

August 27, 2021

RE: Swim Alberta Update: Return to Swimming – Vaccination Policies and Relevant Legislation

Hello Club Presidents and Head Coaches;

Welcome to the 2021 – 2022 swimming season. I wish you much success for the season ahead. Swim Alberta looks forward to continuing to support all our clubs, as you deliver your programs and services to the membership. Although, I think we were all hopeful for a more normal swim season this year, however, with the rising numbers and declared 4th wave, it is possible the Government of Alberta *may* implement restrictions again OR organizations, such as Swim Alberta and our affiliated clubs, may look to adopt additional controls/measures to support a safe start to the 2021-2022 swim season.

Safety of the entire Swim Alberta membership, specifically our athletes, continues to remain a focus and a priority for Swim Alberta. I know this is also the priority of all of you.

The last couple of weeks has seen a significant shift in the introduction of vaccination requirements for COVID-19 being put in place by many organizations and municipalities, potentially impacting the way in which we access and utilize facilities or how we protect our swimmers (vaccinated and unvaccinated) as examples. Information and decisions related to mandatory vaccinations is evolving quickly, with legal guidance received a month ago being different than guidance today.

It is important that Swim Alberta Clubs fully understand the implications, risks, and liability of any type of vaccination policy (or not) and the relevant legislation that needs to be considered, including the Alberta Human Rights Act, Alberta Privacy Legislation and Occupation Health and Safety Standards. Please plan to have your head coach and president (or other board designate) attend the webinar/townhall meeting being planned:

SAVE THE DATE

Webinar for Swim Alberta Clubs: Vaccination Policies and Relevant Legislation

Wednesday, September 8th at 7 pm

Guest Speaker: Krista Schofer, Partner- Gowling WLG – Calgary

More details and how to register to be circulated early next week (August 30th)

Swim Alberta has been working with *Gowling WLG: International Law Firm* to better understand the types of vaccination policies that organizations can consider and the legislation in Alberta that may have implications on such policies. Unlike most of the prior Return to Swimming Requirements which followed the direction of Alberta Health, the consideration to implement any type of vaccination requirement needs to be looked at carefully to ensure we understand **all** the implications. Any decisions related to this will require input and direction from the Board of Swim Alberta. I am targeting the week of September 6th to provide guidance and direction to our Club programs.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Once again, I wish you a successful 2021-2022 swim season.

Kind regards,
Cheryl Humphrey - Executive Director, Swim Alberta