



VACCINATION POLICY 2021-22

SEASON

APPROVED: NOVEMBER 9, 2021

Purpose of Policy: To continue to protect the health and safety of all HNWT Participants by requiring that certain individuals be fully vaccinated as a condition of participating in HNWT Sanctioned Activities in accordance with defined timelines, including all Territorial, Municipal laws and regulations.

Effective Date: This policy is effective immediately, with regard to the availability of Accepted COVID-19 Vaccines.

Definitions:

“Accepted COVID-19 Vaccine” means a COVID-19 vaccine that has been approved for use by Health Canada.

“Affected Persons” means any Vaccine-Eligible Players, Team Officials, Game Officials, HNWT Officials, Employees, Directors, Officers, Instructors, Service Providers and Contractors, including Association, League and District Executives and Volunteers.

“Association” means any Registered Minor Hockey Association as defined in HNWT Bylaws.

“Exemption” means:

a written document completed and supplied by a registered physician (designated as “MD”) or by a registered nurse in the extended class (designated as “Registered Nurse (Extended Class)”. “RN(EC)”, “Nurse Practitioner” or (NP) stating that the individual is exempt for a medical reason from being fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

“Facility” means a municipally run ice hockey arena or multi sport complex in which HNWT Teams, Association, and Leagues contractually rent time for usage pertaining to the game of ice hockey.

“Fully Vaccinated” means fourteen (14) days after an individual has received a completed series of an Accepted COVID-19 Vaccine.



“Game Officials” means any referee, linesperson, timekeeper, scorekeeper, (off ice officials) or other person engaged in officiating a hockey game as may be designated by HNWT.

“Instructor” means any person engaged by an Association, or Team to provide specialized instruction (e.g., power skating, goaltending coaching, training) to players, who is not registered to any Association.

“HNWT” means Hockey Northwest Territories.

“HNWT Official” means any member of the board of directors, officers, executive and employees (including interns) of HNWT.

“Participant” or “participant” means any person registered in HNWT through any Association or Team, including the parents or legal guardians of any minor aged participant.

“Sanctioned Activity” means any game, tournament, on-ice practice, off-ice training, or any other activity involving registered hockey players, Team Officials, or individuals that is approved by HNWT or any registered Association, or League, or Hockey Canada (or any of its member organizations).

“Spectator” means any person accessing the facility to watch a HNWT Sanctioned Activity.

“Team” means any group of certified Team Officials, rostered hockey players, who have gathered for a Sanctioned Activity, including any Instructors, Volunteers or Association Officials.

“Team Official” means any person involved in the management of a Team and includes the coach, trainer, manager and any assistant coach or assistant trainer and safety officer where applicable.

“Vaccine-Eligible Individual” means any individual born in 2009 or earlier (per current Health Canada and public health guidelines).

“Volunteer” means any person registered by HNWT or Association, or League as a volunteer.

1. Policy Statement

HNWT requires that all Affected Persons be Fully Vaccinated against COVID-19, in accordance with this policy, as a condition of participating in any Sanctioned Activities during the 2021-22 hockey season. At present, this policy does not apply to hockey players born after 2009 but may be subject to change at any time.

Public health guidance on measures for fully vaccinated, partially vaccinated, and unvaccinated individuals continue to evolve and may affect this policy in the future. HNWT reserves the right to amend this policy in response to any new guidance received from or regulations passed by federal, territorial, and local public health and governmental authorities in respect of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, this policy only applies to Employees, Associations, Teams, Leagues, and participants who are members of, or who are registered with HNWT. It is not intended to apply to teams and participants of any Minor or Adult organizations operating outside of HNWT. This policy is also not intended to limit any HNWT Teams from participating in sanctioned hockey events and activities in other hockey jurisdictions outside HNWT that may be governed by a different vaccination policy.

2. Reason for Policy

The health and safety of all Participants is the top priority of HNWT. The purpose of this policy is to protect the health and safety of all participants by reducing the risk of exposure to and the transmission of COVID-19, and to promote the health and safety of all members through vaccinations.

This policy is necessary to prevent, respond to, and alleviate any outbreak of COVID-19 in HNWT because of the significant risk factors for COVID-19 infection that are present while participating in an organized and sanctioned hockey setting.

The close contact nature of organized hockey makes compliance with social distancing requirements difficult in certain circumstances and can reduce the effectiveness of other infectious disease transmission protocols such as masking.

