



Covid-19 Vaccine Policy & Guidelines

Frequently Asked Questions

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1. What do you mean by in-person/direct involvement?

Any position that required person to person contact with a Special Olympics Ontario (SOO) athlete. This includes, but not limited to: 1:1, Small groups with athletes, Sport Coach, Support Roles ie. Drivers, Officials, Facilitators.

2. What do you mean by fully vaccinated?

Fully vaccinated = Both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

However, we do understand that many of our coaches are in the process of receiving their 2nd dose so we are allowing coaches to be eligible for in-person coaching if they have received their 1st dose and plan to obtain their 2nd dose. Coaches who have their 1st dose will be required to provide proof of their 1st dose when completing the vaccine declaration form. Those coaches will then be required to provide proof of their 2nd dose to remain eligible for in-person coaching.

Note: you will be eligible for in-person coaching 14 days after your 1st vaccine dose.

3. Does it matter which vaccine I received?

No, all vaccine brands are acceptable.

4. I plan to have my 2nd dose in the upcoming weeks, am I eligible for in-person volunteering right now?

Yes, but you will need to indicate the date for your 2nd dose on the Vaccine Declaration Form. Once you have received your 2nd dose, you will have the opportunity to update your Vaccine Declaration Form to provide a copy of the vaccine record for your 2nd dose.

5. I have my 1st dose, and I plan to get my 2nd dose. But something happens and I do not, or cannot, get my 2nd dose.

Coaches who do not, or cannot, get the 2nd dose of the vaccine within a reasonable time period, will no longer be eligible for in-person coaching and will be asked to move to a virtual coaching role or administrative position.



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6. What if I cannot find a copy of my vaccination record to upload?

You can go to the following website to obtain your vaccination records:
<https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca/app-identity?viewId=FPGM4K8X3DAS&fbclid=IwAR3D-yZxWr5LJMic9wwqX IEAs3xeleGet0xAapUaKUEPKmbNRjZjcDm6M4>

7. What is considered “Proof of Vaccination”?

Proof of vaccination as provided by the Ministry of Health and contains the individual’s name, the date for the vaccination, and the Product Name of the vaccine administered.

8. What formats are you accepting for the proof of vaccination?

We will accept PDF, JPEG, GIF, PNG, HEIC

9. I do not plan to get vaccinated. How can I stay involved?

Volunteers who do not plan to get vaccinated are welcome to coach any of our virtual programs or may consider volunteering in an administrative role that does not require person to person contact with an athlete. For example, data administrator. Please contact your Community Coordinator or Program Consultant to discuss these options.

10. What if I change my mind and decide to be fully vaccinated. Would I be eligible for in-person coaching?

14 days after your 1st dose, (and providing you plan to obtain your 2nd dose), you will be eligible for in-person coaching. Please contact your Head Coach and have them add your name to the coaching list form so you can complete the Vaccine Declaration Form.

11. Why are we allowed to do in-person coaching if we only have our first vaccination?

Coaches who indicate they have the 1st dose and show their intention to receive the 2nd dose are eligible for in-person coaching as they are fulfilling the eligibility requirements by showing intent.



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12. Where can I get the Vaccine Declaration Form?

Please let your Head Coach know that you are intending to return to in-person coaching. Your Head Coach will add your name to the Coach List Form that they must submit for all coaches who are intending to return to in-person coaching. Once the Coaching List Form is submitted by the Head Coach, each coach on the list will receive an e-mail with the link to the online Vaccine Declaration Form. Check your junk mail for the e-mail.

13. How will I know if I am cleared for in-person coaching?

Upon submission of your Vaccine Declaration Form, you will receive an e-mail indicating if you are eligible or ineligible for in person coaching. Your Head Coach and your Community Coordinator will receive a copy of the same e-mail so they will be aware of your eligibility status for in-person coaching.

14. Why do we need to continue with COVID-19 safety protocols at in person training sessions if we are fully vaccinated?

Statistics show that even though an individual is fully vaccinated, they can still contract the COVID-19 virus. The COVID-19 safety protocols will remain in place until the provincial government has determined the COVID-19 is no longer a threat.

15. If I have to upload a copy of my vaccination certificate, how will my privacy be protected?

Vaccination Certificates are uploaded and stored on a secure server. SOO will review the vaccination policy and status every six months. Once it is determined that vaccinations (or proof of vaccinations) is no longer required, all uploaded files will be destroyed within the server.

16. How is SOO monitoring COVID-19 in the province?

SOO uses the Province of Ontario website to gather information and reports regarding COVID-19.

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/public-health-measures>

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/data>



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17. How long will we be required to prove our vaccination status?

Vaccinations (and proof of vaccination status) will be required until the provincial government declares an end to the pandemic within the province of Ontario.

18. Why are the athletes not required to be vaccinated?

SOO is doing everything we can to encourage athletes to be vaccinated including creating information resources to assist them in their decision and a service to direct them to making appointments. We are asking that athletes share their vaccine details with us so that we can track the information as much as possible. However, we cannot mandate that all athletes get vaccinated since many of athletes have health complications that do not allow them to be vaccinated. We do not want to prohibit athletes from SOO programs, which is so critically important for their mental and physical health, because of their inability to get vaccinated.

19. Are 1:1 support persons required to have vaccinations?

Yes, 1:1 support persons who attend and participate in training sessions with their athlete are required to have their vaccinations.

20. What about Community Council Meetings. Are we required to be vaccinated to host those meetings?

Vaccinations will only be required if the community council meetings have athletes present.

21. What about athlete banquets. Will vaccinations be mandatory for attending athlete banquets?

At this time, we are not able to answer this question. However, we will provide updates to the membership regarding questions like this.