

Aligned with provincial regulations, proof of vaccination no longer required at City-owned facilities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 28, 2022

Welland, ON – Effective March 1, the City of Welland is removing the requirement for proof of vaccination to enter City facilities previously requiring a passport. This decision is in line with the province’s next phase of reopening.

Mask mandates remain in place, and physical distancing is encouraged. The health and safety of employees, visitors, and the general public are the main priorities stressed in all City facilities.

“We have followed every guideline and procedure to date and in doing so have been able to keep our facilities open, when possible,” said Adam Eckhart, fire chief and CEMC. “With the province’s announcement and the Region’s updated instructions, we are pleased to take this next step in welcoming guests to our facilities.”

Self-screening is still required, and anyone who fails the screening is reminded to follow public health protocols for the appropriate next steps.

City facilities are now operating at full capacity under the lifted restrictions, and, though not required, appointments and pre-registration are encouraged. Since learning of the ease of restrictions, City staff have prepared for the changes, though patience and kindness as the next phase take effect is supported. However, with varying comfort levels with the eased restrictions, many remain vulnerable or are at a higher risk of infection.

The City of Welland will monitor the impacts of these changes on its operations and adjust processes accordingly. As we advance, let’s be kind and understanding when interacting with those who may have differing levels of concern about their ongoing risk from the pandemic.

Niagara Region Public Health remains available for information and to answer questions. Anyone with questions or concerns can contact them by visiting niagararegion.ca/COVID19 or calling the COVID-19 Info-Line Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. at 905-688-8248, press 7 or toll-free at 1-888-505-6074.

-30-

For media inquiries, please contact:

Marc MacDonald

Corporate Communications Manager

905-735-1700 x2337

marc.macdonald@welland.ca