

SECTION TITLE	Activities and Events
POLICY TITLE	COVID-19 VACCINATION POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT:

The GWSA recognizes the importance of balancing civil liberties with public health and safety. Because we serve a population of vulnerable seniors, this policy has been developed to facilitate the operation of programs and activities while addressing the health and safety concerns of our members arising from COVID-19.

PURPOSE:

To provide an implementation plan for the Board’s decision to require *Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination* for in-person GWSA activities and events, along with any related considerations.

OVERVIEW:

1. To provide for the safe operation of programs and services, the GWSA will require *Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination* for all members and guests participating in in-person activities and events.
2. For this policy, *COVID-19 Vaccination* is interpreted as having received two doses of an approved COVID-19 vaccine unless public health determines that the use of a single dose vaccine meets requirements. Depending on public health guidance in place at the time, the GWSA may require *Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination* booster (or maintenance) shots in the future.
3. The GWSA acknowledges that receiving a vaccination is optional. There are legitimate medical and religious reasons for some individuals not being vaccinated.
4. The reasons for this policy include: the age group of GWSA participants and this group’s inherent vulnerability to COVID-19; the strong recommendations from the government that individuals in the age group receive the vaccine; and that activity group members have stated their preference for such a policy so they feel safe participating in activities.
5. It is reasonably necessary to protect everyone involved by requiring all participants of any in-person GWSA activities to be fully vaccinated.
6. We will ensure prior, informed consent for the collection of information, by communication through the GWSA website, *The Sentinel* newsletter, and the GWSA Email Updates.
7. It will be necessary for each such participant to provide official *Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination* so that the GWSA can record the member’s status as vaccinated. Acceptable documents include but are not limited to the Ontario’s Ministry of Health Immunization Form.
8. Collection of information will be done discreetly, entering only whether a person has been vaccinated into the membership database. Individuals may redact any portions of their Health Insurance Number and Date of Birth if they wish prior to showing or submitting.
9. Activity group leaders and event organizers will need to know a participant’s vaccination status to permit access to their in-person activities. This status will be communicated by providing participants with colour-coded membership cards indicating *Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination* or by such other means acceptable to the Board.

10. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate individual needs. Accommodations may include access to virtual programming or alternate forms of delivery. Requests for specific accommodations will be considered on a case-to-case basis.
11. Accommodation may not be possible in every circumstance if there are serious health and safety concerns at play. Specific requests for accommodation will be received in good faith to seek solutions where the organization, its members, and the participants seeking accommodation can all benefit.
12. No one should experience harassment or other discriminatory treatment based on a Human Rights Code ground because they are unable to receive a vaccine.

PROCEDURES:

<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Action</i>
M&M Committee: through GWSA Email Update editor, webmaster, The Sentinel team	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communicate this policy to members to ensure prior, informed consent around the reasons for the collection of <i>Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination</i>. 2. Make recommendations for revisions to this policy as required.
Recreation Coordinator	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide for the discreet collection and storage of vaccination status through the PerfectMind application or such other means as approved by the Board. 2. Arrange for provision of colour-coded membership cards or other means as approved by the Board to inform activity group leaders and event organizers of in-person participant vaccination status.
Program Committee: through Activity Group Leaders	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communicate requirements of this policy to members of their group. 2. Confirm that members have provided <i>Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination</i> prior to admitting them to their in-person activities, through a manner approved by the Board. 3. Make reasonable efforts to accommodate individuals by continuing to provide access to virtual programming, or alternate forms which may be considered on a case-to-case basis. 4. Consider specific requests for accommodation in good faith to seek solutions where the organization, its members, and the participants seeking accommodation can all benefit. 5. Address any issues which may arise in accordance with GWSA policies.
Governance Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review this document in accordance with the Policy Development and Review Policy as required and recommend any approved changes to the Board of Directors. 2. Make other changes to this policy as required by the Board.
Board of Directors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request any changes to this policy as required. 2. Manage any concerns about this policy on a case-by-case basis.

Original Board Approval:
Governance Committee Approval:
Board Approval:

June 19, 2021
June 17, 2021
June 19, 2021