

Learner COVID-19 vaccination policy

Policy statement

The health and safety of the College community is a priority. Bow Valley College is committed to taking every reasonable precaution to protect the health and safety of its learners from the hazard of COVID-19. Information from provincial and federal public health authorities supports full vaccination against COVID-19 as an effective and safe measure to reduce and slow the spread of transmission of the virus. The College supports learners being fully vaccinated as a necessary measure for in-person education and services while protecting the College community. As such, proof of vaccination is required for learners to access any College campus, facility, or College sanctioned in-person activity.

Purpose

This policy sets-out the general obligation of learners to be fully vaccinated. This policy is designed to maximize COVID-19 vaccination rates among the College community, and in particular learners. As outlined in the Policy statement, full vaccination against COVID-19 is a necessary and key element in the protection of the College community against the hazard of COVID-19. This Policy supports the delivery of in-person education and services.

Scope

This Policy applies to all learners accessing Bow Valley College campuses, facilities, or engaged in College sanctioned in-person activities at other locations.

Employees, contractors, volunteers, or any other individuals associated with Bow Valley College are required to ensure that any learner, whether on college campuses, facilities, or at in-person college sponsored activities at external locations, is made aware of and is in compliance with this Policy.

Principal objectives

1. Given the continuing spread of COVID-19, including variant strains, the public health data demonstrating a higher incidence of COVID-19 among the unvaccinated population, and the increasing levels of contact between individuals as businesses, services and activities have reopened, it is important for the College's learners accessing College spaces or physical spaces where College sanctioned activities are held, to be fully vaccinated, or otherwise meet the criteria set out in the associated Learner COVID-19 Vaccination Procedure, in order to protect themselves against serious illness from COVID-19 as well as provide indirect protection to others, including other members of the College community including, but not limited to, learners and employees.
2. To protect the health and safety of the College community, the College is requiring that learners provide proof of vaccination prior to coming on campus or College facility for any purpose and/or prior to attending any in-person external College sanctioned activity.
3. This Policy is in addition to any mandatory public health orders, municipal bylaws, or other government legislation or regulation, as applicable, that may impact the College community.
4. Public health guidance on measures for fully-vaccinated, partially-vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals may continue to evolve and could affect the enforcement of this policy and its associated procedure.
5. The College will continue to closely monitor its COVID-19 risk mitigation strategy and the evolving public health information to ensure that it continues to optimally protect the health and safety of the College community. To that end, the College may decide to deploy new measures and may amend this policy and its associated procedure accordingly and/or communicate further required precautions to impacted learners.

6. Ensure that this policy and its associated procedure are made available and accessible to the College community through appropriate communication methods such as, but not limited to, the employee portal and the College website.

Compliance

Members of the College Community must know, understand, and comply with College policies, procedures, and associated materials that relate to their position, employment, enrolment or other relationship with the College.

Non-compliance may create risk for the College and will be addressed accordingly through applicable College policies, procedures and contracts.

Learners who fail to comply with this policy or provide false proof of vaccination documents will be subject to disciplinary actions up to and including withdrawal and removal/restriction from College campuses.

Definitions

Board of Governors:

Members of the governing body of the College who have been appointed by an Order in Council of the Province of Alberta or by Ministerial Order by the Minister responsible for Post-Secondary Education, in accordance with the Alberta *Post-Secondary Learning Act*.

College Community:

All learners, employees, elders, independent contractors, suppliers, volunteers, visitors and members of the Board of Governors while they are either on or using College property, participating in College programs and activities or involved in the business or affairs of the College, on or off College premises.

Fully Vaccinated:

For the purposes of this Policy, an individual is considered to be “fully vaccinated” 14 days after all required doses of a Health Canada or World Health Organization approved COVID-19 vaccine.

Learner:

A person who is currently registered as a learner at the College whether or not for credit. For the purposes of this document, “learner” shall be used synonymously for applicants and learners unless otherwise noted.

Proof of Vaccination:

In accordance with the associated Learner COVID-19 Vaccination Procedure, learners are required to show “Proof of Vaccination” prior to entry to College campuses, facilities or College sanctioned events. Proof of Vaccination requires a government issued immunization record identifying the learner as being fully vaccinated.

Data sheet

Accountable officer

Vice President responsible for learner services

Responsible officer

Director responsible for learner services

Approval

Contact area

Relevant dates

Approved	Board of Governors: BOG211027-03 Executive Team: EXT202110-19-01
Effective	October 27, 2021
Next review	October 2024
Modification history	
Verified By	Office of the President, October 2021

Associated Policy(ies)

Code of Conduct Policy of Bow Valley College #200-1-13

Code of Conduct Procedure #200-1-13

Learner COVID-19 Vaccination Procedure #500-1-22

Learner Credit Registration Policy # 500-1-17

Learner Credit Registration Procedure # 500-1-17

Directly related guideline(s) (if any)

Related legislation

Alberta Human Rights Act, RSA 2000, c A-25.5

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, RSA 2000, c F-25

Attachments (optional)