

Arctic Winter Games International Committee Policy and Procedures

NAME: Policy on Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccines
PRESENTED TO: Arctic Winter Games International Committee
ORIGINAL APPROVAL DATE: December 23, 2021
REVISION APPROVAL DATES: March 24, 2022
RELATED POLICIES:

PREAMBLE

Since 1970, the Games have been the catalyst for the growth of sport across Canada. Held every two years, the Games are the circumpolar north's largest multi-sport event.

The Arctic Winter Games is a high-profile circumpolar sport competition for northern and arctic athletes. The Games provide an opportunity to strengthen sport development in the participants' jurisdictions, to promote the benefits of sport, to build partnerships, and to promote culture and values. The Games celebrate sport, social exchange, and cultures. The Games provide an opportunity for the developing athlete to compete in friendly competition while sharing cultural values from northern regions around the world.

The Whitehorse 2020 Arctic Winter Games were cancelled March 7, 2020, one week before the Opening Ceremony, due to the emerging risks presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. One year later, after extensive analysis by the Arctic Winter Games International Committee (AWGIC) made the decision to postpone the Wood Buffalo 2022 Arctic Winter Games until January of 2023.

This Policy has been developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic with the objective of maintaining the health and safety of Arctic Winter Games participants and other stakeholders who engage in the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games. This Policy is an evolving document and, if required, it may also be extended to the Mat-Su 2024 Arctic Winter Games and the 2026 Arctic Winter Games.

The primary stakeholders of this Policy are participating units, representing both permanent partners and guest units, the Host Society, as well as corporate and government partners.

The Government of Canada via Health Canada and Canada Border Services Agency are the authorities for vaccination requirements for all international guests.

Spectators and other non-accredited individuals of the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games will be subject to the requirements of the host jurisdiction and or the respective venues used for the Games.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions will apply

Fully vaccinated: Having received a complete and up-to-date series (as determined by an individual's respective Government) of a Health Canada approved COVID-19 vaccine no sooner than 14 days prior to the start of the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games (or other timeframe required by Health Canada to be considered fully vaccinated). A list of Health Canada approved vaccines can be found here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/drugs-vaccines-treatments/vaccines.html>.

Eligible individuals: Individuals who meet the minimum eligibility requirements to receive a Health Canada approved COVID-19 vaccine in their home jurisdiction.

Protected Grounds: The reasons for which an individual can not be discriminated against. While each Canadian Provincial/Territorial Human Rights Code established its own grounds, they all generally contain the following: age, ancestry citizenship, colour, creed (religion), disability, ethnic origin, family status, gender identity/expression, marital status, place of origin, race, sex, sexual orientation. For the purposes of this Policy, protected grounds are limited to creed (religion).

Medical Grounds: The medical (health) reasons for which an individual is unable to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

Participants: Participants refers to individuals accredited for the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games as athletes, cultural performers, coaches, managers, technical support, safe sport personnel, mission staff, and technical officials.

Host Society: Refers to individuals accredited for the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games as board members, volunteers and staff.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Arctic Winter Games International Committee, the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games Host Society collectively believe the best mechanism to ensure the health and safety of the Arctic Winter Games family and members of the public in host communities during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is through vaccination.

As such, eligible individuals within the populations listed below are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in order to attend or participate in the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games.

- Athletes
- Coaches
- Managers
- Technical Support
- Technical Officials
- Chaperones/Translators
- Mission Staff
- Special Guests
- Sport Observers
- Games Observers
- Accredited Media
- Accredited Broadcasters
- Arctic Winter Games International Committee

Eligible individuals who have not provided proof of vaccination and have not received an exemption will not be permitted to attend or participate in the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games.

The AWGIC in conjunction with the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games Host Society will monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent vaccination requirements via a risk management matrix.

NOTE: Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games board members, volunteers, and staff **are required** to be fully vaccinated for the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games under separate organizational policies, and are outside the scope of this Policy.

EXEMPTIONS

The Arctic Winter Games International Committee will work with the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games Host Society to implement a review process for individuals seeking an exemption from the mandatory COVID-19 vaccine requirement. Individuals who are granted an exemption from the requirement may be subject to additional COVID-19 mitigation measures at the Games, such as testing and quarantines.

The Arctic Winter Games International Committee and the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games Host Society will make accommodations for individuals who are either ineligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination, or have received an exemption on medical or protected grounds.