



# Media Release

**Date:** April 7, 2022

For immediate release

## Proof of vaccination no longer required to access RDCK recreation centres

Nelson, BC: Following the announcement from the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) earlier this week, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) will no longer require proof of vaccination from members of the public to access and use RDCK recreation facilities and services, as of Friday, April 8, 2022.

Visitors to recreation centres are welcome to wear a mask during their visit if that makes them feel more comfortable.

“The lifting of the proof of vaccination requirement is great news because it means that BC’s vaccination efforts and other protocols are making a difference to overall hospitalization rates,” said Joe Chirico, General Manager of Community Services at the RDCK. “With COVID-19 still circulating in our communities, people are encouraged to do what they need to do to protect their health. Some people might want to continue to wear a mask in our facilities, and we encourage that. Please respect each other’s level of comfort and personal decision to wear a mask if that’s the case.”

The lifting of the proof of vaccination mandate applies to members of the public accessing RDCK facilities. Staff will continue to follow proof of vaccination and masking guidelines set by the RDCK Board of Directors and RDCK management.

Staff at recreation facilities continue to implement protocols to make spaces as safe as possible. This includes continuing to use barriers and/or physical distancing at customer service touch-points, focusing on providing a clean and healthy recreation environment, and making hand sanitizer/soap and water readily accessible.

“Our team is committed to making recreation accessible, and providing safe and fun recreation options for all members of the communities we serve—whether it’s in one of our fitness classes, aquatics centres, playgrounds or parks and trails,” said Chirico. “There really is something for everyone.”

If you have a question about making your visit as safe as possible, please contact your local recreation facility directly to ask about potential accommodation. Contact information can be found at [www.rdck.ca/recreation](http://www.rdck.ca/recreation).

*Incorporated in 1965, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is a local government that serves 60,000 residents in 11 electoral areas and nine member municipalities. The RDCK provides more than 160 services, including community facilities, fire protection and emergency services, grants, planning and land use, regional parks, resource recovery and handling, transit, water services and much more. For more information about the RDCK, visit [www.rdck.ca](http://www.rdck.ca).*

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