

Update on Vaccine Certificates in Ontario

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Over the past few weeks, there have been quite a few announcements about Ontario's vaccine certificates. This article is a collection of the most recent news to help you stay up to date! [Click here](#) to read frequently asked questions about them.

Starting Friday, October 22, the province will start to use vaccine certificates, which will be a QR code on your phone that employees can scan.* Until then, as of Wednesday, September 22, everyone who wants to enter businesses will need to show its employees the receipt for their second dose.* You can print your vaccine receipt and show them the paper copy, or you can show the electronic version on your smartphone or tablet.* Another option is "a receipt signed by an Indigenous health provider or a receipt from another jurisdiction."*

It's also mandatory to show one form of government-issued ID, which could be: a driver's license, health card, birth certificate, citizenship card, passport, or Indian Status card.* Your ID does not need to have a photo.* Employees of these businesses will look at your second dose receipt and your ID to check that your name and date of birth are the same.*

I don't remember where I put my vaccine receipt. Where can I get another one?

Click [here](#) to download your vaccine receipt, or if you prefer to talk to someone on the phone, call the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line at 1-833-943-3900. If you want to correct or change information on your proof of vaccination, contact your local public health unit. Click [here](#) to find your public health unit and learn how to contact them.

Does everyone have to do this? Are there exceptions?

Yes, there are some exceptions! You don't need to show proof of vaccination if you are younger than 12 years old or if you can't get vaccinated for medical reasons.*

The province recently confirmed that it only accepts two medical reasons for not getting vaccinated: an allergic reaction to a component of the vaccine (which must be confirmed by an allergist or immunologist) and anyone who experienced myocarditis or pericarditis (types of heart inflammation) after they got the first dose of a vaccine.*

If you have one of these health conditions, you still need to show employees of businesses that you want to enter a piece of government-issued ID and a written document from a health practitioner that says you have a medical reason to not get the vaccine.* The digital vaccine certificate that's coming on October 22 will be designed to include medical exemptions.*

You will need proof of vaccination to go to these places:

- Restaurants and bars (not including outdoor patios)*
- Nightclubs (including outdoor areas)*
- Meeting and event spaces, such as banquet halls and conference/convention centres*
- Facilities used for sports and fitness activities and personal fitness training, such as gyms, fitness, and recreational facilities (not including youth recreational sport)*
- Sporting events*
- Indoor areas of waterparks*
- Indoor areas of commercial film and TV productions with studio audiences*
- Casinos, bingo halls and gaming establishments*
- Concerts, music festivals, theatres, and cinemas*
- Strip clubs, bathhouses, and sex clubs*
- Racing venues*

You will not need proof of vaccination to go to these places:

- Places where you can vote in the federal election on Monday*
- Places where you can access necessary medical care, basic medical supplies, or other essentials*
- Grocery stores*
- Outdoor settings, including patios (not including outdoor spaces at nightclubs)*
- Takeaway and delivery services from restaurants and bars*
- Retail shopping*
- Banks*
- Salons and barbershops*
- Places of worship (such as churches, temples, mosques, gurdwaras, and more)*
- Weddings, funeral services, rites, or ceremonies. However, you can't attend any associated social gatherings or receptions that are inside of a meeting or event space. The only exception is if these social gatherings are being held in a business licensed under the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2022. Between September 22 and October 12, the province says that unvaccinated people can go to an indoor social gathering that is part of a wedding or funeral if they tested negatively on an antigen COVID-19 test maximum 48 hours before the event.*

You don't need to show proof of vaccination if going inside is necessary to your health and safety.* Unvaccinated people can also go inside businesses to: use the washroom, purchase something, buy admission, or pay for an order (including to bet on horses and collect winnings from horse racing).* Also, you don't need to show proof of vaccination if you are going to an outdoor area that can only be accessed by temporarily going inside.*

Another very specific exception is anyone younger than 18 years old who is going inside of a building that is only used for sports and recreational facilities.* However, they are only allowed to go inside to participate in an organized sport.*

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If you think you may be experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, take the self-assessment at www.ontario.ca/coronavirus. Follow all directions from your medical provider or your local health unit at the following phone numbers:

Telehealth Ontario: 1-866-797-0000

Toronto Public Health: 416-338-7600

Peel Public Health: 905-799-7700

Durham Region Health Department: 905-668-7711

York Region Public Health: 1-877-464-9675