

COVID 19



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The following is a resource to assist parents, families, and interested parties to understand our approach to cheer programming during COVID 19. This plan does not replace Ontario government regulations and will be amended in accordance with provincial guidelines. Muskoka Elite has liaised and consulted with additional resources which include, but are not limited to, the following to organizations in developing this document:

- Provincial Legislation
- Simcoe Muskoka Health Unit
- Ontario Cheer Federation
- Cheer Canada
- Axel Insurance
- Barriston Law Group

CURRENT SITUATION

As of July 2021, most restrictions for organized sport in Ontario were lifted. Specifically, requirements surrounding masking, distancing, and restrictions on body contact in sport were removed. We look forward to enjoying cheerleading this season in a manner that is as close to normal as possible. Ontario's event producers have signalled their intent to run competitions normally while acknowledging the possibility that capacity limits and vaccine passports could impact event formats and flow. As details become available from our event partners, we will communicate with the Muskoka Elite Family. As always Muskoka Elite remains committed to providing quality sport programming in a safe and inclusive environment for all.

VACCINES

Muskoka Elite enthusiastically and unabashedly encourages families and the broader community to get vaccinated. We are lucky to live in an era where science and technology have afforded us a safe, effective solution to the pandemic. The science is strong that mRNA vaccines are effective in reducing COVID symptoms and severe outcomes in infected patients. Muskoka Elite families can protect themselves, our program, our economy and protect our healthcare system by choosing to get vaccinated immediately. Vaccines are our best pathway forward to see the world return to normal and our best pathway to keep cheerleading and organized sport accessible to kids. Please get vaccinated.

PROOF OF VACCINATION

Ontario has introduced an [amendment to the Reopening Ontario \(A Flexible Response to Covid-19\) Act, 2020](#) which will limit access to non-essential services for unvaccinated individuals in Ontario. Please consult the table below to understand where and when proof of vaccination may be required while participating in cheerleading in Ontario this season. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to gym management directly at info@muskokaelite.com.

Athletes attending all star team practices	No proof of vaccination no required
Athletes attending prep team practices	No proof of vaccination no required

Athletes attending recreational cheer team practices	No proof of vaccination no required
Athletes attending tumbling classes	No proof of vaccination no required
Athletes attended Crunch Time Critique	No proof of vaccination no required
Athletes attending Spirit of Muskoka	No proof of vaccination no required
Spectators ages 12+ attending Spirit of Muskoka	Proof of vaccination required
Athletes 11 and younger attending competitions	No proof of vaccination no required
Athletes ages 12+ attending competitions	Proof of vaccination required
Spectators ages 12+ attending competitions	Proof of vaccination required

Shooting Stars and Storm Team Members

Based on current legislation and statements from event producers, all members of Shooting Stars and Storm who are 12 years or older during the 2021/2022 season will need to submit proof of vaccination to participate at competitions this year. Therefore, families will be asked to submit proof of vaccination to Muskoka Elite by October 15, 2021 to confirm they are eligible to participate at competitions. Team members who cannot furnish proof of vaccination may be re-accommodated to a recreational cheer team. Please contact info@musakokaelite.com if this is of concern to your family.

Parents Attending Competitions

Families who plan to attend competitions as spectators should be prepared to provide proof of vaccination upon arrival at each event. Based on current legislation and official statements from event producers, unvaccinated spectators will not be permitted to enter competitions. Please take this into consideration when choosing to proceed with Muskoka Elite's competitive program this season.

Need for Reasonable Accommodation

Muskoka Elite is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and inclusive environment for all families. Ontario's new proof of vaccination legislation is intended to reduce the risk of COVID exposure to unvaccinated individuals by limiting their access to non-essential, close-contact settings. However, despite there existing strong protections in Ontario case law and Canadian human rights legislation for immunization objection, Ontario's vaccine passport program has no provision for reasonable accommodation for individuals with the following barriers to immunization:

1. Religious persuasion
2. Creed
3. Conscientious objection

Muskoka Elite urges the Ontario Government to allow for reasonable accommodation, as seen in other provinces, for individuals who object to vaccination on a conscientious basis.

Such accommodations may include:

1. Regular PCR testing in lieu of proof of vaccination
2. Regular rapid antigen testing in lieu of proof of vaccination

*Note, both remedies are currently available to unvaccinated teachers across Ontario in lieu of vaccination and are features of passport programs seen in other provinces.

The decision to undergo any medical intervention is a matter of conscience and as such should be left to individuals to make in conjunction with their loved ones and family doctors. Any government attempting to limit the freedom of movement, freedom of assembly, or freedom of commerce of its citizens based on matters of conscience repeats the worst mistakes of the 20th century. Muskoka Elite urges its provincial government to amend its legislation to include reasonable accommodation clauses. Families who

share these concerns should write to our local MPP, Norm Miller, at norm.miller@pc.ola.org.

COVID REFUND POLICY

We hope for an uninterrupted season and have planned our program to that end. Absent a government shut down, Muskoka Elite will uphold the payment and refund policy outlined in our Program Handbook on page 12. In the event of a government shutdown, Muskoka Elite will provide refunds to our families as follows:

Tuitions (teams and classes)	Tuition payments will pause in the event of a shut down and resume when programming reopens. Unused tuition will be credited to future tuition payments once programming resumes.
Program fees	Refunds and credits will be offered on program fees based on two criteria: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Funds not remitted to vendors will be refunded directly to families 2. Funds remitted to vendors will be subject to that vendor's credit/refund position. Any refunds or credits offered by the vendor will be transferred directly to our customers.

PROTOCOLS & GUIDELINES

The following protocols are in place at Muskoka Elite in accordance with relevant legislation and Ontario Cheer Federation guidance.

Maximum Occupancy	Muskoka Elite will limit participation to 50 or less participants based on 50% of the building's posted capacity.
Masking	Adults and participants entering and exiting the building should wear face coverings. Individuals participating in sport are not required to wear masks while in the main hall for classes and practices. Individuals may wear masks in classes and practices if they choose.
Athlete Screening	Participants should refrain from attending practices and classes if they or members of their household exhibit any COVID symptoms. Registered members will have their attendance recorded in Muskoka Elite's registration system at the beginning of each practice. Members understand that by being recorded present, they affirm they have no covid symptoms. Attendance records will be kept on file for a minimum of 30 days. Muskoka Elite reserves the right to digitally read athletes' temperatures at any time and to inquire about their personal health as needed if illness is suspected.
Distancing	Physical distancing should be maintained while entering and exiting the building. This applies to participants, parents and staff. Physical distancing is not required of individuals during classes and practices. Parents should refrain from spectating and should only enter the building on an as-needed basis.
Body Contact	Body contact in sport is permitted during classes and practices.
Cleaning and Sanitizing	The Rotary Centre is cleaned and sanitized after each use. Training aids, door handles, washrooms, foyer, tables, chairs, and all other high-touch surfaces are cleaned and sanitized prior to Muskoka Elite's use of the building each day. Tumbling equipment is sanitized regularly. Carpet bonded foam mats are disinfected regularly per manufacturer specifications.
Personal Cleanliness	Participants, parents and staff are encouraged to wash hands regularly in the bathrooms and hand sanitizer is available.