

NAVY LEAGUE CADET TRAINING – COVID 19 VACCINATION POLICY

References: A. Navy League Cadet Program COVID 19 Policies and Procedures July 27, 2020

B. Navy League Cadet Program Return to In-Person Training and Recovery Plan July 29, 2021

The Navy League of Canada (NLC) has a responsibility to take every precaution to ensure the health and safety of all members of the League, in particular Navy League Cadets who are currently not eligible for COVID-19 vaccinations. The NLC must be diligent and proactive to prevent our youth program and our volunteers from becoming a vector of transmission of the virus.

Effective September 30, 2021, the policies related to Navy League Cadet Corps (NLCC) in person training and activities issued at References A and B will now include a requirement of full vaccination for all Navy League officers, instructors, visitors, guests, and volunteers* who will have direct contact with Navy League Cadets. (* Note: While all Navy League Cadets and Instructors are “volunteers” we have used the term volunteers more broadly in this policy for the wider range of screened volunteers to include Branch Members, parents, and community members as well as Sea Cadets who may be assisting with Navy League Cadet Corps.) This requirement is based upon and incorporates the most recent recommendations by Public Health Officials, the updated Provincial Health Protocols related to a safe return to education, as well as existing Navy League policies.

A majority of Canadians over the age of 12 have received an approved vaccine against COVID-19. However, the NL Cadet Population (aged 9 – 11 years) is not yet eligible to be vaccinated, which makes them a vulnerable population. The NLC direction for planning and approval of return to in person Navy League Cadet training and activities includes a layered approach to individual health precautions – proof of full vaccination, masks, social distancing, hand washing and adherence to Provincial and local public health guidelines to limit exposure and prevent the spread of COVID-19. Group size and gatherings have also been restricted for outdoor and indoor spaces and the NLC has directed that where the Provincial Regulations define capacity limits based on the type of activity and facility, the lesser capacity limit shall apply.

While the NLC is requesting information regarding individual vaccination status; the League also respects the individual’s rights to privacy, and they are under no obligation to provide the requested information. If individuals opt not to provide proof of full vaccination, they will be offered the opportunity to participate virtually or by other means that ensure that they have no direct contact with NL Cadets. Individuals will continue to have the opportunity to be vaccinated after this policy goes into effect but those not yet vaccinated or partially vaccinated, will not be permitted to participate directly in any in person training or activities with Navy League Cadets until fully vaccinated and they

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provide appropriate documentation but may be permitted to continue to be engaged and involved through virtual options. They will also be required to comply with the Health Canada guidance for time between doses and period to be considered fully vaccinated (currently set at 28 days between doses with a 14-day period following the second dose).

In some cases, individuals may not be able to receive COVID 19 vaccinations due to documented medical restrictions. In the event that an individual cannot be vaccinated due to a pre-existing medical condition i.e. an allergy to a component of the vaccine, severe reaction to first dose or suffers from an inflammation of the heart, they will be required to provide national or provincially approved documentation of the medical exemption and be regularly tested by an approved test and provide proof of a negative test within 72 hours of each training night or cadet activity. [Click here](#) for the current list of accepted tests. All testing will be at the expense of the individual – the NLC will not reimburse or pay for the testing.

When any individual is unable or unwilling to show proof of their COVID-19 vaccinations they will not be permitted to participate in any in-person training or activities with NL Cadets. However, subject to the Commanding Officer or Branch President's approval, they may continue to be engaged with the program through virtual training or other remote training opportunities without being in direct contact with NL Cadet trainees. The option for a NLCC to conduct all training on-line or to utilize a hybrid approach in the event of a shortfall of fully vaccinated officers or instructors may be considered and approved by Division Presidents.

Proof of Vaccination Documentation:

Even though many of the provincial certificates of vaccination only contain the individuals name and proof of vaccination, their vaccination status constitutes personal medical information, so it is critical to ensure that this information is obtained in a private manner and is limited to only those who need to know. This information must be is safeguarded and properly secured and remain in the custody of the COVID-19 Safety Officer or their designate by any means that will ensure privacy and restricted access to the information.

The vaccination validation is only required once, and it is the responsibility of the COVID-19 Safety Officer and/or Commanding Officer to ensure that all those who are in direct contact with Navy League Cadets have been verified as being fully vaccinated in advance of any in person training or activity and that this is updated regularly as training continues

- Where Provinces are using vaccination certificates or vaccination passports, the certificate or smartphone application will be sufficient proof for the Navy League of Canada
- For those without a provincial standard, proof of vaccination may include the electronic receipt or other means of recognized documentation from a pharmacy, physician, or Regional/Local Public Health system along with photo ID

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- Cadet Units are required to maintain a rigorous attendance records as training takes place, which will serve to assist with contact tracing

With the evolution of COVID-19 and the more infectious variants that are having greater impacts on young people, vaccines have become increasingly more important and have proven to be effective in reducing the risk of contracting the virus, the duration of illness and impacts of COVID 19 if infected, and the prevention of hospitalization and death. However, the science also indicates that while vaccines are effective in reducing the spread and number of COVID – 19 infections, they are more effective when supported by an array of safety precautions. The NLC’s updated protocol for the Navy League Cadet safe return to in-person training continues to include a layered approach to COVID-19 safety measures as promulgated in the National guidance at References A and B with the critical step of approval of NLCC return to in-person training plans by Division Presidents. This national policy is based on the scientific data that recommends vaccinations in addition to masking, hand-washing and social distancing in both indoor and outdoor environments and provides another important health and safety precaution that is consistent with many of the guidelines and mandates we are now seeing across several Provinces and many School Boards, facilities, activities, businesses, and occupations.

