing must be matched with the name and date of birth on the identification (for 18+). ○ Verification that the proof of vaccination is appropriate (see below) OR the test result indicates the individual has tested negative for COVID-19 within the last 72 hours (see below), or the medical exemption letter is an original and in the prescribed form. • Operators may implement an electronic offsite validation program (e.g., application-base or mobile-application) to validate that the vaccination requirements have been met.
<p>What is valid proof of vaccination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The patron/attendee seeking entry to the business/entity/event is solely responsible for demonstrating that they are the legitimate holder of the vaccination record, and that the information being provided is complete and accurate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If they cannot demonstrate that to the business/entity/event, the individual must not be allowed to enter. • Business must make a reasonable attempt to assess the validity of the proof of vaccination of each patron or attendee. If a businesses is unsatisfied that the documentation is genuine, the business should deny entry. • Proof of vaccination includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A picture or paper record of a valid Alberta Health Services, MyHealth Records, pharmacy, First Nations, or physician immunization record prominently displaying the name, type of vaccine and date of administration, or ○ Canadian armed forces immunization record, displaying the name, type of vaccine and date of administration, or ○ An immunization record from another Canadian Province or Territory, displaying the name, type of vaccine and date of administration, or ○ Valid Government of Alberta Vaccination QR code (when available). • Operators must verify that the date of administration of the last required dose in the series is at least fourteen days prior to the date the patron is seeking access to the business/entity/event. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Up to October 25: At least one dose is required at least 14 days prior. ○ October 25 and later: Two doses of a two-dose series are required, with the second at least 14 days prior. (Note that the

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	<p>Janssen vaccine is the only Health Canada approved vaccine that requires only a single dose for a complete series – if an individual has received one dose of a Janssen vaccine at least two weeks prior, this would be considered sufficient)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For international travellers, the ArriveCan app code and a valid international travel identification document is acceptable.
<p>What is valid proof of a negative test result</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing <u>must not</u> be sourced from the Alberta Health Services public COVID-19 testing system. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This system is currently reserved for symptomatic individuals and those in outbreak situations. If an individual has COVID-19 symptoms, they must isolate. ○ A self-test completed offsite is not sufficient evidence to support entry into a facility operating under the REP program. • The test result should be a written or printed copy that indicates the individual has tested negative for COVID-19 on a Health Canada approved rapid antigen, rapid PCR, or lab based PCR test approved by Health Canada or the lab accreditation body of jurisdiction. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Self-produced documentation of a negative result is not sufficient evidence to support entry into a facility operating under the REP program. • Operators are permitted to offer on-site rapid testing. • It is recommended that operators seek expert advice including medical oversight prior to implementing a rapid test program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, that individual must isolate, per CMOH Order 06-2021 and CMOH Order 39-2021. ○ Most rapid tests do not have paper-based results. ○ Businesses that implement a rapid testing program (for the purposes of immediate entry) should not provide written confirmation of a negative test result unless being implemented by a regulated and competent health professional. However, a business may allow entry to that individual for up to 72 hours after the negative result was obtained. • Documentation of a test completed offsite must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A clear indication of the laboratory or the health care professional that completed the test (e.g., DynaLIFE), the type of test, time of sample collection, and clear indication of a negative result. ○ If the result of a rapid test is being verified by a health care professional, a written record must also include the name, phone number, contact information, professional registration number, and signature of the physician or nurse practitioner.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A picture or any other written documentation of a rapid test result taken off site is not sufficient evidence for entry. ○ Businesses may implement programs that include rapid testing completed offsite provided the integrity of the results and reporting is congruent with an onsite program and the business maintains quality control and assurance oversight. ○ Individuals must not bring completed rapid tests or self-tests to operators, as they can pose a communicable disease risk during transportation. ○ Only a regulated health care professional (acting within their scope of practice, in accordance with the College’s Standards of Practice) or an accredited laboratory may provide written diagnostic confirmation of near care or rapid care test results to an individual for the purposes of the REP.
<p>What is a valid medical exemption</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A valid medical exemption is the original signed letter from a physician or nurse practitioner that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The name of the person in the written documentation that matches the identification provided. ○ The physician’s or nurse practitioner’s information is complete by including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Name, phone number, contact information, professional registration number, and signature of the physician or nurse practitioner; ○ Statement that there is a medical reason for the individual’s exemption from being fully vaccinated against COVID-19; and ○ The duration that the exemption is valid.
<p>What is a valid Personal ID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Individuals who 18 years of age or older must also present personal ID. ● Proof of identity can be established using documentation issued by an institution or public body, provided it includes the name of the holder and date of birth. ● Examples of identification documents that may be used to confirm the identity of the holder of the vaccine receipt include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Birth certificate, ○ Citizenship card, ○ Driver’s licence, ○ Provincial or Territorial Government issued identification card, including health card (Alberta or other), ○ Metis card, Treaty card, Inuit Status card, or ○ Passport, or

