



YMCA of Central East Ontario to Follow Updated Provincial Guidelines for Vaccination Status

The Government of Ontario announced last Monday that proof of vaccination will no longer be required to enter facilities effective March 1, 2022.

This pandemic has had a significant negative impact on the physical and mental health of many of our citizens, our friends and our neighbours.

“Our YMCA of Central East Ontario believes it is time for us as a community to come together again. It is time to end the divisiveness and begin the relationship healing process. We need to get back to our daily routines and live again, create friendships, repair relationships and demonstrate caring and respect for one another” said David Allen, YMCA President & CEO.

Throughout this pandemic, our YMCA has followed our values of caring, honesty, respect, responsibility and inclusiveness as our guide to doing what is right. We have also followed the recommendations of our Federal and Provincial Governments and the advice of our local Public Health. After almost two years, for our organization to then not follow health and government recommendations, and begin making our own decisions without the support and knowledge of science, is not a direction we are prepared to take.

We will continue to follow public health and government guidance, which means that we will no longer require proof of vaccination to enter our YMCAs Branches as of March 1, 2022. The current safety protocols we have in place when using the YMCA will remain in effect. We are going to once again provide additional training to our staff and volunteers to maintain and improve the protocols we have in place to ensure people feel safe and have a positive shared experience at the YMCA. The mask mandate and the wearing of masks as per our current policy and process will remain in effect, and our expectation is that anyone who wishes to use the YMCA will abide by and adhere to this policy.

“By making a commitment to each other and respecting each other, your YMCA visit will continue to be the enjoyable safe experience and atmosphere we all desire it to be. It is about us creating and building community together” said Allen.

We ask all Members of our YMCA Family to be considerate of one another, to respect one another and follow the protocols we have in place for everyone’s health and safety. We will continue to implement our enhanced cleaning and safety protocols for the safety of all members, staff and volunteers. We ask that whenever possible, members maintain physical distancing as a courtesy to your fellow members and staff. We also ask that members continue to treat our staff with respect for as long as they need to continue enforcing masking requirements. Furthermore, if you feel unwell, out of respect for other members and staff, consider not attending the Y until you feel better.

The YMCA is a shared experience for everyone to enjoy. Each of us can make it better for all by being considerate of others.

Our goal is to safely serve communities in program settings that meet and in some cases exceed public-health requirements for infection, prevention and control. We have made adjustments to our protocols along the way, based on shifting conditions and evolving guidance from governments and public-health authorities. We will update these guidelines in the future when we feel it safe to do so.