



XCSO COVID-19 Vaccination Mandate Discontinued - backgrounder and synopsis

Jurisdictional Scan

Nordiq Canada has recently removed the requirement that participants in their programming be vaccinated against Covid-19. Most of the Divisions (Provinces and Territories) of Nordiq Canada will or have removed vaccination mandates.

Risk Management Profile

The Province of Ontario's position is that the outbreak of the novel coronavirus is making a transition out of a pandemic phase. The situation seems to be that we should expect that the immunity conferred by vaccination and past infection will reduce the impact of the disease, but that the high prevalence of the virus in the population will increase the likelihood of exposure.

[Majority of Canadians have now caught COVID — so what does that mean for the future? | CBC News](#)

From the popular press, it would appear the risk of infection is increased across the population, but that for the majority of the population, the threat of disease is reduced.

XCSO continues to encourage the use of masks and supports vaccination as a threat mitigation. Our community regularly gathers in congregate settings (race environments, travel) and a common reason for lost athletic performance is minor respiratory infections.

There has been concern expressed for the vulnerable populations who participate in our sport, and volunteer to support race programmes. The virus has escaped control and is present in our communities. There are individuals who are threatened more by infection than others. As a general rule, where a concern is identified, all of us should provide accommodation. In practical terms, as an outdoor sport, this will most commonly consist of recommending outdoor activity, avoiding congregate settings and maintaining common infection control procedures like wearing a mask. This is the same advice a workplace would use to reduce the threat to high-risk populations.

Decision

On September 21, 2022, the XCSO Board of Directors unanimously supported the removal of the vaccination policy of November 2021.