



Sioux Lookout  
First Nations  
Health Authority

**Radio script:** New public health measures beginning September 22: What does it mean?

**Developed: September 2021**

Hello/Boozhoo. This is \_\_\_\_\_.

In Ontario, a new public health measure is coming into effect on September 22. The province is moving ahead with this new measure to stop the spread of COVID-19 while trying to keep Ontario's business and services open.

Until now, everyone has been able to benefit from the re-opening of businesses and services as long as case numbers were going down and public health measures were in place, such as mandatory masks, hand hygiene on entry, and physical distancing.

Over time, people have been getting vaccinated. As of the beginning of September, over 68% of all people across Ontario and Canada have been fully vaccinated. The numbers in our area are a lower with 49% of us fully vaccinated.

Yet COVID-19 cases are on the rise. They are going up *again*, not down.

So, what is the problem? With so many being vaccinated, why are we sliding into the fourth wave?

Some people may be taking a "wait and see" approach to their decision to be vaccinated or not. Perhaps now is the time to "see" how things are going with the vaccine. Most of the new cases, hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and deaths, are among people who have *not been fully vaccinated*.

Some people may be counting on the effect of herd immunity, "If enough people around me are vaccinated then I will be protected". Early on, it was thought that if 70-80% of people were vaccinated, then others would be protected. But that was before the Delta variant. Many of the new cases now are caused by the Delta variant, which is more contagious and accounts for more than twice as many new



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cases than the original COVID-19 strain. The new goal is to have more than 90% of people vaccinated to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and the variants.

We know now that *the vaccine is working* to protect fully vaccinated people from severe COVID-19 illness.

So, now we will talk about the new public health measure.

### **As of September 22,**

You will need to show proof of two COVID-19 vaccinations and personal ID to be able to enter certain places where masks cannot be worn all the time. These places include restaurants and bars, nightclubs, meeting and event spaces, most fitness and rec centres, sport and racing events, casinos, bingo halls, concert venues, theatres, and cinemas. Your vaccine record might be a card or form you received when you got your vaccine. But it must include the following detailed info: your name, date of birth, last 4 digits of your health card, the vaccine name, lot number, dose, site and time given, and the name of the local health authority. Check to see if the card you have has all the information required. If not, you can use the form you received at the vaccine clinic or download a copy of your digital vaccination receipt. This is also an acceptable form of proof for now. Visit:

<https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca/>

### **Keep it with you**

Make sure you have paper copies from **both vaccine doses** with you in your wallet or purse. You can also take a picture of these and save them on your phone. Download and save the digital vaccine receipts on your phone. In both cases, you will need to show your personal ID too.

### **Things will change again on October 22**

Over the next month, the province of Ontario will create a digital vaccine certificate. This will become the standard proof that can be used everywhere in Ontario. It will be secure and private. You will have a QR code that is yours alone.



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Businesses and services will have to use an app that can read these QR codes and verify your vaccine status. By October 22, the only accepted form of proof will be the Ontario Vaccine Certificate saved on your phone or as a printed card, and your personal ID.

### **Be prepared**

If you are fully vaccinated, get your proof of vaccination ready. If you are partially vaccinated, there is still time to get your second dose. If you have a medical exemption or are a child under 12 years old, you will be allowed into these places.

If you have questions, you can send an email to [acwinfo@slfnha.com](mailto:acwinfo@slfnha.com)

You can also join a weekly Facebook Live Q and A with Dr. Lloyd Douglas from SLFNHA each Wednesday at 5:00 pm.

You can find more information on these topics at [www.slfnha.com/covid/](http://www.slfnha.com/covid/) or on the SLFNHA and Anishinabe Youth Network Facebook pages.

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