



Frequently Asked Questions about Vaccinations and Extra-Curricular Participation (Grades 7-12)

The Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School board 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 exemption) in extra-curricular activities as recommended by Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health and Hastings Prince Edward Public Health.

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

- Students must be double vaccinated by November 15th, 2021 to compete against other schools or offsite of the school for all extracurricular activities, including athletics (KASSAA (Kingston and Area Secondary School Athletic Association), BQAA, COSSAA, EOSSAA or OFSAA (Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations).
- In the period leading up to November 15th, proof of vaccination status is not required for extracurricular participation, but schools must ensure that all necessary protocols are in place and being followed. After November 15th, proof of double vaccination status is required.
- This will apply to students in grades 7-12. Students in younger grades will continue with school-based return to train activities in athletics. Proof of vaccination status is not required for this because it is a school-based activity.
- Participants in intra-mural (within their own school) events/activities/clubs will not require proof of double vaccination if they can remain masked and/or distanced (i.e., school improv club) for the activity and are following all required Ministry of Education and public health guidelines for the activity.
- Participants who have an approved medical exemption will be required to provide proof of negative rapid antigen tests twice weekly. Families are responsible for obtaining rapid tests, which are available for purchase at pharmacies. We are attempting to acquire testing kits to support unvaccinated participants, but at this time participants requiring testing must purchase tests at their own cost. Testing is not an option after November 15th, 2021 without an approved medical exemption.

- Participants who have an approved medical exemption must show test results to the school designate on Tuesdays and Fridays. Schools will visually verify this information. If participants have a positive test, they cannot participate in any extra-curricular activities, and will be directed to obtain a follow-up PCR test at an assessment centre and await further direction from public health.

- For students with a medical exemption from vaccination, written documentation from a physician, or nurse practitioner outlining the medical exemption must include:
 - The name and contact information of the physician or nurse practitioner (for example, phone number and address).
 - A logo or letterhead identifying the physician or nurse practitioner.
 - A statement confirming there is a medical reason for the exemption from vaccination against COVID-19.
 - An effective time period for the medical reason within the date you are seeking participation.

- After November 15th, 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 should always be cognizant of the importance of privacy and ensure that discretion is used throughout the process.

- As shared previously, all extra-curricular events (including those held outdoors) are closed to spectators to limit the number of contacts for students, coaches, and officials. Currently, we do not have the resources to ensure proper compliance with public health and Ministry requirements regarding screening, contact tracing, and capacity limits.