

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: January 5, 2022

Restriction Exemption Program (REP)

The health and safety of our residents, visitors, and staff is our top priority. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, the City of Medicine Hat continues to make responsible decisions to limit the spread of COVID-19, and to support our community, in accordance with Government of Alberta requirements.

The below FAQ is a summary of relevant Government of Alberta COVID-19 requirements in place at City REP Facilities. For a full description of the Government of Alberta requirements, see the Government of Alberta website at: <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-public-health-actions.aspx>.

This information is subject to change.

Visit www.medicinehat.ca/covid19 for the most current information.

1. Is the City of Medicine Hat implementing the Government of Alberta's Restriction Exemption Program (REP) at some City-owned facilities?

Yes, the City is implementing the REP at some of its facilities (City REP Facilities) in order to continue to offer certain indoor sport, recreation, or performance activities for youth and adults while taking reasonable steps to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in accordance with Government of Alberta requirements.

2. Which facilities are City REP Facilities?

The following facilities are included in the REP:

- Big Marble Go Centre - Effective 6:00 a.m. on Friday, October 1, 2021
- Co-op Place - Effective 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 23, 2021
- Esplanade Arts & Heritage Centre - Effective 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 28, 2021
- Kinplex - Effective 6:00 a.m. on Friday, October 1, 2021
- Hockey Hounds Rec Centre – Effective 6:00 a.m. on Monday, November 1, 2021

3. What can I expect when I arrive at a City REP Facility?

When you arrive at the facility, you will be greeted by a City REP Facility Screener at the facility point of entry. Please allow for additional time when arriving and have all necessary documentation ready to provide to the City REP Facility Screener.

DO NOT ENTER THE FACILITY UNLESS YOU HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO DO SO BY THE CITY REP FACILITY SCREENER: Every attendee, patron, visitor, customer, facility user,

spectator, or activity participant, regardless of age, is prohibited from entering the facility unless they have been authorized to do so by the City REP Facility Screener at the time of their entry. For the purpose of this requirement, to “enter the facility” means to go into the portions of the facility that are located beyond the facility point of entry where the City REP Facility Screener is stationed. Medicine Hat Police Service will be notified, and legal action may be taken, if any contravention of this requirement occurs or is suspected to have occurred.

4. What requirements apply to children under 12 years of age at a City REP Facility?

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Children under 12 years of age at a City REP Facility are required to:

- not enter the facility unless authorized to do so by the City REP Facility Screener.
- not enter the facility if:
 - they are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, shortness of breath, etc.); or
 - they have tested positive for COVID-19 within the previous 10 days;
- If the child is at least 2 years of age, the child must wear a face mask covering their nose, mouth and chin at all times while inside the facility, except:
 - while participating in a sport, recreation, or performance activity; or
 - where another Government of Alberta masking exemption applies;
- Maintain physical distancing, except while participating in a sport, recreation, or performance activity.

5. What requirements apply to youth between 12 and 17 years of age who are PARTICIPATING in a sport, recreation, or performance activity at a City REP Facility?

Youth between 12 and 17 years of age who are participating in a sport, recreation, or performance activity at a City REP Facility are required to:

- not enter the facility unless authorized to do so by the City REP Facility Screener.
- not enter the facility if:
 - they are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, etc.); or
 - they have tested positive for COVID-19 within the previous 10 days;
- wear a face mask covering their nose, mouth and chin at all times while inside the facility, except:
 - while participating in a sport, recreation, or performance activity; or
 - where another Government of Alberta masking exemption applies;
- maintain physical distancing, except while participating in a sport, recreation, or performance activity.

NOTE: Youth between 12 and 17 years of age who are actively participating in a sport, recreation, or performance activity at a City REP Facility are not required to provide proof of vaccination, negative test result or medical exemption letter. However, before going from participating in any sport, recreation, or performance activity to being a spectator, patron, etc., youth between 12 and 17 years of age are required to first return to the facility point of entry, provide proof of vaccination, negative test result or medical exemption letter to the City REP Facility Screener, and comply with all other requirements that apply to youth who are NOT participating in a sport, recreation, or performance activity at a City REP Facility (see Question 6 below).

