

The Lakehead District and Thunder Bay Catholic District school boards along with the Conseil scolaire de district catholique des Aurores boréales and Dennis Franklin Cromarty school will implement every strategy within our ability, and as recommended by public health, to keep student-participants, teacher-coaches/leaders, and officials safe. This includes mandatory vaccination for all eligible participants in Grades 7-12 (without a Board approved medical exemption) in co-curricular sports activities.

The following information should help clarify any questions or concerns from families about this requirement:

- **Students must show proof of first vaccination by Monday, December 6, 2021 and proof of second vaccination by Monday, January 31, 2022** in order to compete against other schools or travel offsite of the school property for all co-curricular sports activities (Superior Secondary Schools Athletic Association, North Western Ontario Secondary Schools Athletic Association and the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations).
- In the period leading up to December 6th, proof of vaccination status is not required for extracurricular sports participation, but schools must ensure that all necessary protocols are in place and being followed.
- Students in younger Grades (Grades 4-6) will continue with school-based intramural return to train activities in athletics. Proof of vaccination status is not required for this because it is a school-based activity.
- High school and Intermediate participants in intramural (within their own school) events/activities/clubs will not require proof of full vaccination if they can remain masked and/or distanced (i.e., school club) for the activity and are following all required Ministry of Education and public health guidelines for the activity.
- Participants who have a Board approved medical exemption will be required to provide proof of negative rapid antigen tests three times weekly based on existing Board protocols. **Testing is not an option without a Board approved medical exemption.**
- Participants who have a Board approved medical exemption must submit test results following guidance from the Board protocol on testing. Schools will visually verify this



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information. If participants have a positive test, they cannot participate in any co-curricular activities, and will be directed to obtain a follow-up PCR test at an assessment centre and await further direction from public health.

- On December 6th and January 31st, participants will show proof of vaccination to confirm eligibility to designated school staff but will not be required to submit a copy. Schools will record that proof has been shown and that a participant is eligible. The Board will only verify vaccination status and will not store any medical documentation.
- School staff verifying vaccination status will always be cognizant of the importance of privacy and ensure that discretion is used throughout the process.



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FAQs: Vaccination Protocol for Co-curricular Sports Activities

What is the mandatory vaccination protocol for co-curricular sports activities?

All eligible participants (born 2009 and earlier) including students, staff, volunteers and officials participating in all inter-school sports programs must be double vaccinated (**first dose by December 6, 2021 and second dose by January 31, 2022**). Unvaccinated participants with a Board approved medical exemption or an approved accommodation under the Human Rights Code must complete three times weekly testing.

Why do participants need to be vaccinated for co-curricular activities?

We will implement every strategy within our ability, and as recommended by public health, to keep student-participants, teacher-coaches/leaders, and officials safe. This includes mandatory vaccination for all eligible participants (without an approved medical documentation) in co-curricular sports activities as recommended by the Thunder Bay District Health Unit.

Who is considered a participant?

Participants in co-curricular sports activities include students, staff, officials, and volunteers.

Does this apply to all co-curricular activities?

This mandatory vaccine protocol applies to all participants in all inter-school sports programs. Participants in intramural (within their own school) events/activities/clubs may not require vaccination if they can remain masked and/or distanced. Events that take students outside their school and where masking and/or physical distancing is not possible may require vaccination. Your school will notify participants of requirements for these types of activities.

How are you collecting this information?

Participants will show proof of vaccination to confirm eligibility to designated school staff but will not be required to submit a copy. Schools will record that proof has been shown and that a participant is eligible. The board will only verify vaccination status and will not store any medical documentation.



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When does this protocol start?

All participants must show proof of first dose by December 6, 2021 and proof of second dose by January 31, 2022, unless they have a Board approved medical exemption.

What if participants cannot get the vaccine?

Participants who have a Board approved medical exemption or an approved accommodation under the Human Rights Code will be required to provide proof of negative rapid antigen tests three times weekly. Testing is not an option without a Board approved medical exemption or an approved accommodation under the Human Rights Code.

How will testing work?

Participants must follow guidance relative to Board protocols in submitting test results. If participants have a positive test, they cannot participate in any co-curricular sports activities and will be directed to obtain a follow-up PCR test at an assessment centre and await further direction of the Thunder Bay District Health Unit.

How can you mandate vaccines for co-curricular sports activities but not for students or staff attending in-person school?

The Immunization of Pupils' Act governs the vaccinations of children and youth in Ontario schools. The Chief Medical Officer of Health has indicated the province is reviewing mandatory vaccines required in Ontario schools and is considering COVID-19 vaccination. Co-curricular activities are voluntary, and the Boards are making this decision based on a recommendation from public health as a risk-based approach to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmissions during these activities.

What else are you doing to protect participants in co-curricular activities?

In addition to mandatory vaccination and a limitation on spectators, the Boards have worked closely with its partners at the Thunder Bay District Health Unit, the Superior Secondary Schools Athletic Association (SSSAA) and the North Western Ontario Secondary Schools Athletic Association (NWOSSAA) to develop detailed return-to-activity guidelines for the re-introduction of co-curricular activities. All student participants and coaches must continue to adhere to all



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return-to-activity guidelines including daily screening, contact tracing, masking where required, and physical distancing where possible. It is important to note that these guidelines may change at any time and without notice depending on local circumstances and data.

Where can I submit my questions or considerations?

Families and students may submit questions or considerations about this protocol to:

Lakehead Public Schools – AJ Keene

Thunder Bay Catholic School Board – Yoli Figueiroa

Conseil scolaire de district catholique des Aurores boréales – Marie-France Tousignant

Dennis Franklin Cromarty School – Sharon Angeconeb



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