

# Markham Recreation



Dear Community Sport Group,

As you are aware, York Region Public Health has the governing authority to develop policies and mandates that apply across the Regional Municipality of York.

Yesterday morning, York Region Public Health issued a [Letter of Instruction for Sports Facilities](#), which we forwarded to you.

It stated:

“Effective 12:01 AM on Friday, October 1, 2021, the instructions to persons responsible for facilities where organized sports are played and/or practiced:

- Require each person, age 12 years and older, at the point of entry, who attends the indoor area of the facility for the purpose of (a) actively participating in organized sports, (b) coaching, officiating at organized sports or volunteering or (c) spectating at organized sports to provide identification and proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or a valid medical exemption
- Comply with all other requirements under the [Reopening Ontario Act](#) and its regulations that apply to the facility”

Based on what we advised yesterday, we are able to provide the following update.

As you are aware, the City of Markham had already established a timeline of October 31<sup>st</sup> that required everyone 12 years of age and older to be fully vaccinated in order to enter a City of Markham indoor recreation facility. The Regional Municipality of York has chosen to apply the same 12+ requirement, but on a much shorter deadline, by this Friday.

The City of Markham respects and supports the Letter of Instruction by York Region that will require those aged 12-17, coaches/volunteers/officials and all spectators to be fully

vaccinated in order to participate in organized sport as a necessary and fair approach to limiting the spread of COVID-19.

Due to operational considerations, the City of Markham will request compliance of the public as of October 1, 2021, but full enforcement will not take place until October 31, 2021.

As a result, at this time, youth athletes between the ages of 12 to 17, that are participating in organized sports governed by a recognized Provincial or National Sport Organization, that are able to provide proof that they have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine will continue to be allowed access until October 31, 2021. As of November 1, 2021 youth athletes unable to provide proof of full vaccination or medical exemption will not be permitted.

As we continue to navigate the challenges of COVID-19, we understand the fatigue and frustration felt by everyone. It is important that we continue working together to ensure the safety of our participants and staff. Your health and safety is our number one priority.

It would be appreciated if you could share with your parents and participants the importance of working with our staff team and develop an understanding that our staff must enforce public health regulations, and have no ability to change them. Please encourage your parents and participants to be respectful of this difficult position, and to address their concerns or disagreements with myself.

Sincerely,

**Mary Creighton**

Director, Recreation Services

City of Markham

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