



COVID-19 Vaccines: Frequently Asked Questions

What is Outward Bound Canada's vaccination policy?

As of November 1st 2021, all staff must be vaccinated against COVID-19 as a condition of employment, and all participants must be vaccinated against COVID-19 as a condition of enrollment. You can find the complete policy [here](#).

Why are you asking all participants to be vaccinated against COVID-19?

Vaccination is one of the most effective ways to reduce the spread of infectious diseases. Safe and effective vaccines are widely available to protect us against COVID-19, and we remain strongly committed to the safety and well being of our staff, our participants and public health. We believe that taking a proactive approach to mitigating the risks of transmission and infection will help OBC deliver high quality programs in 2022 and beyond.

What vaccines are accepted by OBC?

OBC accepts all vaccines that are approved by [Health Canada](#).

Is the vaccine safe for youth aged 12-18?

Yes. The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for youth, based on its effectiveness and safety profile. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization ([NACI](#)) recommends that a complete series with a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine should be offered to those 12 to 18 years old who do not have any contraindications to the vaccine.

According to [NACI](#), clinical trials showed an excellent ability to protect adolescents 12 to 15 years of age against confirmed COVID-19 illness. After 2 doses, it is estimated that the vaccine will protect somewhere between 75% to 100% of those vaccinated in this age group.

I was diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past. Do I still need to be vaccinated to participate in a program?

Yes. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization states that those who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 should still be vaccinated. Individuals who have tested positive should wait until they have fully recovered before getting vaccinated.



What is considered a valid proof of vaccination status?

Accepted proof of vaccination will differ depending on your home province, but will be limited to government issued paperwork. A screenshot, scan, photocopy or photograph of your proof of vaccination card will be required.

[Alberta](#): Card sized COVID-19 Vaccination Record

[British Columbia](#): BC Vaccine Card

[Manitoba](#): Immunization Card

[New Brunswick](#): Record of COVID-19 Immunization Card

[Newfoundland & Labrador](#): Online COVID-19 Vaccination Record

[Northwest Territories](#): COVID-19 Immunization Record

[Nova Scotia](#): COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination

[Nunavut](#): Vaccination Record Card

[Ontario](#): COVID-19 Vaccine Receipt / Vaccine Certificate

[Prince Edward Island](#): COVID-19 Immunization Record

[Quebec](#): COVID-19 Vaccination Passport

[Saskatchewan](#): COVID-19 Vaccination Record

[Yukon](#): Proof of Vaccination Record

Will OBC provide exemptions to the vaccination policy?

Yes. OBC will grant exemptions to the vaccination policy, on a case by case basis, for medical reasons or other grounds protected under applicable human rights laws.

Will OBC accommodate participants who receive an exemption from the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. OBC is committed to providing exempt individuals with reasonable accommodations, up to the point of undue hardship. Accommodation requests will be handled on a case by case basis. They will typically include COVID-19 testing, in addition to compliance with all other applicable health and safety protocols.

What does undue hardship mean?

The [Canadian Human Rights Commission](#) suggests that there is a reasonable limit to how far an organization or service provider has to go to accommodate someone's needs. They state: "Sometimes accommodation is not possible because it would cost too much, or create health and



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safety risks. This is known as undue hardship. Your employer or service provider can claim undue hardship as the reason why certain policies or practices need to stay in place, even though they may have a negative effect on you.”

How will my private information be protected?

Like all other medical information that OBC collects from participants, all records of vaccination or exemptions will be kept confidential in our encrypted database, and shared only with the appropriate staff at the time of the course.

I will need to apply for an exemption. What should I do?

Exemptions will be considered after the submission of the appropriate exemption form. OBC reserves the right to have the form reviewed internally and will consider exemptions on a case by case basis.

What COVID-19 protocols are in place?

The following protocols are in place during all courses:

OBC COVID-19 Protocols ([link](#))

Courses with exempt participants will follow these additional protocols:

OBC COVID-19 Protocols for Unvaccinated Participants ([link](#))

Where can I learn more about COVID-19 vaccines?

For more information, please visit the [Government of Canada's Ask the Expert Video Series: COVID-19 Vaccine Questions website.](#)