



## STMHA Vaccination Policy

**Purpose:** In keeping with the recommendations of the OMHA and Alliance Hockey, STMHA has established a policy requiring all vaccine-eligible coaches, volunteers, bench staff and participants to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as a condition of participating in any STMHA sanctioned activities. Vaccination must occur in accordance with this policy's deadlines as well as in accordance with the Ontario Minor Hockey Association and Alliance Minor Hockey.

**Reason for Policy:** The St. Thomas Minor Hockey Association recognizes the significant impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on sports and recreation. We are committed to doing what is necessary to keep our participants as safe as possible by following the recommendations from public health care professionals including the Southwestern Public Health Unit to provide sustainable programming throughout the season.

### Definitions:

**"Affected Persons"** means any Vaccine-Eligible Players, Game Officials, OMHA Officials, Instructors, Association Officials, Team Officials and Volunteers.

**"STMHA"** means St. Thomas Minor Hockey Association

**"Fully Vaccinated"** means fourteen (14) days after an individual has received a completed series of an Accepted COVID-19 Vaccine

**"Game Official"** means a referee, linesperson, timekeeper, or any other person designated by STMHA or the league as a Game Official.

**"Leagues"** means Alliance and or OMHA Leagues

**"SWPHU"** means Southwestern Public Health Unit

**"Participant"** means any person registered to STMHA including the parents or legal guardians of any minor aged participant that engages or volunteers in any STMHA or league sanctioned activity (includes on ice/off ice helpers, volunteers, etc.)

**"Sanctioned Activity"** means any game, on-ice practice, off-ice training, or any other activity involving players and Team Officials that is approved by STMHA the League or any of its Organizations, the Ontario Hockey Federation (or any of its members), or Hockey Canada (or any of its members.)

**"Team Official"** means any person involved in the management of a Team and includes the coach, trainer, manager and any assistant coach or assistant trainer.

**"Team"** means any group of individuals who gather for a Sanctioned Activity, including but not limited to players, Team Officials, on-ice instructors, volunteers, or Organization Officials.

**"Vaccine-Eligible Player"** means any player in their 12 plus birth year. (2009 as 2021 and 2010 as of 2022)

1. All participants must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 by October 31, 2021, which must include the two-week period required to be considered a complete series.
2. All third-party development personnel participating in STMHA or league sanctioned activities must comply with the league vaccine policies as well and public health, facility, and government vaccine guidelines. Coaches are responsible to ensure all documentation has been submitted to the COVID Team.
3. All COVID-19 vaccine products authorized for use by [Health Canada](#) are considered as acceptable vaccinations.
4. Eligible participants (or parent/guardian) must provide official documentation) at least 24hrs prior to the participant's first skate. The following forms are considered acceptable evidence of vaccination:
  - A digital or physical Dose Administration Receipt.
  - Provincial government issued verification passportDocumentation must be emailed to the [covidteam@stmha.net](mailto:covidteam@stmha.net) at least 24hrs before the participant's first skate. A member of the STMHA COVID team must validate the participant's name, date of birth, health card and confirm that each vaccination has been completed prior to the deadlines.
5. At the time of this policy, all players in the birth year of 12 and above are considered eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccination. A player that is not eligible by age to receive the vaccine at the time of tryouts will agree to complete their vaccination series within 30 days of becoming eligible.
6. Any player that does not meet the deadlines for vaccinations as set by this policy will no longer be eligible to participate in any STMHA sanctioned events in accordance with OMHA and Alliance Hockey.
7. A participant may submit a request for exemption form for medical reasons cited by the SWPHU (see Appendix B) or for religious/protected grounds (see Appendix C) to be reviewed by a representative of OMHA and Alliance Hockey and/or the COVID Team. Official documentation for a medical exemption must be from the participant's primary care physician who must be certified and in good standing with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) and must be submitted 48 hours prior to the participant's first tryout. The documentation form must be completed on the official letterhead of the participant's primary care provider, include the name of the participant, date of birth, date of assessment, the care provider's signature and CPSO number. An exemption for a religious/protected reason must be clearly stated on the form, completed signed and notarized by a licensed notary in good standing with the Law Society of Ontario and include their license number. No other forms will be accepted for consideration of exemptions. OMHA and Alliance Minor Hockey observes the right to ask for additional submissions for review.
8. Participants that have been granted an exception with accommodation must show proof of a negative [COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Screen](#) at least 24 hours prior to each sanctioned STMHA event/activity. Testing is at the expense of the participant and are available at [Shoppers Drug Mart](#). A negative COVID-19 test will be considered invalid after the 72-hour period and a repeat test is required for continued participation in STMHA sanctioned events.
9. If at any time Public Health Ontario, SWPHU, the league or the Ontario government states that unvaccinated participants are no longer eligible to play in a large cohort, the participant may be considered ineligible to play. The participant may join their larger cohort at the time Public Health Ontario allows unvaccinated participants to play in a large cohort or the participant is fully vaccinated.