

# HOCKEY EASTERN ONTARIO

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## Press Release

Date: August 25, 2021  
Ottawa, Ontario:

Hockey Eastern Ontario strongly encourages players, coaches, team officials and on-ice officials eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine to get vaccinated before returning to the ice for the 2021-22 season.

As we prepare for the return of traditional hockey, it is more important than ever that we take all the necessary steps available to us to protect ourselves, our families, our teammates and our communities. We can do this by getting vaccinated and observing public health measures such as masking and hand sanitizing where we are asked to do so. In this way, we can safely enjoy hockey as we used to know it — five-on-five hockey games with body contact/checking where permitted, and intra- / inter-Branch travel for tournaments after October 1, 2021.

Vaccination plays such a strong role in protecting all of us from the serious consequences of COVID-19, particularly variants of concern such as the Delta variant.

HEO is working with Hockey Canada and other member Branches in Ontario to look at the question of requiring vaccination for participation in our hockey programs. Some of our member organizations within HEO have recently taken the decision to require vaccination in order to participate (the Central Canada Hockey League and the Eastern Ontario Junior Hockey League), and we applaud their commitment to participant and community safety. We will keep you updated on our work in this area.

**Please contact your Local Public Health Unit or the Province of Ontario for information on where to get vaccinated (see websites below).**

[Ontario](#)

[Ottawa Public Health](#)

[Eastern Ontario Health Unit](#)

[Leeds Grenville Public Health Unit](#)

[Renfrew County Public Health](#)