3. Affected Persons

This policy applies to the following Affected Persons, which includes the following individuals:

- Players born in 2009 or earlier;
- Team Officials (Coaches, Trainers and Managers, etc.);
- Game Officials (referees, linespersons, timekeepers, etc.);
- Association Officials (minor hockey association directors, officers, executive and staff);
- HNWT Officials (directors, officers, executive and employees);
- Volunteers; and
- Instructors (third parties engaged by Associations or Teams to provide specialized instruction (e.g., power skating, goaltending coaching).

At present, this policy does not apply to hockey players born in 2010 or later.



4. Vaccination Requirement & Records

All Affected Persons are required to be Fully Vaccinated (i.e.: including the 14-day period after receiving their completed dose) by October 21, 2021, or earlier. All Affected Persons must present to their Association/Team designate, as applicable, evidence satisfactory to HNWT demonstrating that they have received the completed series of an Accepted COVID-19 Vaccine.

5. Acceptable Vaccines

HNWT recognizes all vaccines approved by Health Canada. All Affected Persons will be required to confirm they are vaccinated regardless of which Health Canada approved vaccine they received.

6. Acceptable Documentation

Acceptable documents serving as evidence of COVID-19 vaccination include:

- Government verification (e.g., Government issued vaccine record or electronic record).

Note: HNWT reserves the right to perform future random spot checks to confirm the accuracy of an individual's vaccination history and this may include an individual having to produce confirmation of their COVID-19 vaccination records.

7. Accommodation

HNWT will comply with the Northwest Territories current legislation and will provide an accommodation to any Affected Person who is unable to be vaccinated for substantiated medical reasons.

If an Affected Person cannot provide HNWT or their Association/Team with satisfactory evidence of vaccination, the following may be taken into consideration by exemption only:

- The Affected Person's reason for not being vaccinated; and
- Documentation to substantiate a medical exemption.

Any Affected Person requiring accommodation must provide HNWT with documentation to substantiate their reason for not being vaccinated.

Where accommodation is not possible, the Affected Person will not be permitted to be involved in any Sanctioned Activity for the duration of the pandemic or until such time that COVID-19 no longer poses a significant public health risk.

HNWT reserves the right to have medical documentation reviewed by an HNWT designated medical professional.

Any Affected Person who is granted an accommodation will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. HNWT reserves the right to implement extra safety measures.

8. Reporting & Record Keeping

All Affected Persons need to provide proof to their Association/Team designate who will record the proof of vaccination. However, the Association/Team will not be required to keep any medical records



or vaccination receipts on file. The Association/Team designate will simply be required to confirm that proof of vaccination has been provided and recorded and maintain such on file as a list of all Affected Persons who have provided such proof of vaccination. All individuals making an application for accommodation under this policy shall be filed directly with HNWT, as noted above.

All documentary records regarding COVID-19 accommodations will only be collected, used, retained, or disclosed by HNWT as may be necessary for operational purposes, as directed or requested by governmental authorities or as may be required by law.

Until no longer required, all records retained under this policy must be kept in a secure location to which access is provided to only a limited number of designated persons who are involved in administering this policy. Once an Affected Person's accommodation status has been verified and it is determined that there is no further need for the retention of such records, they shall be immediately destroyed in a secure manner.

9. Unvaccinated Affected Persons

On October 22, 2021, any Affected Person that is not Fully Vaccinated (including the 14-day period after receiving their completed dose) or not having been granted an accommodation in accordance with Section 7, will no longer be permitted to participate in any Sanctioned Activities until such time as they have presented satisfactory evidence to HNWT that they have been Fully Vaccinated or granted an HNWT approved accommodation.

10. Players born in 2010 or later

At the present time, Health Canada has not approved a COVID-19 vaccine for children born in 2010 or later. However, once a COVID-19 vaccine has received Health Canada approval for such persons, HNWT will re-evaluate this policy and consider extending the definition of Vaccine-Eligible Players to include players born in those years.

11. Spectators

HNWT requires patrons who are 12 years of age or older and who do not qualify for an exemption to provide proof of identification and proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to entering a facility.

12. Facility

Facilities are governed by Territorial, Municipal, and Public Health Legislation. Facilities may have other regulations or policies outside of the scope of this policy, that must be adhered to at all times.