

The Ontario Lacrosse Association (OLA) is updating its COVID-19 Participant Vaccination Policy in alignment with the recent provincial announcement to ease public health measures, and is lifting its requirement for participants to demonstrate proof of vaccination to access programs and services, effective March 4th, 2022. This update is consistent with the most recent Province of Ontario instruction to provincial sports organizations for the requirement of proof of vaccination, and is subject to change at any time, including during the season.

Public health guidance on this topic continues to involve and may affect this policy in the future. The Ontario Lacrosse Association actively encourages vaccination efforts as the best way to protect against severe illness from COVID-19.

1. **Policy overview.** The purpose of this policy is to protect the health and safety of all participants by reducing the risk of exposure to and transmission of COVID-19. This policy is effective immediately and until further notice, and is subject to changes in guidance received, or as a result of regulations which are passed by federal, provincial and local public health authorities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. **Policy application.** This policy applies to all participants, associations, teams and leagues who are members of the Ontario Lacrosse Association, including players, team officials (coaches, trainers, managers), game officials (on-floor, on-field and timekeepers), Association Executive Members (directors, officers, executives, staff, volunteers). Effective March 4th, 2022, the OLA will not require proof of vaccination at the time of each participant's registration, but will continue to encourage health and safety measures for sport which are supplied by Ontario Public Health.
3. **Community/facility protective measures.** Municipalities, communities and territories may choose to require proof of vaccination in order to access facilities or services. The Ontario Lacrosse Association recognizes that local Public Health Units determine health and safety measures that are appropriate, and requires its clubs and leagues to respect and follow any measures enacted in accordance with O. Reg. 364/20.
4. **Other protective measures.** Requirements for mask/face coverings, physical distancing and regular self-screening of non-playing participants remains in effect, until modified by provincial health regulations. OLA members and guests who receive a positive test result for COVID-19 are required to remove themselves from in-person events in accordance with the province's requirement for self-isolation, and may not return to involvement until they have fully recovered from infection.
5. **Changes to this policy.** As this situation remains fluid and changes to recommended health measures become available, the OLA reserves the right to make any necessary changes to this policy, including during the established lacrosse season.