

Proof of Vaccination

Support Packet for Workplaces

20220203

Timiskaming Health Unit acknowledges the extra effort businesses have made during the COVID-19 pandemic. We know that verifying proof of vaccination will add another step that businesses must take. We are sincerely grateful to the employers and workplaces who continue to keep their staff, customers, clients, and the community safe.

These resources have been compiled to support workers responsible for checking patrons' proof of vaccination. This information should also be used for internal planning.

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Settings Where Patrons Must be Fully Vaccinated*

Proof of vaccination does not apply to access necessary medical care, food from grocery stores, and basic medical supplies

To enter the business or organization, with limited exemptions:

- The patron must provide proof of being fully vaccinated and proof of ID (at point of entry of the required setting)
- The business or organization must review and confirm the proof
- Other public health and workplace safety measures will still apply, including masking and screening



Indoor areas of concert venues, theatres and cinemas



Indoor areas of facilities for sports and recreational fitness activities, including personal fitness training



Indoor areas of meeting and event spaces (e.g., banquet halls and conference / convention centres)



Indoor areas of horse racing tracks, car racing tracks and other similar venues

Including outdoor areas that have a usual capacity of 20,000 or more people



Indoor areas of commercial film and TV productions with studio audiences



Indoor areas of waterparks



Indoor areas where spectators watch sporting events



Indoor areas of casinos, bingo halls, and other gaming establishments



Indoor areas of restaurants, bars, and other food or drink establishments (excl. outdoor patios, delivery and takeout)



Indoor and outdoor areas of food or drink establishments with dance facilities (e.g., nightclubs and restoclubs; excl. delivery and takeout)



Indoor areas of strip clubs, bathhouses and sex clubs

*Specific exemptions apply



Exemptions to providing an enhanced vaccine certificate QR code

A patron who is entering an indoor area solely:

- To use a washroom
- To pay for an order
- To access an outdoor area that can only be accessed through an indoor route
- To place or pick up an order (including placing a bet, picking up winnings at a horse racing track);
- To purchase admission
- To make a retail purchase
- Necessary for the purposes of health and safety

Children under 12


The following groups are still permitted to show their vaccine receipt (without QR code) and a form of ID:

- Visitors from outside of Canada. Must show a non-Canadian passport or NEXUS card as ID.
- Members of the following First Nations communities:
 - Anishinaabeg of Naongashiing
 - Big Grassy First Nation
 - Lac La Croix First Nation
 - Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
 - Mitaanjigamiing First Nation
 - Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation
 - Ojibways of Onigaming First Nation
 - Rainy River First Nation
 - Seine River First Nation

Patrons entering meeting and event spaces for specific purposes:

- Patrons who enter a meeting or event space solely to attend a wedding or funeral ceremony, and are not attending the associated social gathering
- Patrons who enter a meeting or event space that is located in a place that provides funeral, cemetery or cremation services and that is operated by a person licensed under the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002, for the purposes of attending a social gathering associated with a funeral ceremony.
*Additional exemptions for meeting and event spaces apply to day/overnight camps, child care, social services, court services, and government services.

Verify Ontario App Demo




Verify Ontario:
Ontario's official app for verifying COVID-19 vaccine certificates.

When a business or organization scans a visitor's digital or paper QR code, this app will:

- protect user privacy by only reading certificates that are trusted and secure
- check if a certificate is valid and the visitor can enter
- show a visitor's name and date of birth so their identity can be verified
- work offline (without an internet connection)

Download the Verify Ontario app at: ontario.ca/verify



Verify Ontario/VérifOntario

Verify Ontario is a **free QR code scanner** for businesses that **makes it quicker and easier** to confirm that visitors have been fully vaccinated:

- Works on Apple and Android Devices
 - iOS 11+ (iPhone 5S) and Android 6+
- Businesses and organizations can download the free Verify Ontario app from the Apple app and Google Play stores.
- Available in French and English
- Can be used without an internet connection but should be connected periodically to receive updates
- Scans government-issued QR codes presented either on paper or displayed on a phone screen
- Compatible with other provincial QR codes - starting with British Columbia and Quebec
- Never stores personal information
- Released as open-source software like other leading digital governments

Verify Ontario is the only app endorsed by the province to scan and verify vaccine certificates in Ontario for entry into prescribed settings where proof of vaccination is required.