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Permanent Resident card. ● Photo identification is not required.
Collecting and Storing Personal Health information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Operators should obtain legal advice about the impact of this program in their business/industry context. ● Operators should obtain legal advice to inform their program if collecting and maintaining a list of individuals that can enter and re-enter a facility (e.g., so that repeat clients do not need to show proof of vaccination each time). ● Personal health information should not be stored onsite.
Participation and application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Operators may implement a program that is more restrictive than outlined above. ● Once the program is implemented, it must be operated consistently for daily operations and throughout the facility. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is not permitted to have the program operate some days and not others, for certain times during a business day and not others, or in some areas and not others. ○ Specifically, restaurants that have implemented the program must apply the program to the entire area of food service, both inside and outside. ● Operators must operate the program continuously during the time of restrictions and may not implement and de-escalate over time. ● Operators that wish to exit the program should notify their clientele through posters, online information, or any other appropriate mechanism.
Workers, contractors, staff etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Employees, contractors, repair workers, delivery workers, volunteers, inspectors or others who are entering the business/entity/event for work purposes and not as patrons are not required to be screened.
Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Operators will be audited for compliance. Alberta Health Services, Alberta Gaming, Liquor, Cannabis and police units in Alberta are able to enforce the requirements of this program. ● Additionally, public complaints will support increased compliance and enforcement efforts. ● If operators are not complying with these requirements or the current public health restrictions, then enforcement and prosecution may result in fines up to \$100,000 (for a first offence).
Delivery, Pick-Up, Take Out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Individuals who are entering a facility participating in REP for only delivery, pick-up and take out are not required to show their proof of vaccination if the items are collected at the point of screening.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All individuals entering for this purpose must continue to mask the entire time they are in the facility and maintain 2 metres physical distancing from all other persons.
Mutual Support Groups, Elections and Jury Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individuals participating in mutual support groups, elections, and jury selection in a facility that is participating in REP are not required to be screened as part of the REP.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ If not screened per REP requirements, individuals participating in these activities are subject to physical distancing at all times.• If individuals participating in mutual support groups, elections, and jury selection wish to access amenities in a facility participating in REP, they will be required to be screened per the REP, as applicable (12+ years of age).
Youth Activities and Youth Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For the purposes of this program, a youth is someone who is under the age of 18 years of age.• Youth participating in youth activities in a facility that is participating in REP are not required to be screened as part of the REP.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Parents who are required to support youth in their activities (e.g. parent and tot groups) would be required to follow REP requirements in order to attend.○ Youth are subject to physical distancing at all other times when not engaged in the physical activity (e.g. locker rooms, common areas etc.)• If youth wish to access other amenities beyond youth-specific sports, recreation or performance activities in a facility participating in REP, for these purposes they will be required to be screened per the REP, as applicable (12+ years of age).• Coaches, instructors, trainers, referees etc. for youth activities, who are 18 years or older, are subject to the public health measures or REP requirements in the facility.• School groups accessing facilities otherwise under REP (for the purposes of K-12 curriculum) are not required to be screened as part of REP.

Note: Publicly funded post secondary institutions identified in the PSLA, First Nations College entities, private colleges, private faith based institutions will be addressed in a separate, specific exemption.

This document and the guidance within it is subject to change and will be updated as needed.

Last Revised: September 2021.

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In-Scope Operators	Out-of-Scope Operators
Restaurants and Food Courts with closed access to the public	Events in Private Dwellings
Nightclubs	Retail & Shopping Malls
Casinos, Bingo Halls, VLT Lounges	First responders attending for the purposes of responding to an emergency situation
Entertainment/Rec Centres, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bowling, racing entertainment, arcades, billiards halls, other similar entertainment. Museums, art galleries 	Workers/employees in/on a worksite for the purposes of their employment
Movie theatres	Places of Worship – for faith services
Recreation facilities for physical activity, performance activity and recreational facility, <i>excluding</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> youth physical activity, performance activity and recreational facility mutual support meetings jury selection elections purposes and related activities 	Schools, K-12
Conferences / Meeting Spaces / Halls/ Rented spaces (excluding private dwelling units), <i>excluding</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> mutual support meetings places of worship – for faith services jury selection elections purposes and related activities 	School curriculum based activity
Weddings and Funerals held in public facilities where the facility maintains responsibility for adherence to these requirements	Child care settings (e.g., daycares)
Private social events held in public facilities where the facility maintains responsibility for adherence to these requirements	Accommodations (e.g., hotel)
Spectator settings for professional sport or performance activity	Health Services
Recreation classes/activities (outside physical activity)	Personal Services

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Adult recreational sport groups (players/participants)	Wellness Services
Amenities in hotels and condos, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• fitness rooms, pools• game rooms, movie rooms• other similar amenities	Youth activities, where all participants under the age of 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note that coaches, instructors, trainers, referees subject to the requirements of the facility if under REP.
Fitness facilities	Libraries
	Public Transit
	Mutual Support Groups
	Jury selection
	Election purposes and related activities

Superseded