



STATEMENT

Proof of vaccination and extension of preventative measures within the House of Commons Precinct

Ottawa, Ontario—October 19, 2021

The Honourable Anthony Rota, Speaker of the House of Commons and Chair of the Board of Internal Economy, reports that the Board has determined that, effective **Monday, November 22, 2021**, individuals must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to be allowed within the House of Commons Precinct. This requirement will apply to any person who wishes to enter the House of Commons Precinct, including Members and their staff, political research office employees, Administration employees, members of the Parliamentary Press Gallery, parliamentary business visitors, contractors and consultants.

Individuals are considered to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 14 days after they have received the recommended doses of one or a combination of vaccines approved by Health Canada.

However, individuals who have a medical contraindication to full vaccination against COVID-19 will have the option of providing proof of a recent negative COVID-19 rapid antigen test result. Children under 12 years of age will not be required to show proof of being fully vaccinated or proof of a recent negative COVID-19 rapid antigen test result. Details with respect to the implementation of the Board's decision are being developed and will be communicated in due course.

Furthermore, the following preventative measures previously approved by the Board have been extended until **January 31, 2022**:

- The House of Commons precinct is closed to members of the public, and public tours are suspended;
- Committee travel is suspended;
- Parliamentary activities in the precinct that are not essential to the functioning of Parliament are suspended;
- The use of masks in the House of Commons precinct is mandatory.

Therefore, the following measures remain in place until that time:

It is mandatory for any person, including Members and their staff, political research office employees, Administration employees, members of the Parliamentary Press Gallery, and

parliamentary business visitors, to wear a mask / face covering in the House of Commons precinct, excluding workstations / desks where two-metre physical distancing is possible.

Masks must be worn in the following precinct areas:

- The Chamber and committee rooms, except when the Member is at their place during parliamentary proceedings
- Members' offices and Administration offices, excluding workstations / desks where two-metre physical distancing is possible
- Building entrances
- Elevator lobbies
- Hallways, including common hallways within House Administration work areas
- Washrooms
- Locker rooms
- Cafeterias and canteens
- Indoor parking lots
- Elevators and escalators
- Stairways
- Meeting rooms and multipurpose rooms
- Collaboration spaces
- Lunchrooms and kitchenettes

The requirement to wear a mask / face covering does not apply to:

- The Chamber and committee rooms when Members are at their place during parliamentary proceedings. However, it is strongly recommended that Members wear a mask / face covering when they are at their place during parliamentary proceedings.
- Members and other individuals participating in a press conference, including scrums, where two-metre physical distancing measures have been implemented.
- Workstations / desks in Members' offices and Administration offices where two-metre physical distancing is possible.

The following persons are exempted from wearing a mask / face covering:

- A person who has a medical condition that precludes the safe wearing of a mask / face covering or who is unable to put on or remove the mask / face covering without the assistance of another person
- A person who needs to temporarily remove the mask / face covering to consume food or drink

These decisions were made to meet ongoing recommendations from public health authorities to help limit the spread of COVID-19 within the work environment.

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