

Shamrock Curling Club
COVID Vaccine Mandate Policy 2021-22
October 4th, 2021 (v.3)

Given the rationale provided by the Shamrock's Board of Directors ([link](#)), and given the "Restrictions Exemption Program" announced by the [Province of Alberta](#) on September 15, 2021, the Shamrock Curling Club will be introducing a COVID Vaccine Mandate Policy for the 2021-22 season.

1. The Shamrock's COVID Vaccine Mandate Policy states that any individual aged 12 and over must provide proof of one the following 3 conditions to participate in any public Shamrock activities (i.e., curling, Drift, Lounge, spectating, special events, etc.):

(i) Proof of vaccination

- single dose accepted between September 20 and October 25th, if received 2 weeks before time of participation
- double doses / full vaccination required after October 25th, with the final dose received at least 14 days prior to participation

OR

(ii) Proof of original documentation of a medical exemption

OR

(iii) Proof of a privately issued negative PCR or rapid test within 72 hours of participation

2. This policy is in effect for all curlers, patrons, spectators, staff, and volunteers aged 12 and over.

3. Individuals will be asked in advance of their activity at the Shamrock to present on-site proof of their vaccination status to a Shamrock Privacy Officer.

4. Upon receiving proof of vaccination, the Privacy Officer will provide the individual with a green bracelet (silicone bracelet for league curlers, paper bracelet for one-time day users). This bracelet will represent proof of vaccination for the individual and will allow the individual to enjoy all activities at the Shamrock (i.e., curling, Drift, Lounge, etc.).

5. Shamrock Loyalty Pin: Shamrock curlers who donated their league fees back to the Shamrock during the 2020-21 season closure will also receive a Shamrock Loyalty Pin upon demonstrating proof of vaccination. The Loyalty Pin will function as a proof of vaccination in the same way as the green bracelet (either or can be used during the season).

6. Any individual who cannot be tested or vaccinated based on medical or other grounds protected by the Alberta Human Rights Act may request exemption consideration. Contact info@shamrockcurling.ca for further details.

7. Specific information related to your vaccination status will be kept private by the Shamrock. It will be retained by the Shamrock for the duration of the 2021-22 season and will be destroyed on March 31st, 2022.

8. This is a temporary policy that will remain in effect at the Shamrock Board's discretion and is subject to change. Any changes to this policy will be communicated to our membership via e-mail.

[Please see FAQ below for further information]

COVID Vaccine Mandate Policy 2021-22

FAQ

October 4th, 2021 (v. 3)

Can I just e-mail the Shamrock my proof of vaccination?

No, please do not e-mail the Shamrock your proof of vaccination. Two major reasons: 1. there are privacy issues related to sending and storing such information via e-mail and 2. We would still need to verify your identity on-site anyway in order to provide you with your proof of vaccination bracelet and / or Loyalty pin.

How do I prove to the Shamrock that I am vaccinated?

The Shamrock will be following the valid proof of vaccination requirements of the [Restrictions Exemption Program](#) (pp. 3-4).

There are many ways to initially prove your vaccination status to the Shamrock. Each way will require: (1) valid personal ID (for those 18 and over) and (2) valid proof of vaccination

Valid personal ID includes any one of the following:

- Driver's License
- Birth Certificate
- Citizenship Card
- Passport
- Metis card, Treaty card, Inuit Status card
- Permanent Residence Card

Valid proof of vaccination includes a picture or paper record of any one of the following that clearly displays your name, type of vaccination, and date(s) of administration.

- AHS Covid-19 Immunization Record
- MyHealth Immunization Record
- Pharmacy immunization record
- First Nations immunization record
- Physician immunization record
- Canadian Armed Forces immunization record
- An immunization record from another Canadian Province or Territory
- An immunization record from another country
- Valid Government of Alberta Vaccination QR code (when available)

What happens after I initially prove my vaccine status to the Shamrock?

Upon verification of your vaccination status, you will receive a green bracelet (you may also receive a Shamrock Loyalty Pin if you donated your fees last season to the Shamrock). This green bracelet and/or Loyalty pin will enable you to freely enter and move about the Shamrock, i.e., door

operators, Drift staff, league organizers, and the Lounge bartenders will not need to ask for your vaccine certification if they see your bracelet and/or Loyalty Pin.