6. What requirements apply to youth between 12 and 17 years of age who are NOT PARTICIPATING in a sport, recreation, or performance activity at a City REP Facility?

Youth between 12 and 17 years of age who are not participating in a sport, recreation, or performance activity (e.g., spectators, other visitors, etc.) at a City REP Facility are required to:

- not enter the facility unless authorized to do so by the City REP Facility Screener.
- not enter the facility if they:
 - are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, etc.); or

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- have tested positive for COVID-19 within the previous 10 days;
- not enter the facility without providing one of the following to the City REP Facility Screener, in accordance with Government of Alberta requirements:
 - proof of COVID-19 vaccination:
 - From September 20 to November 15, proof of vaccination must be provided using either:
 - valid paper or digital vaccine record that shows name, vaccine type and date of vaccine administration; or
 - valid QR code issued by Alberta Health or equivalent healthcare authority as authorized by Government of Alberta from time to time (see <https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid19-proof-of-vaccination-samples.pdf>);
 - After November 15, proof of vaccination must be provided using valid QR code issued by Alberta Health;
 - From September 20 to October 25, proof of partial vaccination (one dose) is acceptable if the dose was given not less than 2 weeks prior to entering the facility;
 - After October 25, proof of full vaccination is required, with the final dose not less than 2 weeks prior to entering the facility;
 - proof of negative privately-paid COVID-19 test result from a sample taken within the prior 72 hours (i.e., written or printed copy of valid laboratory test result; photographs of test results, used tests, and self-tests are not acceptable); or
 - an original (non-copied) valid medical exemption letter;
- wear a face mask covering their nose, mouth and chin at all times while inside the facility, except where a Government of Alberta masking exemption applies.

7. What requirements apply to adults (i.e., at least 18 years of age) at a City REP Facility?

All adults at City REP Facilities are required to:

- not enter the facility beyond unless authorized to do so by the City REP Facility Screener.
- not enter the facility if they:
 - are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, etc.); or
 - have tested positive for COVID-19 within the previous 10 days;
- not enter the facility without providing the following to the City REP Facility Screener, in accordance with Government of Alberta requirements:
 - a valid personal identification document displaying name and date of birth (examples of a valid document include a birth certificate, citizenship card, driver's license, provincial or territorial government issued identification card, such as a provincial health card, Metis card, Treaty card, Inuit Status card or passport, and does NOT include a library card, or a municipally-issued facility membership card. Personal identification documents must be original. Photocopies, photos, images or other reproductions of personal identification documents are not acceptable); and
 - one of the following:
 - proof of COVID-19 vaccination:

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- From September 20 to November 15, proof of vaccination must be provided using either:
 - valid paper or digital vaccine record that shows name, vaccine type and date of vaccine administration; or
 - valid QR code issued by Alberta Health or equivalent healthcare authority as authorized by Government of Alberta from time to time (see <https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid19-proof-of-vaccination-samples.pdf>);
- After November 15, proof of vaccination must be provided using valid QR code issued by Alberta Health;
- From September 20 to October 25, proof of partial vaccination (one dose) is acceptable if the dose was given not less than 2 weeks prior to entering the facility;
- After October 25, proof of full vaccination is required, with the final dose not less than 2 weeks prior to entering the facility;
- proof of negative privately-paid COVID-19 test result from a sample taken within the prior 72 hours (i.e., a written or printed copy of valid laboratory test result - photographs of test results, used tests, and self-tests are not acceptable); or
- an original (non-copied) valid medical exemption letter;
- wear a face mask covering their nose, mouth and chin at all times while inside the facility, except where a Government of Alberta masking exemption applies.

