



**LETTER RESCINDING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH INSTRUCTIONS
FOR INDOOR SPORTS & RECREATION FACILITIES
UNDER THE REOPENING ONTARIO (A FLEXIBLE RESPONSE TO COVID-19) ACT, 2020**

DATE: February 25, 2022

EFFECTIVE: February 25, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

TO: All persons responsible for businesses and organizations that are open with indoor areas of facilities used for Organized Sports and Recreational Fitness Activities¹ in Halton Region, including facility operators and permit holders

Effective March 1, 2022, the province of Ontario will lift its proof of vaccination requirements for all settings, including the indoor areas of facilities used for sports and recreational fitness activities including waterparks and facilities where personal physical fitness trainers provide instruction.

Current trends in the spread of COVID-19 within Halton Region, and in related demands on health system capacity, are similar to those now experienced across Ontario. That being the case, current public health measures in Halton Region related to proof of vaccination can align with provincial measures. This letter of instruction imposing added requirements, effective November 26, 2021, is therefore no longer necessary and shall be rescinded.

While we are at an important transition point in our provincial and local response to COVID-19, learning to live with its continuing presence in our communities for the foreseeable future, organized sports and recreational fitness activities in groups without masking or physical distancing (common, for example, when contact sports are played) do present an increased risk of COVID-19 transmission.

I therefore continue to emphasize the importance of vaccination against COVID-19, including third (“booster”) doses for all who are eligible. There is clear evidence that two doses of a Health Canada-approved COVID-19 vaccine provide strong protection against severe disease, hospitalization and death (including from the Omicron-variant). Three doses protect against disease transmission.

I thank you once again for your ongoing efforts to comply with all public health requirements that apply to your facilities and seek your continued goodwill and compliance as we move forward. Relevant resources include:

- Halton Region Public Health: [COVID-19 Resources for Businesses](#)
- Ministry of Health: [Sector-specific guidelines](#)
- Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development: [Workplace Resources to Prevent COVID-19](#)

This letter rescinding instructions shall be posted at: halton.ca/COVID19.

**Hamidah Meghani, MD, MPH, MM, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health, Halton Region Public Health**

The Regional Municipality of Halton
1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, Ontario L6M 3L1

¹ These include (but are not limited to) extracurricular sports and recreational fitness activities, sports leagues, organized pick-up sports, dance classes, gymnastics, martial arts, swimming classes or as otherwise described in the Ministry of Health's [Proof of Vaccination Guidance for Businesses and Organizations under the Reopening Ontario Act](#), and all related training, practices, games and competitions