

Tourism, Heritage & Culture – Sport & Recreation Branch

GNB COVID-19 WINTER PLAN - INTERIM MEASURES FOR SPORT AND RECREATION

The current [interim level measures](#) for recreation and organized sport activities announced by the Government of New Brunswick on December 13, 2021 remain in effect. Under the [Mandatory Order](#), organized sports and all other organized activities for children under 12 are not permitted. Please note that this guidance is currently under review.

The situation is fluid and the information changes regularly. The onus is on each organization to understand the restrictions set out by the Province as well as the recommendations and requirements by Public Health and the Guidelines for New Brunswick Workplaces issued by WorkSafe NB.

The current [interim measures](#) for recreation and organized sport activities remain in effect with the recreation and sport system continuing to offer opportunities for those 12 and older (physically distanced practices/training within a single team) and organized activities for children under 12 continue are not permitted.

Please note that this guidance is currently under review.

We look forward to New Brunswickers of all ages returning to sport as soon as possible and we will share updates as soon as they are available.

Thank you for your patience and dedication to providing opportunities wherever feasible.

Contact Tracing and Isolation

Ressources: https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/promo/covid-19/contact_tracing.html

- Household contacts of individuals who have tested positive either with a rapid POCT or PCR lab-based test MUST isolate and cannot attend organized sport and recreation activities for 10 days after a positive test regardless of vaccination status. After 10 days, an individual must be fever-free for at least 24 hours without using fever-reducing medications before attending any organized sport and recreation activities.
- An individual who tests positive is required to notify all people who they were in close contact with 48 hours before that person developed symptoms, OR 48 hours before that person tested positive (whichever came first).
- Close contacts of individuals who have tested positive must self monitor for symptoms for 10 days regardless of vaccination status and if close contacts develop any symptoms, immediately cease participation in activities and complete the [online assessment form to get tested](#).
- Public Health will no longer be notifying sport organizations of exposures. A person who tests positive is required to notify their close contacts including sport contacts when applicable who should then follow public health instructions.

Interim Measures for participants age 12 and over (includes adults):

- Sport competitions/games are suspended.
- Physically distanced practices/training is permitted involving only a single team at a time with an operational plan
 - A “single team” is defined as a group having no physical interaction with another group. For example, if the space allows for it, two teams can be on the same playing surface for their practice as long as they do not interact with each other. The size of the group should be determined based on the ability to maintain 2m physical distancing during practice.
- Proof of vaccination (2 doses) or proof of medical exemption is required for everyone 12 years and over for all indoor sport and recreation activities.
- There are currently no travel restrictions for sport and recreation in the GNB mandatory order. Everyone is advised to limit travel within the Province where possible and travelling outside of the Province is not recommended at this time. For more information on travel: <https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/eco-bce/Promo/covid-19/holiday-travel-recommendations-covid.pdf>

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Interim Measures for children under the age of 12:

- The current temporary measures for recreation and organized sport activities announced by the Government of New Brunswick on December 13, 2021 remain in effect during Level 2 of the Winter Plan. Under the Mandatory Order, organized sports and all other organized activities for children under 12 are not permitted, regardless of vaccination status, except those in early childhood education centres. Please note that this guidance is currently under review.
- Day camps or sport camps outside of a recognized early childhood education centre are not permitted

Further clarifications

Children under age 12 are allowed to accompany a parent and/or guardian to venues where proof of vaccination or proof of medical exemption is required such as accompanying their family to a ski hill, a public skate or public swim, provided that they are not a participant in any organized activity prohibited under paragraph 33 of the [Mandatory Order](#) (organized sports; organized activities; and gatherings.)

A “gathering” implies common intent or purpose associated with socializing, celebration, ceremony, or entertainment. “Organized activities” for children under age 12, includes activities which:

- are pre-planned;
- involve a group larger than a household bubble unit gathering together; and
- limit public access, including membership in a group or the sale of access to a facility.

Note that an organized activity is when all 3 criteria are met.

Activities in facilities covered by the *Early Childhood Services Act* remain permitted, as are family gatherings that are otherwise consistent with the Order, including where access is limited by membership or the sale of access to a facility. This could include renting a commercial or government owned facility (e.g., a skating rink, swimming pool, rock climbing facility, or other recreational facility) for exclusive use by members of the family. A family gathering does not extend beyond the family group to the household’s Steady 10.

Children’s organized sport or recreational lessons including skiing and swimming would be considered an organized activity where children under 12 may gather together, therefore participation must be limited to children 12 or older. However, private lessons that are limited to one child or one family group are permitted provided physical distancing is maintained from any other child or family group.

The intention is not to keep children under the age of 12 from accompanying their parents to venues where proof of vaccination or proof of medical exemption is required, such as restaurants, movie theatres, etc. Rather, the intention is to reduce the spread of COVID-19 by limiting interactions between children who are not fully vaccinated at organized sports, organized group recreational activities and gatherings that are aimed primarily at children.

In any fitness/recreation facility, the owner and occupier must take every reasonable step to require physical distancing of two metres or more between patrons. Facilities and venues offering public swims and/or public skates are responsible for ensuring that children under 12, who cannot yet be fully vaccinated, do not gather together with other children.