Learn more at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/verify>



Process for Businesses and Organizations: Proof of Identity

Two key identifiers: name of the identification holder and date of birth.
A photo identification is not required.

The patron seeking entry is **solely responsible** for demonstrating that they are the legitimate holder of the vaccination receipt.

Examples of identification documents to confirm the identity*

- Birth certificate
- Citizenship card
- Driver's licence
- Government (Ontario or other) issued identification card, including health card**
- Indian Status Card /Indigenous Membership Card
- Passport
- Permanent Resident card



Validation of identification successful when the **name and date of birth** of the presenter of the **vaccination receipt** and the **name and date of birth** on the **identification document** match.



If the name and date of birth on both documents do not match, the individual **will not be allowed to enter** the business or organization.

* Expired Ontario government issued identification, including drivers' licenses, and expired Canadian government issued identification, including passports, may be provided as proof of identification. Visitors from within Canada may not provide expired provincial documents as proof of identification. All patrons visiting from abroad may not use expired identification as proof of identity.

**Individuals may voluntarily offer an Ontario health card (issued under the *Health Insurance Act*) for identification purposes, however a person or entity who is not a health information custodian must not record or copy the health card number. Individuals have a right to refuse to provide their health cards. It is an offence under PHIPA to require the production of a health card or health card number in certain circumstances.

Further information regarding the use of Ontario health cards for confirming the identity of individuals is available from the Information and Privacy Commissioner (IPC) at: <https://www.ipc.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/hipa-hfaq-cards-e.pdf>. If you have any questions or concerns about the production of health cards or the collection, use or disclosure of health numbers, please contact the IPC at: info@ipc.on.ca

Proof of vaccination script and FAQ for staff

Timiskaming Health Unit acknowledges the extra effort businesses have made during the COVID-19 pandemic. We know that verifying proof of vaccination will add another step that businesses must take. We are sincerely grateful to the employers and workplaces who continue to keep their staff, customers, clients, and the community safe.

This script has been created to assist your workers in answering questions from patrons. This information should also be used for internal planning.

Q. Is proof of vaccination required for staff?

A. No, staff are not required to show proof of vaccination. Employers are encouraged to develop their own vaccination policies for staff.

However, coaches, referees and officiants, volunteers, and spectators aged 12 and older are required to show proof of vaccination at all indoor facilities where sports are played and practiced. This requirement is part of a Letter of Instruction from the Acting Medical Officer of Health.

Q. Is proof of vaccination required in settings other than those listed on p. 3?

A. Organizations in the sectors listed below may opt-in to proof of vaccine requirements. If these organizations choose to opt-in, they are not required to limit capacity so that patrons can maintain a 2-meter distance. They must post signage at all entrances that proof of vaccination is required. For more information, click [here](#).

Organizations that may opt-in are:

- Religious services, rites, and ceremonies, including weddings and funerals
- Real estate agencies
- Businesses that provide personal care services relating to the hair or body
- Indoor recreational amenities
- Outdoor recreational amenities
- Photography studios and services
- Museums, galleries, aquariums, zoos, science centres, landmarks, historic sites, botanical gardens and similar attractions
- Amusement parks
- Fairs, rural exhibitions, festivals and similar events
- Businesses that provide tour and guide services, including guided hunting trips, tastings and tours for wineries, breweries and distilleries, fishing charters, trail riding tours, walking tours and bicycle tours
- Businesses that provide boat tours
- Marinas, boating clubs and other organizations that maintain docking facilities for members or patrons.

Organizations that are not in the sectors listed are not covered under the provincial policy. They have the option to set their own vaccination policy. Their vaccination policy (including exemptions) may differ from the province's. Colleges and universities are examples of organizations that often have their own requirements in place.

Q. Is an enhanced vaccine certificate with QR code required when showing proof of vaccination? Can my business still accept vaccine receipts that do not include a QR code?

A. Yes, an enhanced vaccine certificate with QR code is required when showing proof of vaccination. **Businesses are no longer allowed to accept vaccine receipts that do not include QR codes.** Enhanced vaccine certificates with a QR code are the most secure and convenient way to show proof of vaccination.