What about fraud? Couldn't people just share bracelets and pins?

Yes, fraud will be an unfortunate reality within any system of large-scale administration. As many sadly know, the COVID-19 Immunization Certificate released by AHS itself can be made fraudulent. There is no system of perfect within our world today, only better than worse. Overall, the Shamrock's bracelet / pin system is better than worse given our context and staffing resources. We have a number of safe-guards in place (we know and recognize our regular curlers), we know we have a good community of people at the Shamrock, and we trust that community to do what is right. Fraudsters are not welcome at the Shamrock and any fraudsters risk termination of membership and a possible life-time ban from the Shamrock (subject to Board discretion).

How will the Shamrock be monitoring all of this this season? Will I need to prove my vaccination status every time I come to the Shamrock?

After receiving your bracelet and/or Loyalty Pin, that bracelet and/or Pin will effectively serve as your proof of vaccination for you to freely enter and move about the building this season. Therefore, you will not need to show your ID and proof of immunization every time you enter the building, nor will you need to show it every time you are ordering food or drink or registering for a special event (e.g., Doubles and Dinner). The bracelet and/or Loyalty Pin will do the certification work for you.

The Shamrock will be monitoring this system very closely for the first few weeks of the season. As the system evolves and develops, we will revisit the needs for staffing the front door at all hours of operation (please note that staffing this position represents a substantial additional expense to the Shamrock and there is presently no subsidy in place from the government to help offset this additional cost).

What about spectators, visitors, Drift or Lounge users?

All users of the Shamrock will need to provide proof of vaccination. There will be clear signage at the front door explaining this requirement. If someone from the Office misses an individual, Drift and Lounge staff know to check for proof of vaccination for anyone who does not have a green bracelet and/or Loyalty Pin. We will be monitoring this as we go. The overwhelming majority of the users of our facility are our league curlers, so they will be the principal point of focus as we start the season.

What about spares?

Just like every other participant curler or user of the facility, spares must also adhere to the Shamrock's Vaccination Mandate Policy. Team captains should ensure that any spare that they contact is familiar with this policy requirement.

What if I lose my bracelet or pin?

First of all, that would be sad. Second, we can provide a replacement but we will need to see proof of vaccination again. There may be a replacement cost as well.

Pro-tips: if you don't like wearing your bracelet, put it in your curling bag or on your key-chain. Also, consider placing your Loyalty pin on the curling top you normally like to wear curling. It will always be there to welcome you!

What constitutes a valid medical exemption?

The Shamrock will be following the policies for medical exemption contained within the [Restrictions Exemption Program](#) (p. 5)

A valid medical exemption is an original signed letter from a physician or nurse practitioner that includes:

- The name of the person in the written documentation that matches the identification provided
- The physician's or nurse practitioner's information, including: name, phone number, contact information, professional registration number, and signature of the physician
- Statement that there is a medical reason for the individual's exemption from being fully vaccinated against COVID-19, along with the duration of the exemption
- The reason for the exemption is not required; simply a statement that there is a medical reason for the exemption will be sufficient

What constitutes a valid proof of a negative test result?

The Shamrock will be following the policies for negative test result requirements of the [Restrictions Exemption Program](#) (p. 4-5).

The negative test-result must:

- Be from a sample taken within the prior 72 hours
- Be from a privately-paid, Health Canada approved rapid antigen, rapid PCR or lab based PCR
- Include clear documentation of the laboratory or health care professional that completed the test (e.g., DynaLIFE), the type of test, time of sample collection, and clear indication of a negative test result
- Not be from an AHS public COVID-19 testing system (reserved for symptomatic individuals)
- Be a written or printed copy

What about junior curlers aged 12 and over?

The Shamrock is requiring all individuals aged 12 and over to meet the same vaccination screening requirements as adults aged 18 and over. The only material difference will be that those aged 12 to 17 will not be required to present personal identification.

What about junior curlers aged 11 and under?

At this time, the Shamrock is permitting junior curlers aged 11 and under to curl and attend Shamrock related activities. Anyone aged 11 and under will be screened for symptoms and parents

should be mindful of the risks and harms of bringing unvaccinated children into a public facility. We ask for parent assistance in this task.

The Shamrock is currently not accepting school group visits.

What about volunteer instructors in the Shamrock's junior program?

