



STAFF REPORT

Title: Facility COVID-19 Restriction Exemption Program

Meeting Date: September 28, 2021

Executive Summary:

On September 15 2021, the Government of Alberta and the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) announced new temporary health actions to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on the health care system. In the announcement, CMOH advised that, beginning on September 20th, certain facilities and businesses must either:

1. Implement the Restrictions Exemption Program requiring proof of vaccination or negative test result, plus mandatory masking, to continue operating as usual, or
2. Comply with all public health restrictions as outlined in Order 42-2021.

It has been the City of Cold Lake's objective to balance health restrictions as set out by the CMOH and accessibility to the City's programs and services. The City of Cold Lake's current plans do not include implementing the Restrictions Exemption Program, except in specific circumstances such as sporting events which cannot occur unless the Restrictions Exemption Program is in place.

Based on the above, administration is of the opinion that it has implemented the "minimum" requirements to comply with the CMOH Order(s).

During Council Corporate Priorities Committee on September 21, 2021, Council raised the following concerns:

1. The interpretation of the CMOH Order(s) as it relates to Senior's Hockey; and
2. Concerns on whether some of the programs, services and/or facilities themselves should be implemented under the Province of Alberta's Restrictions Exemption Program due to concerns being raised by the public.

The background of this report provides a summary of the implementation of the COVID-19 restrictions within the higher profile facilities. Based on Council's review of the restrictions and concerns being raised by the community, Council may provide direction to increase the COVID-19 restrictions at the various facilities including the application of the Restrictions Exemption Program through all applicable facilities (as mandatory).



Further to the above, it is understood the some business have chosen to implement the Province of Alberta's Restrictions Exemption Program while others have are not for their own reasons. It should be noted that the issue has once again become divisive and has polarizing views. Administration has already received several concerns on both sides of the perspective. We would like to confirm that the discussion is a very emotional subject.

It is understood that the City of Calgary recently ratified a municipal COVID-19 Vaccine Passport Bylaw to remove the discretion of Vaccine Passports and applying it all "in-scope" businesses and municipal facilities. The following is a link to the news article relating to the recent decision of the Calgary City Council:

<https://globalnews.ca/news/8212300/calgary-city-council-covid-19-vaccine-verification-bylaw/>

A copy of the bylaw has been attached for reference purposes.

At this time, the City of Cold Lake will not be taking or retaining any medical information including lists of names and vaccination statuses.

It should also be noted that outdoor activities can continue with no restrictions.

It is administration's interpretation that the new temporary health actions are intended to restrict non-essential services to encourage vaccinations.

Background:

It should be noted that the CMOH Order 42-2021 was not posted to the Alberta.ca website until September 19, 2021. Further this order the CMOH has also released a new order on September 21, 2021 referred to as Order 43-2021. Both orders have been attached for reference purposes.

The following provides a summary of the implementation of the COVID-19 restrictions within the higher-profile city facilities, and is considered by administration to be the minimum requirements to comply with the CMOH Order(s).

CITY HALL

Council Chambers

- The primary location of public gathering in City Hall is the Council Chambers (as a meeting space with the framework of the Order 42-2021 and Order 43-2021. Administration has implemented Indoor Masking Program (Order 42-2021) - limit to 1/3 capacity.



COLD LAKE ENERGY CENTRE

In accordance to the CMOH, the following amenities at the Energy Centre are operating under the conditions as stated:

Hallways and Concourses:

- Concourses will operate at one-third fire code capacity with mandatory masks and 2-metre physical distancing required.

Cenovus Wellness Centre:

- The Cenovus Wellness Centre will continue to operate at one-third of the fire code capacity (~45 people at a time).
- Solo fitness activities can continue with 3-metre physical distancing (coaches and instructors exempted).
- Masks are not required when participating in physical activity but should be worn at all other times.
- Any adult fitness classes must conform to Restrictions Exemption Program in accordance to the health restrictions.

Imperial Oil Place (Youth Sport, Fitness and Performance activities):

- Indoor group classes, training, and competitions are permitted, but participants are required to:
 - ✓ screen for symptoms
 - ✓ maintain 2 metres distancing, except youth while engaged in physical activity
 - ✓ wear a mask, except youth while engaged in physical activity
- Spectator attendance is restricted to 1/3 fire code capacity, attendees are limited to a single household or 2 close contacts if living alone and must be masked and maintain 2 metres physical distancing.

Imperial Oil Place (Non-Youth Sport, Fitness and Performance activities):

- Indoor Non-Youth sport, fitness and performance activities must conform to Restrictions Exemption Program in accordance to the health restrictions this includes its spectators.

2nd Arena (Youth Sport, Fitness and Performance activities):

- Indoor group classes, training, and competitions are permitted, but participants are required to:
 - ✓ screen for symptoms
 - ✓ maintain 2 metres distancing, except youth while engaged in physical activity
 - ✓ wear a mask, except youth while engaged in physical activity
- Spectator attendance is restricted to 1/3 fire code capacity, attendees are limited



to a single household or 2 close contacts if living alone and must be masked and maintain 2 metres physical distancing.

2nd Arena (Non-Youth Sport, Fitness and Performance activities):

- Indoor Non-Youth sport, fitness and performance activities must conform to Restrictions Exemption Program in accordance to the health restrictions this includes its spectators.