Businesses must accept both paper and electronic versions of enhanced vaccine certificates, so long as the proof of vaccination includes a QR code.

Q. How do I scan the QR code?

A. Businesses will be able to scan patrons' enhanced vaccine certificate using the app Verify Ontario. Verify Ontario is a free QR code scanner for businesses that makes it quicker and easier to confirm that patrons are fully vaccinated. Verify Ontario is the only app that businesses may use to scan and verify vaccine certificates in Ontario for entry into settings where proof of vaccination is required.

More information about using the Verify Ontario app is found on p. 11 of the [Government of Ontario's guidance document](#).

Q. Do patrons still need to show ID?

A. Yes, patrons will need to continue to show a piece of identification with their name and date of birth along with their proof of vaccination when visiting select businesses and organizations.

Q. How can patrons obtain their proof of vaccination?

A. Patrons can provide proof of immunization by downloading or printing their enhanced vaccine certificate from the provincial booking portal at <https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca/>. The link can also be accessed using the QR code in the provided poster (p. 13).

People who need help or who don't have access to technology should call the health unit at 866-747-4305, ext. 6 or email covidvaccine@timiskaminghu.com. Public libraries including Teck Centennial, Temiskaming Shores, Temagami, Englehart, and Larder Lake will assist those needing a printout of their vaccine receipts at no cost.

Q. Who is exempt from showing proof of vaccination?

A. Please see p. 4 for a list of exemptions. **This list is comprehensive and there are no exemptions for other reasons (for example, no religious exemptions, no exemptions due previously testing positive for COVID-19, no exemptions due to a negative COVID-19 test.)**

Q. What about people who

- **have medical exceptions**
- **are participating in a vaccine trial**
- **or are from a First Nations community?**

A. These groups are all required to show their enhanced vaccine certificates. Medical exemptions, vaccine trial exemptions and receipts from Indigenous health providers have all been integrated into the enhanced vaccine certificate. All these groups must show the required QR code.

Exception: members of the following First Nations communities are still permitted to show their vaccine receipt (without QR code) and a form of ID: Anishinaabeg of Naongashiing, Big Grassy First Nation, Lac La Croix First Nation, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Mitaanjigamiing First Nation, Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation, Ojibways of Onigaming First Nation, Rainy River First Nation, Seine River First Nation.

Q. Does proof of a previous COVID-19 infection or a recent negative test allow people to be considered fully vaccinated?

A recent COVID-19 infection or a negative COVID-19 test is not the same as being fully vaccinated. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization recommends that individuals with prior COVID-19 infection be immunized, since it protects them from reinfection given the emergency of new strains and variants of concern (VOCs). Businesses are not allowed to accept proof of a recent COVID-19 infection or a negative COVID-19 test from patrons.

Q. Can my business still accept written medical exemptions from health care providers?

A. No, businesses are no longer allowed to accept written medical exemptions from health care providers. People with medical exemptions must ask their health care provider to submit the medical exemption to the health unit. This process will generate a QR code for the person with the medical exemption.

Q. What about people who are visiting Ontario?

A. Proof of vaccination from all Canadian provinces and territories is compatible with Ontario's system and the Verify Ontario app. People from other provinces and territories will be able to show a QR code.

For people from outside of Canada, QR codes from some other countries are being integrated into the Verify Ontario app. If the QR code is not compatible with Verify Ontario or if the patron has a proof of vaccination that does not include a QR code, the patron can

- show proof of vaccination that does not include a QR code. The patron must show their non-Canadian passport or NEXUS card as their ID.
- contact the local health unit to register their vaccines in the Ontario system.

Businesses are no longer allowed to accept written medical exemptions, including for people visiting Ontario. Individuals are recommended to see an Ontario physician or registered nurse in the extended class to have their exemption reviewed and submitted through the Ontario process.

Q. Providing ID may be difficult for some people, like children (12-18 years old) and people experiencing homelessness. Are the ID requirements flexible?

Yes. Any ID with date of birth can be accepted. Photo ID is not required. You can accept photographs of ID, non-government ID, and expired ID. You must confirm that the name and birthdate match the proof of vaccination.

