

COVID-19 INFORMATION

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RESTRICTIONS EXEMPTION PROGRAM

Overview

The Restrictions Exemption Program (REP) permits in-scope businesses/entities/organizers¹ to implement a screening program for their patrons, in alignment with this document, [CMOH Order 45-2021](#) and [CMOH Order 46-2021](#), to operate without the majority of public health restrictions in [CMOH Order 44-2021](#), as amended by [Order 47-2021](#). This document has been developed to support the implementation of the necessary requirements to qualify for the exemption.

In-scope businesses/entities/organizers who implement REP must continue to apply indoor masking and other requirements outlined in [CMOH Order 45-2021](#) and [CMOH Order 46-2021](#). Out-of-scope businesses/entities/organizers for REP, as listed in the appendix, are not exempt from public health restrictions even if they decide individually to introduce additional requirements for entry. There is a chart of the in-scope and out-of-scope businesses/entities/organizers in the appendix of this document.

REP is an optional program, and businesses/entities/organizers who choose not to participate are required to implement all of the public health restrictions outlined in CMOH Order 44-2021, as amended by Order 47-2021.

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 vaccine requirements for staff is an employer decision.

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.

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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Terms Used in this Document

- 1) Operators
 - Those who are responsible for the operations of a business/entity.
- 2) Facilities
 - A building or room provided for a particular purpose, including multi-use buildings and rental spaces
- 3) Renters
 - Those who rent space in a building
- 4) Attendees
 - Patrons or individuals attending the business/entity; does not include employees or contractors in the space
- 5) Vaccine-eligible
 - Individuals who are of an age to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in Alberta (born in 2009 or before)
- 6) Performance activities
 - Singing, playing a musical instrument, dancing, acting or other activities of a similar nature and includes, but is not limited to, a rehearsal, concert, theatre, dance, choral, festival, musical and symphony events
- 7) Physical activities
 - A fitness activity or sport activity
- 8) Recreation activities
 - Any structured or organised activity or program where the purpose of the activity or program is intended to develop a skill, including but not limited to Girl Guides, Scouts, choir, arts and crafts, pottery or other substantially similar activities.
- 9) Curriculum activities
 - Activities that are part of the K-12 school curriculum

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PROGRAM DETAILS

General	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operators participating in 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 restrictive measures.• Face masks are required in all indoor public spaces, in accordance with the relevant CMOH Orders (either 44-2021 or 45-2021, depending on whether the facility is participating in REP).• Individuals who have COVID-19 core symptoms or who are a confirmed case of COVID-19 must isolate, in accordance with CMOH Order 39-2021.• 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 REP should clearly communicate to the public/clients/staff that they are participating in the program and the requirements to enter/receive services.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Posters are available on alberta.ca/COVID19.
Screening Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individuals must maintain 2 metres physical distancing until they have been screened into a facility/activity participating in REP.• At minimum, the screening process must be implemented for all vaccine-eligible persons, screening for:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The name and the date of birth of the individual listed on the proof of immunization or testing, verified against the name and date of birth on the identification (for 18+).○ Verification of one of the following:<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, or▪ An original (non-copied) medical exception letter.• Individuals 18 years or older must also 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.• An individual entering an out-of-scope facility, or a REP facility for the sole purpose of participating in an out-of-scope activity, is not required to be screened.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In these situations, individuals must follow applicable public health measures. ○ A facility can choose to implement screening for all eligible individuals, even those entering for out-of-scope activities, however the applicable public health measures must be followed even if screening is done. ● 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"> ● Until November 14, 2021, forms of valid proof of vaccination are: <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. ● The attendee seeking entry to the location is solely responsible for demonstrating that they are the legitimate holder of the vaccination record, and that the information provided is complete and accurate. ● The operators must make a reasonable attempt to assess the validity of the proof of vaccination of each attendee. ● Entry must be denied if the vaccination record and ID cannot be verified. ● Operators must verify that the date of administration of the last required dose in the series is at least 14 days prior to the date the attendee is seeking access. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two doses of a two-dose series are required, with the second at least 14 days prior. (Note that the 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). ○ Mixed vaccine series are considered valid. (e.g. AstraZeneca followed by Pfizer or Moderna) ● For international travellers, the ArriveCan app code and a valid international travel identification document is acceptable.