8. I am an adult and I want to take my youth or child to an activity at a City REP Facility (e.g. bringing a 4-year-old to swimming lessons at Big Marble Go Centre). Do I need to be screened before entering the City REP Facility?

Yes, all City REP Facility requirements that apply to adults at least 18 years of age would apply to you (i.e., you must not enter unless you are authorized to do so, you must not enter if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, you must provide valid personal identification together with proof of vaccination, negative test result or medical exemption letter, to the City REP Facility Screener, and you must wear a face mask except where a Government of Alberta masking exemption applies).

Anyone accompanying children into the facility will be subject to the screening requirements.

9. I am an adult and I want to watch my child's lesson and/or assist in the change room and/or take them to their lesson at a City REP Facility. Do I need to be screened before entering the City REP Facility?

Yes, all City REP Facility requirements that apply to adults at least 18 years of age would apply to you (i.e., you must not enter unless you are authorized to do so, you must not enter if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, you must provide valid personal identification together with proof of vaccination, negative test result or medical exemption letter, to the City REP Facility Screener, and you must wear a face mask except where a Government of Alberta masking exemption applies).

Anyone accompanying children into the facility will be subject to the screening requirements.

10. I am an adult and a coach/volunteer for my child's hockey team. Do I need to be screened before entering the City REP Facility?

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Yes, all City REP Facility requirements that apply to adults at least 18 years of age would apply to you (i.e., you must not enter unless you are authorized to do so, you must not enter if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, you must provide valid personal identification together with proof of vaccination, negative test result or medical exemption letter, to the City REP Facility Screener, and you must wear a face mask except where a Government of Alberta masking exemption applies).

11. Do people who have provided valid proof of vaccine, negative test result or medical exemption letter have to wear a face mask?

Yes, face masks are mandatory in all public indoor spaces, except where a Government of Alberta masking exemption applies.

12. I have prepaid to attend at or use a City REP Facility but I do not wish to attend or use the facility. Am I eligible to apply for a partial refund?

Customers that have prepaid to use or attend a City REP Facility, and who are unable to, or no longer wish to, attend a City REP Facility, may be eligible to receive a refund of their pre-paid fees on a prorated basis. To apply for a refund, please write to recreation@medicinehat.ca, providing full particulars, or call 403-502-8566.

13. Do any restrictions apply to outdoor activities?

Yes, individuals participating in outdoor activities must physically distance, and must comply with any other applicable Government of Alberta requirements.

Individuals participating in outdoor activities who wish to enter City-owned indoor amenities (e.g., washrooms and change rooms) that are located inside a City REP Facility are subject all of the above City REP Facility requirements.

Individuals participating in outdoor activities who wish to enter City-owned indoor amenities that are NOT located inside a City REP Facility are subject physical distancing, masking and any other applicable Government of Alberta requirements.

14. Am I allowed to have a private social gathering in a REP facility (at the Kin Social Room or the Hockey Hounds Banquet Room)?

Indoor social gatherings can occur under the following restrictions:

- Vaccinated: Indoor private social gatherings are limited to 2 households (yours plus one other) up to a maximum of 10 vaccine-eligible, vaccinated people and no restrictions on children under 12.
- Unvaccinated: Indoor social gatherings are not permitted for vaccine-eligible people who are unvaccinated.

For full details, visit: <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-public-health-actions.aspx> (under Social gatherings - indoor and outdoor)

15. Are staff working in a City REP facility required to show proof of vaccination, negative test or medical exemption?

Staff working in City REP facilities are exempt from participating in the REP program as stipulated by the Government of Alberta. The City is actively encouraging all staff to get vaccinated. All staff are required to refrain from entering the workplace if they are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms or have tested positive for COVID-19 within the

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previous 10 days. Staff also are required to adhere to masking, physical distancing and any other applicable Government of Alberta requirements.

Please note: At-home rapid test kits cannot be used for the Restriction Exemption Program. Unvaccinated people must pay to obtain proof of a negative test through a private vendor or pharmacy to gain admission to a City REP Facility.