

Main Office – Belleville 179 North Park Street, Belleville, ON K8P 4P1 T: 613-966-5500 | 1-800-267-2803 | F: 613-966-9418 TTY: 711 or 1-800-267-6511 hpePublicHealth.ca

December 3, 2021

Dear Business Owner/Operator:

## **RE: REMINDER ABOUT VALID PROOF OF COVID-19 VACCINATION EXEMPTIONS**

Thank you for your continued assistance in keeping our community safe from COVID-19, including checking for proof of vaccination for customers/patrons entering your establishment.

Hastings Prince Edward Public Health (HPEPH) has recently been made aware of people trying to enter some businesses using ID cards that suggest they are exempt from proof of vaccination because they are part of a worldwide <u>Vaccine Control Group</u>. This group is **not** a legitimate group involved in a vaccine study recognized by Health Canada and its ID cards are not valid.

As a reminder, here are the current rules for proof of COVID-19 vaccine exemptions in Ontario:

## Under 12 years old

Patrons are exempt if they are younger than 12 years old

## **Medical Exemptions**

Patrons with medical exemptions do not need to show proof of vaccination. They must present ID and a written document that states they are exempt for a medical reason. When you review proof of a medical reason for not being vaccinated against COVID-19, please make sure:

- Name of the person in the written documentation matches the personal ID provided
- The doctor or registered nurse in the extended class information includes:
  - Their name and contact information,
  - Their logo or letterhead,
  - A statement that there is a medical reason for the person's exemption from being fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and

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• Any effective time-period for the medical reason which includes the date the patron is seeking access to the business or organization.

If the written documentation is missing any of the information above, the person is not eligible to enter the designated setting.

## **Clinical Trials**

If a patron is participating in a COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial authorized by Health Canada and specified in Ministry of Health guidance, they must provide both ID, *and*:

- Documentation stating they are taking part in the clinical trial, including:
  - A completed "Statement of Exemption due to Participation in a COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Trial" form signed by the principal investigator and study participant
  - Documentation from the principal investigator of the clinical trial with the patron's first and last name, date of birth, duration of the trial and information about the clinical trial

If you have any additional questions, please contact us at 613-966-5500, ext. 677.

Thank you,

Ethan Toumishey, MD, MPH CCFP, FRCPC Acting Medical Officer of Health Hastings Prince Edward Public Health