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What is valid proof of a negative test result

- A written or printed copy of a negative Health Canada approved, or lab accredited, rapid antigen, rapid PCR, or lab based PCR test is required for entry.
- A self-test completed offsite and/or self-produced documentation of a negative result is not sufficient evidence to support entry into a facility operating under REP.
- Testing must not be sourced from the Alberta Health Services public COVID-19 testing system.
 - This system is currently reserved for symptomatic individuals and those in outbreak situations. If an individual has COVID-19 symptoms, they must isolate.
- Operators are permitted to offer on-site rapid testing.
 - It is recommended that operators seek expert advice including medical oversight prior to implementing their own rapid test program.
 - 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 negative Health Canada approved, or lab accredited, rapid antigen, rapid PCR, or lab based PCR test completed offsite must include:
 - 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 has been verified by a health care professional, the written record should 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 written documentation of an off-site rapid test other than what is noted above is not sufficient evidence for entry. ○ Operators may implement programs that include rapid testing completed offsite for purposes of entry to their location, which should ensure the integrity of the results and reporting is congruent with an onsite program and the operators maintain 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 point of care or rapid care test results to an individual for the purposes of REP.
<p>What is a valid medical exception</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A valid medical exception 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 or nurse practitioner’s complete information, 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 exception from being fully vaccinated against COVID-19; and ○ The period of time during which the exception is valid.
<p>What is a valid Personal ID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals who are 18 years of age or older must present personal ID as part of the screening process. • 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,

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Provincial or Territorial Government issued identification card, including health card (Alberta or other),○ Métis card, Treaty card, Inuit Status card, or○ Passport, or○ 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 on their business/industry.● Operators should obtain legal advice about 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, unless an out-of-scope activity is offered, REP 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, certain times during a business day and not others, or in some areas and not others.○ Operators must operate the program continuously during the time of the restrictions and may not implement or de-escalate gradually over time.● Operators that wish to exit the program should notify their attendees 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 and Cannabis and police units in Alberta are able to enforce this program.● Additionally, public complaints will support increased compliance auditing.● 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).

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YOUTH ACTIVITIES

General	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Youth activities are out of scope for REP.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ For the purposes of this program, a youth is someone who is under the age of 18 and youth activities are when all participants are under the age of 18 (excluding coaches/trainers/instructors).• It is not required to screen youth participating in youth activities for proof of vaccine/negative COVID-19 test results/medical exception letter to participate in these activities.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ However, an operator may choose to screen these individuals in alignment with a local policy if they wish.• If one or more of the participants (other than a coach, trainer, instructor, referee or other official) is 18 years or older, the activity is no longer a youth activity, and all participants must meet the requirements of REP to continue.• Per CMOH Order 44-2021, a youth must be checked for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to the youth participating in indoor youth activities in accordance with the COVID-19 Alberta health Daily Checklist (for children under the age of 18).
Youth Participation in Youth Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For youth performance and physical activities:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ face masks are not required during physical activity, but must be worn before and after.○ face masks must be worn whenever possible during performance activities, as well as before and after.○ physical distancing is required at all other times when not engaged in physical activity or performance activity (e.g. locker rooms, common areas etc.)• For youth recreation activities:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ face masks must be worn at all times before, during and after the activity, in accordance with CMOH Order 44-2021.○ physical distancing is required at all times before, during and after the activity (e.g. locker rooms, common areas etc.).• If a youth is participating in an adult REP activity, they are subject to REP requirements.
Coaches, Trainers, Instructors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coaches, instructors, trainers, referees and similar are required to wear face masks, in accordance with the relevant CMOH Orders (either 44-2021 or 45-2021, depending on whether the facility is participating in REP).