All volunteer instructors in the Shamrock's junior program must provide proof of full vaccination in order to work on-ice with any of our junior curlers.

What about parents of juniors who want to watch their children curl in our junior program or other junior curling related events?

Parents, like any spectator at the Shamrock, will have to meet the same vaccination screening requirements as everyone else in order to enter the Shamrock. Parents who expect to attend regularly will be provided with a silicone wristband.

The Restrictions Exemption Program has placed a 1/3 of fire-code capacity limit for spectator attendance at any youth related activity (whether vaccinated or unvaccinated). The Shamrock's fire-code capacity is 222, so 74 spectators would be our maximum attendance level for youth-related activities. At this time we do not see this requirement limit for spectators being an issue for our youth-related activities, but this is something we will be monitoring as the season progresses. We ask that parents limit the size of their spectator group so that this does not become an issue.

What about rental groups / corporate events / day events?

Participants in rental groups will need to meet the same vaccination screening requirements as everyone else in order to enter the Shamrock. Such participants will be screened and provided a paper wrist-band for day-use. Event organizers should contact info@shamrockcurling.ca for further details.

Will I receive a wrist-band if I am only partially vaccinated at the start of the curling season?

Please contact info@shamrockcurling.ca for further details.

Is the COVID vaccine Self-Declaration Form useless now?

No, it is not useless. The Self-Declaration Form remains an important piece since it represents your declared word and ensures that the Shamrock is providing a safe, community-minded environment. It is yet another piece that works against fraud. AHS acknowledged that it was a good system but that it was not wholly sufficient given the parameters announced by the Province for the "Restrictions Exemption Program" (REP).

For the record, the Shamrock put together its own Self-Declaration system before the Province announced their proof of vaccination program with the REP. At that time, the Shamrock did not know that the Province would move in that direction. The Shamrock is happy that the Province did and we are working toward aligning our policies with the Province's specific requirements in the "Restrictions Exemption Program."

I haven't filled out my Self-Declaration form yet. Should I still do so?

Yes, if you haven't filled out your form, we ask that you please still complete it. The form can be [found here](#) and it takes less than a minute to read and complete. The form represents your declared word and thus contributes toward the overall effort to ensure vaccination compliance at our facility.

I have my first vaccine but am still waiting to take my second vaccine? Does this mean I cannot curl at the Shamrock this season?

No, it does not mean that you cannot curl at the Shamrock this season. Accommodation options are available within the policy itself that will allow you to curl (e.g., first dose timelines, negative COVID tests, etc.). We want to help support those individuals who are still looking to get vaccinated. Single doses are acceptable from September 20 to October 25th, if received within two weeks. Please reach out to info@shamrockcurling.ca for more information on your available options.

What about privacy?

Specific information related to your vaccination status will be kept private by the Shamrock's office staff and Board. It will be retained by the Shamrock for the duration of the 2021-22 season and will be destroyed on March 31st, 2022. For more information about the collection of personal information please contact info@shamrockcurling.ca.

Do we still have to wear masks? What about while curling?

As per municipal and provincial by-law, masks are required on the warm-side of the glass at all times (unless safely seated to eat or drink). At this time, mask-use on the ice is *not required* but masks will be *requested* insofar it is safe and reasonable for you to wear one while in the field of play. We ask that if you cannot reasonably wear a mask while curling that you please maintain safe distancing from your playing opponents. "Stand here" dots will once again be located along the side of the ice to ensure safe distancing. Staggered start times for some of our busier leagues will also help to minimize congestion points. Further information on what the season will look like at the Shamrock can be found on our "Information Sheet" document that can be found on our [COVID Response Resources Page](#).

Will it be "single sweeper rule" again this season? And what about skip's sweeping after the t-line?

We will be returning to double-sweeper and skip sweeping behind the t-line for this season – like it was way back in 2019 ("the before times"). Further information on rules for this season can be found on our "Information Sheet" document that can be found on our [COVID Response Resources Page](#).

Is everything you say here set in stone without subject to any changes or amendments?

No. The only thing predictable about COVID is that it is unpredictable. We are striving to do our best to adapt and respond to this evolving and dynamic situation. Any changes will be communicated and explained to our curlers via e-mail, as we always do.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work our way through yet another challenging curling season.

