



January 4, 2022.

## **Ringette Ontario COVID-19 Vaccination Policy Update**

On December 20, 2021, the Ministry of Ontario updated regulations came into effect for patrons seeking access to indoor facilities used for sports and recreational fitness activities. These regulations state that all patrons 12 and older must be fully vaccinated and present a vaccination certificate with QR code to enter these buildings with limited exceptions. This requirement basically requires all 12-year-olds plus be fully vaccinated in order to participate in indoor recreational facilities and activities.

Ringette Ontario is committed to taking every reasonable precaution in the circumstances to protect the health and safety of our participants, workers, volunteers, and stakeholders, and our intention is to require all RO Participants who are eligible to receive vaccination, including Players, RO Bench Staff, RO Officials, Minor Officials, Third-Party Contractors and RO Volunteers, to be vaccinated.

We have assessed the original timeline communicated with respect to the implementation of the revised vaccination policy and have reviewed local conditions with respect to vaccination availability. As many will know, vaccine eligibility was extended to the 5 – 11-year-old age group on November 19, 2021, but as cases rise so has the desire to get vaccinated which has led to longer wait times than expected. We want to be reasonable in our approach to implementation of the Ringette Ontario policy and therefore we are strongly recommending that 5-11-year-old athletes get vaccinated as soon as possible but we will not fully implement this requirement for the remainder of this season unless it is mandated by PHU's and/or Ministry of Ontario sooner. It is our intention that this policy will be effective for the start of the 2022/2023 season.

The Ringette Ontario Board of Directors has updated this policy in support of our continued efforts to provide a safe environment for our participants and to minimize the spread of COVID-19 to mitigate further restrictions and disruption to programming.

Any questions can be directed to the Ringette Ontario Acting Executive Director, Karla Xavier at [executivedirector@ringetteontario.com](mailto:executivedirector@ringetteontario.com).