The NLC must ensure that we meet and maintain the highest level of safety to protect the adult and cadet members of the program. The following **mandatory requirements** apply for all Navy League Officers, Navy League Cadet Instructors and “volunteers” * who intend to return to and engage in in-person training with Navy League Cadets effective September 30th, 2021:

- All individuals who will be in direct contact with Navy League Cadets must be fully vaccinated with an approved Health Canada vaccination
- If an individual cannot be vaccinated due to a pre-existing medical condition, they will be required to provide national or provincially approved documentation of the medical exemption and be regularly tested by an approved test and provide proof of a negative test within 72 hours of each training night or cadet activity to the COVID Safety Officer or designate.
- If an individual does not wish to provide proof of full vaccination, they will not be permitted to participate in any in-person training or activities with NL Cadets. However, they may continue to be engaged with the program through virtual training or other remote training opportunities without being in direct contact with NL Cadet trainees.
- Individuals who are partially vaccinated or choose to be vaccinated after this policy goes into effect will be subject to the Health Canada guidance for the specified time between doses and the waiting period to be considered fully vaccinated. They will not be permitted to participate directly with Navy League Cadets until fully vaccinated and they provide appropriate documentation but may be engaged remotely through virtual or on-line opportunities.

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- Non-medical masks shall be worn for all indoor training and activities and outdoors where social distancing of 2 meters cannot be maintained (Note that face shields may be authorized for those who cannot wear face masks for medical reasons)
- Complete a COVID-19 self assessment and screening (iaw Health Canada or Local Public Health questionnaire about symptoms, travel, and contact) prior to all activities to ensure all participants are symptom free of the following:
 - Fever, chills, cough, sore throat, headache, difficulty breathing
 - Loss of sense of smell or taste
 - Loss of appetite
 - Body aches, nausea, or diarrhea
- Complete and maintain a contact tracing log for all activities
- Hands must be sanitized when entering training facilities and throughout the period of training
- A distance of 2 meters for social distancing must be maintained for both indoor and outdoor activities
- Ensure that training equipment and spaces are regularly cleaned/sanitized before and after each use
- Limit sharing equipment, training aids or accessories as much as possible and ensure proper cleaning and disinfecting procedures are done before and after use, particularly when multiple people may be using
- Limit access to the training facility to only those who have been screened and approved for direct contact with NL Cadets
- Continue to monitor and be aware of Federal, Provincial, Regional and Local Public Health Guidance as well as School Board direction and restrictions or closures and adapt the training program accordingly
- **Note that this Navy League policy is subject to change based on Health Canada, Provincial and Regional Public Health direction and restrictions.**

The following Navy League Cadet program restrictions and recommendations remain in effect:

- No overnight activities
- No use of buses, parents are encouraged to drive Cadets to activities
- No in person fundraising activities involving NL Cadets
- Maximize outdoor training spaces as much as possible
- Where possible, windows and other doors should be open to help with air circulation in indoor training facilities
- If financially feasible, air purifiers with HEPA filters are recommended
- RCSUs may continue to impose restrictions on Sea Cadet engagement with NLCCs

Implementation:

The approving authority for in-person activities for NL Cadet Corps remains the responsibility of the Division President as does the decision to restrict NLCCs to virtual

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on-line training when the local or provincial public health direction restrict in person gatherings or activities or when NLCC COVID 19 precautions and plans are not considered sufficient to maintain the highest level of safety to protect the adult and cadet members of the program.

Further guidance may be provided by Division Presidents and Commanders using language that will be more familiar to Branches and Corps with respect to the Provincial documentation, but the NLC national requirement for vaccinations remains mandatory.

Division Presidents and Commanders are to ensure the widest dissemination of this policy while also updating any previous direction provided to Branches and NLCCs on the approval of in-person training plans to include a process for validation of vaccination status for Navy League officers and volunteers in direct contact with Navy League Cadets.

Corps and Branches should report any local challenges or difficulties with the process or gathering of information to the Division President and/or Commander who will provide support and assistance in dealing with exemptions or refusals, and the requirement to impose limitations on participation or engagement by volunteers or officers.

Divisions should also continue to ensure that Branches and Corps are diligent about adherence to Provincial, Regional, and local Public Health guidance and restrictions and make timely decisions when necessary to further restrict, limit, postpone or cancel in person training and activities and shifting to alternate plans to continue with only virtual options and online training and engagement as the situation changes. Divisions should also monitor the direction provided to Sea Cadet Corps through the Formation and RCSU and make decisions for NLCCs accordingly.

The health and safety of our cadets and volunteers is our highest priority and we must be diligent and proactive to protect all participants, particularly at the local level within our Branches and Corps and prevent our youth program and our volunteers from becoming a vector of transmission of the virus in our communities. We all have a critical role to play in implementing and enforcing the highest possible standards of health and safety included in this policy and the advice of health and science professionals.

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