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coaches, instructors, trainers, referees etc. who are 18 years or older, are subject to the public health measures or REP requirements in the facility.• Coaches, instructor or trainer may temporarily breach 2 metres physical distance for instructional purposes.
Youth in a REP Facility, not in Youth Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If youth wish to access other amenities beyond their specific youth activity in a facility participating in REP they will be required to be screened per the REP, if they are vaccine-eligible.• A youth is permitted to watch other youth activities in the facility, however, they must be subject to REP requirements to do so.• For more clarity, if they are not actively participating in the youth activity, they must follow REP requirements.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Youth who have been screened into REP are not required to physically distance.
Adults Supporting or Spectating Youth Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adults who are required to support youth in their activities are required to follow REP requirements in order to participate.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ This includes parent and tot classes and similar activities where an adult is required for the youth to participate in the activity.• Adults required to support youth in their activities must maintain physical distancing from individuals outside their household during the activity.• Adults who are spectators of youth activities are required to follow REP requirements in order to attend/spectate the activity and to access any amenities in the facility.
Activities for School, K-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students in K-12 are not required to be fully vaccinated to participate in curriculum activities.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ School groups accessing facilities under REP (for the purposes of K-12 curriculum) are not required to be screened as part of REP.○ However, facilities may have their own requirements for entry.

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MULTI-USE FACILITIES AND RECREATION CENTRES

<p>General</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If REP is implemented in a facility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The operators of all areas/entities within that facility must implement REP, unless the activity/entity is out-of-scope (e.g., retail or youth activities). All renters must also implement REP, unless the activity is out of scope. ○ If there is a single point of entry into a multi-use facility that contains in-scope services or locations (e.g. group fitness, entertainment) and out-of-scope entities (e.g. retail), and it is not possible to screen people only at the entry point of in-scope areas, all those entering the multi-use facility at that single point of entry must be screened in accordance with REP in order for the in-scope locations to participate in REP. • If REP is not implemented in a facility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public health measures must be followed at all times (outlined in CMOH Order 44-2021). ○ The facility operators may allow any eligible businesses or entities renting space within the facility to participate in REP; however, the space where REP is in place must be fully self-contained from the point of screening onwards. This means separate amenities and no mingling with non-REP individuals.
<p>Renting Out Space</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If REP is implemented in a facility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Unless hosting an out-of-scope activity, all renters must participate in REP; ○ Renters are required to have a responsible person to ensure the requirements of REP are followed; ○ The facility's operator is required to ensure the renters are adhering to the requirements of this document; and ○ The facility's operator is responsible for screening. • If REP is not implemented in a facility, their operator is still responsible for ensuring the renters are aware of the need to adhere to public health orders or the requirements of the REP, should the renter choose to implement the REP. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If the renters implement the REP, they must strictly adhere to CMOH Order 45-2021, as amended by Order 46-2021 and the requirements of this document. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This includes the screening of the attendees. ○ The facility's operator is responsible for:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensuring the renters are adhering to the REP requirements of this document; or ▪ Ensuring public health restrictions (outlined in CMOH Order 44-2021 as modified by Order 47-2021) in the rest of their facility, where the REP is not implemented.
Out-of-Scope Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ youth activities, mutual support groups, elections and jury selection, retail, childcare, libraries, personal and wellness services, health services and K-12 curriculum activities. • Out-of-Scope activities/entities are required to follow public health restrictions, such as capacity limits and physical distancing (outlined in CMOH Order 44-2021). • To the greatest extent possible, these activities should have a separate entrance/exit from the rest of the facility. • Individuals accessing these activities/entities are not required follow the requirements of the REP. • If individuals who gained access to participate in an out-of-scope activity wish to access other, in-scope amenities in a facility participating in REP, they are required to be screened per REP, as applicable (12+ years of age).
Spectating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If in a facility where REP has been implemented, spectators are required to follow REP requirements, even if watching a youth activity.
Multi-Use Facilities with In & Outdoor Components (e.g., Ski Hills)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If an entire in/outdoor facility is implementing REP, the entire in/outdoor facility must follow the requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ operators must restrict access to the public and follow the REP requirements for all settings (excluding out-of-scope activities/settings); and ○ out-of-scope activities/entities are restricted to public health requirements (e.g., retail, rental facilities).