Reid Field House (Youth Sport, Fitness and Performance activities):

- Indoor group classes, training, and competitions are permitted, but participants are required to:
 - ✓ screen for symptoms
 - ✓ maintain 2 metres distancing, except youth while engaged in physical activity
 - ✓ wear a mask, except youth while engaged in physical activity
- Spectator attendance is restricted to 1/3 fire code capacity, attendees are limited to a single household or 2 close contacts if living alone and must be masked and maintain 2 metres physical distancing.

Reid Field House (Non-Youth Sport, Fitness and Performance activities)

- Indoor Non-Youth sport, fitness and performance activities must conform to Restrictions Exemption Program in accordance to the health restrictions this includes its spectators.

Rock Climbing Wall (Non-Youth Sport, Fitness and Performance activities)

- **Develop two (2) separate time slots / dates:**
 - Youth (Under 18) - Indoor Masking Program (Order 42-2021) - limit to 1/3 capacity
 - Adult (18+) - Restrictions Exemption Program (Order 43-2021)
- Set capacity at 9 people (climbers and supervisors combined) + staff

CNRL Walking Track

- The CNRL Walking Track will continue to operate at one-third capacity.

Larger Events

- The City of Cold Lake has cancelled its Bounce House and Nerf War Days until further notice.
- Remembrance Day (No Decision made by DND)
- Christmas Parade and After Event (Pending Health Restrictions)
- Farmer's Markets (Energy Centre Hallways and Concourse Provisions noted above)



NORTH ARENA

North Arena (Youth Sport, Fitness and Performance activities):

- Indoor group classes, training, and competitions are permitted, but participants are required to:
 - ✓ screen for symptoms
 - ✓ maintain 2 metres distancing, except youth while engaged in physical activity
 - ✓ wear a mask, except youth while engaged in physical activity
- Spectator attendance is restricted to 1/3 fire code capacity, attendees are limited to a single household or 2 close contacts if living alone and must be masked and maintain 2 metres physical distancing.

North Arena (Non-Youth Sport, Fitness and Performance activities):

- Indoor Non-Youth sport, fitness and performance activities must conform to Restrictions Exemption Program in accordance to the health restrictions this includes its spectators.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICE CENTRE

FCSS – Classrooms

- Youth (Under 18) Programs - Indoor Masking Program (Order 42-2021) - limit to 1/3 capacity (~20-25 people at a time)
- Adult (18+) - Restrictions Exemption Program (Order 43-2021)

FCSS - Loft Youth Centre

- Youth (Under 18) Programs - Indoor Masking Program (Order 42-2021) - limit to 1/3 capacity (~6 people at a time)

FCSS - Family Connections Centre

- Parents under 18 Programs - Indoor Masking Program (Order 42-2021) - limit to 1/3 capacity (~20-25 person maximum capacity):
 - If a program is specifically designed for youth under 18 – parents do not have to be vaccinated
 - Parents can attend programs meant primarily for infants/children/youth to pick up or provide supervision as in Family Connections
 - Parents MUST remain 2 metres apart unless they are part of a cohort
- Adult Parents and Individuals (18+) Programming - - Restrictions Exemption Program (Order 43-2021)

Special Transportation Services

- Essential Service - This service will operation at 1/3 capacity – 4 passengers maximum.

Kitchen – Cooking Classes and Programing:



- Youth (Under 18) Programs - Indoor Masking Program (Order 42-2021) - limit to 1/3 capacity
- Adult (18+) - Restrictions Exemption Program (Order 43-2021)

Counselling Services Meeting Rooms

- Essential Service Adult (18+) - Indoor Masking Program (Order 42-2021)
- Essential service Youth (Under 18) - Indoor Masking Program (Order 42-2021)

Large Upcoming Events:

1. National Family Week – Cancelled
2. Cold Lake Interagency – Virtual Meeting and Presentations
3. Grief and Loss Support Group – may move forward with proof of vaccination and being 2 meters distanced at 1/3 capacity (likely 6 persons maximum)

On a final note, administration would like to point out that regardless of the above and any further implementation of restrictions, proof of vaccination is not required to enter a polling place and cast a ballot for election purposes.

It should also be noted that the Restrictions Exemption Program does not exempt programs, services, and/or facilities from masking requirements (exempt those exemptions in the orders).

The following has been attached as appendices to this report:

1. Appendix A – CMOH Order 42-2021
2. Appendix B – CMOH Order 43-2021
3. Appendix C – Summary of Restrictions Exemption Program
4. Appendix D – Summary of In-Scope Businesses, Operators, and Entities
5. Appendix E - Summary of Out-of-Scope Businesses, Operators, and Entities
6. Appendix F – City of Calgary Bylaw No. CG-07-03
7. Appendix G – Cold Lake Region Active COVID-19 Statistics

Alternatives:

Council may consider the following options:

- Council may pass a motion supporting the existing measures being implemented by administration in order to comply with the Province of Alberta's - Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) Order No. 42-2021 and No. 43-2021.
- Council may pass a motion directing administration to implement the Province of Alberta's – Restriction Exemption Program for all facilities accessed by the public in accordance to Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) Order No. 42-2021 and No. 43-2021.
- Council may pass a motion directing administration to implement the Province of Alberta's – Restriction Exemption Program for "specified" programs, facilities, and/or services as deemed necessary by City Council.



- Council may pass a motion directing administration to prepare a COVID-19 Passport Bylaw for Council's consideration.

Recommended Action:

That Council pass a motion supporting the existing measuring being implemented by Administration in order to comply with the Province of Alberta's - Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) Order No. 42-2021 and Order No. 43-2021.

Budget Implications (Yes or No):

Pending expectations on restrictions, level of monitoring and enforcement.

Submitted by:

Kevin Nagoya, Chief Administrative Officer