



## **Town of Bentley**

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# **News Release**

## **September 23, 2021 – COVID Update**

On Wednesday September 15, 2021, The Government of Alberta declared a state of public health emergency and introduced new temporary measures to reduce transmission to come into effect beginning September 16, 2021. Detailed Information regarding these measures can be found at <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-public-health-actions.aspx>

COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations continue to rise, largely in unvaccinated Albertans. New measures to protect the health care system, stop the spread and increase vaccination rates come into effect starting September 16. Getting vaccinated makes everyone safer. The Alberta Government is offering a one-time incentive of \$100 available for Albertans 18+ who get their first or second dose between September 3 and October 14.

Starting September 20, discretionary businesses and events must follow one of these 2 options (*for further details please follow the link provided in this news release above*):

- 1.) Implement the restrictions exemption program requiring proof of vaccination or negative test result to continue operating as usual:
  - To enter spaces participating in the restriction's exemption program, people ages 12 and older can provide proof of vaccination or documentation of a medical exemption.
    - Sept 20 to Oct 25: proof of a single dose is considered acceptable if the dose was given more than 2 weeks before the time of service.
    - After Oct 25: proof of double vaccination is required
- 2.) Follow business capacity and operating restrictions as outlined by the Alberta Government

## **Town of Bentley's response to the new measures includes the following effective September 20, 2021**

- Senior Drop-in on Tuesday and Thursdays is closed until further notice
- All youth programs running in the basement at the Town Hall can continue to run if they are following all screening requirements, masking requirements and social distancing requirements
- Any adult or senior program running at the Town Hall can continue if proof of vaccinations or negative test results are provided by participants to the program organizer

## **Bentley Arena**

- **The Bentley Arena for the next two weeks of Monday September 27 to Sunday October 10 will operate at 1/3 fire code capacity to support the startup of Minor Hockey. (No Adult Teams can play during this time, while we operate at 1/3 capacity)**
  - **Youth (under 18) sport, fitness, recreation, and performance activities** including indoor group classes, training and competitions are currently permitted but participants are required to:
    - screen for symptoms (**utilizing the Town app**)
    - maintain 2 metres distancing, except youth while engaging in physical activity
    - wear a mask, except youth while engaged in physical activity
    - Spectator attendance is restricted to 1/3 fire code capacity, attendees are limited to a single household or 2 close contacts if living alone and must be masked and maintain 2 metres physical distancing
- The Town of Bentley will re-assess the protocol for the Arena after October 10, 2021, in alignment with all regulations or requirements established by AHS and the Province of Alberta in relation to COVID-19. It is our hope that we can run a hybrid system for youth and adult teams with separation between facility utilization.
- If a hybrid system is not possible, after October 10, 2021, the Town will be moving to full implementation of the Restrictions Exemption Program for all users within the facility and will require proof of vaccination for any user, spectator, or participant in the facility 18 years or older.
- Youth (under 18) and Adult (over 18) sport, fitness, recreation, and performance activities performed outside can continue with no restrictions
- The Town Office will again be closing our internal door to the public, the exterior door will remain open, and residents can still receive service through the door as there is a slot to exchange paperwork and the debit machine.

## **Bentley Curling Club**

- Will be required to implement the Restrictions Exemption Program as well and will require any user, spectator, or participant in the facility 18 years or older to provide proof of vaccination.

Sincerely,

Marc Fortais  
Chief Administrative Officer