Q. What should I do if a patron does *not* provide proof of vaccination?

A. If a patron does not show proof of vaccination, they cannot enter a setting where proof of vaccination is required. When possible, accommodate the patron, for example through outdoor dining or curbside service. In some instances when it is not possible to accommodate patrons, it may be necessary to turn them away.

Q. If we have verified the vaccination status of regular patrons, does their vaccination status need to be checked every time?

A. It is important when confirming that an individual has been vaccinated that their health data is protected. Businesses or organizations who wish to create their own additional policies or requirements may wish to consult with legal counsel.

Q. Will other public health measures remain in place?

A. Businesses that verify proof of vaccination must continue to follow other public health measures that are in place, such as masking requirements.

Q. Who is responsible for enforcing this requirement and making sure that businesses comply?

A. The Ministry of Labour and bylaw officers are responsible for ensuring business compliance.

Q. A patron has questions that I can't answer. What should I do?

A. Additional information from the Government of Ontario is available [here](#). Patrons can also call the THU COVID-19 line at 1-866-747-4305, ext. 7.

Q. What should I do in the event of harassment or threats of violence?

A. Please contact law enforcement.

Q. Who created this requirement? If someone wants to complain, who should they contact?

A. This requirement was put in place by the Government of Ontario. Patrons should contact their local MPP (their representative to the Government of Ontario) regarding any concerns.

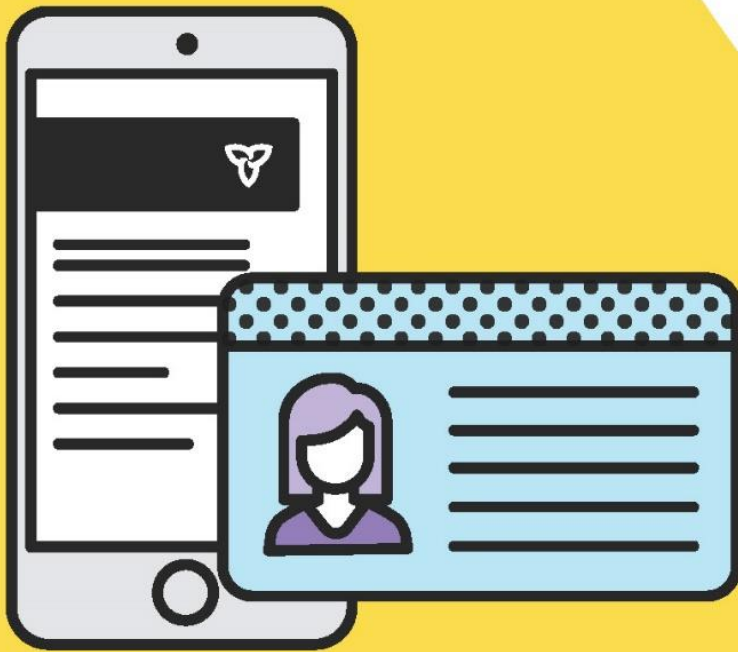
Q. When will this resource be updated?

A. This resource will be updated as needed. The current version can be found at [this link](#).

Resources and more information about proof of vaccination requirements

- [Government of Ontario guidance](#)
- [Government of Ontario regulation](#)

- [Government of Ontario webpage](#)
- [Government of Ontario media release: proof of vaccination requirements](#)
- [Government of Ontario FAQ](#)
- [Government of Ontario FAQ: Using your vaccination receipt](#)
- [Letter of Instruction](#) to Owners/Operators of Facilities located in Timiskaming Health Unit service area where organized sports are played and/or practiced indoors
- As more information becomes available, updates will be distributed to THU's business email list and posted on our webpage [COVID-19 communications to businesses](#)



**To enter this setting
you are required to
show:**

- Proof that you are
fully vaccinated
against COVID-19**
- Personal
identification**

As of September 22nd, Ontario requires proof of vaccination to access select settings.

Download or print your vaccination receipt at ontario.ca/proofofvaccination.

For questions,
call: 1-833-943-3900
(TTY 1-866-797-0007).
Help is available 7 days a week
from 8am to 8pm in more than
300 languages.

**Let's all help to protect the
health and safety of Ontarians.**



Download or print your vaccination receipt
at ontario.ca/proofofvaccination