

## **FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre COVID-19 Audience Vaccination Policy**

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### **COVID-19 Vaccination Policy**

The health and safety of our community is a priority. The FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre recognizes the importance of immunization for all. We recognize our heightened duty to protect audiences from health and safety risks during a worldwide pandemic.

This FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre (PAC) Public Vaccination Policy is designed to maximize COVID-19 vaccination rates amongst PAC audiences as one of the critical control measures for the hazards of COVID-19. To this end, members of the public attending a performance or event at the PAC employees, whether attendance is paid or unpaid, are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

### **Purpose**

To help reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, this policy is an important step designed to maximize COVID-19 vaccination rates in our community as a critical control measure that complements other safety measures in place, including passive health screening, mandatory face coverings, physical distancing, and hand hygiene. These measures also serve to protect our employees, artists, and community partners.

### **Scope**

This policy applies to all FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre audience members, visiting members of the public, attendees, guests and patrons, whether access to indoor performances, activities and events is ticketed, complimentary or at no cost. For the purpose of this policy only, reference hereafter to "audience" shall be read to include all of the above.

The PAC also reserves the right to amend the scope of this policy as needed, with minimal notice, to meet changing provincial or federal requirements.

### **Introduction**

Full vaccination has been shown to be effective in reducing COVID-19 virus transmission and protecting vaccinated individuals from severe consequences of COVID-19 and COVID-19 variants including the Delta variant currently circulating in Ontario.

Given the continuing spread of COVID-19, including the Delta variant, within Ontario, the compelling data demonstrating a higher incidence of COVID-19 among the unvaccinated population and the increasing levels of contact between individuals as businesses, services, and activities have reopened, it is important for PAC audiences to be fully vaccinated in order to protect themselves against serious illness from COVID-19 as well as to provide indirect protection to others, including PAC staff and artists.

### **Compliance with Health and Safety Measures**

PAC audiences are expected and required to continue to comply with applicable health and safety measures to reduce the hazard of COVID-19, including, but not limited to, compliance with wearing a mask or face covering, appropriate physical distancing and passive self screening of potential COVID-19 symptoms when attending events, activities and performances at the PAC.

Patrons who attend an indoor event, activity or performance at the PAC are requested to present valid proof that they are fully vaccinated upon entry in combination with a government issued ID. If an existing medical condition prevents an audience member from providing vaccination documentation, patrons should notify us at the time of booking tickets.

It is understood that children under twelve (12) years of age are ineligible to receive a Covid-19 vaccine. For audience members under the age of twelve, or audience members who attend an indoor performance at the PAC with children who are under twelve years of age, the adult patron's proof of vaccination is sufficient for admittance for the child.

### **Medical exemption**

Audience members who cannot receive a vaccine due to medical exemptions will be permitted entry with a physician's or nurse practitioner's note, including whether a medical reason is permanent or time-limited, until the medical exemption can be integrated as part of a digital vaccine certificate. In addition, any audience member who provides written proof of a medical exemption must also provide valid ID and a negative COVID-19 test within the 48 hours leading up to the event, activity or performance.

If an audience member does not provide proof of vaccination or proof of medical exemption upon arrival to the PAC for indoor events, activities and performances, entrance will be denied.

### **Proof of Vaccination**

The PAC requires proof of full vaccination from all audience members, aged twelve and up. Proof means documentation, in digital or hard copy, verifying receipt of a vaccination series approved by the Province of Ontario, Health Canada or the World Health Organization. Fully vaccinated means having received the full series of a COVID-19 vaccine or combination of COVID-19 vaccines approved by World Health Organization or Health Canada (e.g., two doses of a two-dose vaccine series, or one dose of a single-dose vaccine series) and having received the final dose of the COVID-19 vaccine series at least 14 days prior to the indoor event, and as may be amended from time to time (i.e. the approval of a booster).

The PAC will maintain confidentiality of all proof of vaccination documents presented and reviewed. This information will not be kept or stored.

### **Proof of Identification**

Audiences may provide the following as proof of identification to accompany their vaccination documentation of medical exemption documentation:

- Birth certificate
- Citizenship card
- Driver's licence
- Government-issued ID card (Ontario issued or other), including health card
- Indian status card/Indigenous membership card
- Passport
- Permanent resident card

Audiences must acknowledge our vaccination policy at the time of ticket purchase, as well as provide proof of full vaccination with ID at point of entry to the PAC. Patrons will not be able to pre-display or upload proof of vaccination at point of purchase as no data retention will be allowed.

The audience member seeking entry is solely responsible for demonstrating that they are legitimate holders of the vaccination receipt. Audience members will not be permitted to enter the PAC if the name and date of birth on both documents do not match.

### **Ongoing Monitoring and Assessment of COVID-19 Workplace Safety Measures**

The PAC will continue to closely monitor its COVID-19 risk mitigation strategy and the evolving public health information and context, to ensure that it continues to optimally protect the health and safety of our audiences.

### **Compliance**

Audience members who do not comply with this policy will not be permitted to enter the PAC.