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RENTAL SPACES

General

- Operators participating in REP that provide rental spaces to others must ensure their renters are aware of and adhere to the REP requirements.
- If the operator is participating in REP:
 - All renters must participate in REP and are responsible for screening their attendees;
 - Renters are required to have a responsible person to ensure the requirements of REP are followed; and
 - The facility operators are required to ensure the renters are adhering to the requirements of this document.
- Operators not participating in REP that rent out space to other groups (for private events) are responsible for ensuring the renter is aware of the need to adhere to public health orders unless the renter implements the REP.
 - If the renters implement REP, they must strictly adhere to the requirements of this document.
 - The operator is responsible for:
 - Ensuring the renter is adhering to REP requirements of this document; and
 - Ensuring public health restrictions (outlined in [CMOH Order 44-2021](#) as modified by [Order 47-2021](#)) in the rest of their facility, where REP is not implemented.
- Facilities that are out-of-scope of REP, such as libraries, are permitted to rent space for REP-eligible events after hours, as long as they are not limiting access to their services.

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FOOD/BEVERAGE SERVING ENTITIES

<p>General</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food/Beverage Serving Entities are permitted to participate in REP, but must apply the REP requirements to the whole dining area or facility. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Specifically, restaurants that have implemented REP program must apply the program to the entire area of food service, both inside and outside (i.e. cannot have indoor dining for vaccinated individuals and outdoor dining for non-vaccinated individuals) • Screening must be done at the point of entry for restaurants, pubs, bars, cafes and similar. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ See Quick Service Restaurants and Retail Services with In-Person Dining sections for the exception. • Attendees who are dining-in must only remove their face masks momentarily to eat or drink. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If they are sitting/standing at their table talking after their food/beverage, they should have their face mask on.
<p>Delivery, Pick-Up, Take Out</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those who are entering a facility for delivery, pick-up, or take out participating in REP are not required to show their proof of vaccination, if the items are collected at the point of screening. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All individuals entering for this purpose must wear their face mask the entire time they are in the facility and maintain 2 metres physical distancing from all other persons.
<p>Quick Service Restaurants and Retail Services with In-Person Dining</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If participating in REP, quick service restaurants and retail services with in-person dining are permitted to serve attendees both take out or in-person. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This includes fast food locations, tap houses, breweries and similar. • These locations are permitted to screen for proof of vaccination at the point of sale (e.g., at the counter) to permit in-person dining rather than at the point of entry. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Attendees intending to dine-in must be screened when they order. • All attendees must be physically distanced by 2 metres, wearing masks, and following all applicable public health measures outside of the dining area. • If participating in REP, dining areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Must have restricted points of entry to ensure only patrons who have provided the necessary documentation may access the indoor dining; and

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Must ensure that all attendees dining-in wear a face mask when not at their table (e.g., sitting) and eating or drinking.• Attendees who are purchasing items and leaving must follow all public health measures.• Attendees who do not show proof of vaccine must only be provided take out service.• Quick service restaurants and retail services not participating in REP are not permitted to have indoor dining and must follow all applicable public health measures.
Food Courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food Courts (seating areas) are eligible for the REP as long as the area is completely self-contained from the point of screening onwards. For greater clarity, this means all entry points must have controlled access where screening of attendees is undertaken prior to entry.

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

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APPENDIX: IN-SCOPE AND OUT-OF-SCOPE FOR REP

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 activities
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

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Recreation classes/activities (outside physical activity)	Personal Services
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 are 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

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