

October 19, 2021

To: Middle School Parents/Guardians

From: Cheryl Gilmore, Superintendent

Dear Parents / Guardians of Lethbridge School Division Middle School Students:

Update: Indoor Extra-curricular Sport and Recreation Activity

Indoor Extra-curricular Sport

Throughout this fall, administrators have been committed to ongoing review of the context that serves as a foundation for making decisions regarding spectators at school events. Middle school principals and the division leadership team met to review trends and the possibility of taking some cautious steps toward spectators at indoor school events.

The collective decision was made that given the downward direction of the trend in numbers of new COVID positive cases in Lethbridge and our middle schools, the schools were comfortable moving forward with first steps to spectators at indoor extra-curricular sport and recreation activity.

Commencing **Monday, October 25**, each student participant from the home team and visiting team will be allowed two adult spectators at **indoor League games**. This first step does NOT include tournament play at this time. Details regarding how the two adult spectator allocation will be managed will come directly from your school.

The admittance of the two adult spectators will be in keeping with Lethbridge School Division Restriction Exemption Program that follows the provincial requirements of a Restriction Exemption Program. Details regarding the division's program can be found on the website at the following link [368094 \(lethsd.ab.ca\)](https://www.lethsd.ab.ca/368094). Spectators must provide proof of vaccination or proof of testing negative for COVID-19 on a Health Canada approved rapid antigen, rapid PCR, or lab-based PCR test approved by Health Canada. Details regarding both proof of vaccination and proof of testing negative for COVID-19 are in the Restriction Exemption Program document. Other mitigation measures will be in place including sanitization, wearing of face masks for spectators and volunteers, and social distancing in family groups.

Schools value the engagement of spectators and know that families have missed being able to watch their children participate in the sport setting. We are hopeful that the positive trend continues and this first step demonstrates our commitment to ongoing review of the feasibility of spectators at indoor events. Please keep in mind that should trends turn the other way, ongoing review could potentially be a return to restricting all spectators. We are all hopeful that we can maintain and further spectator engagement and once again ask for your patience as administration continues to consider the priorities of maintaining student participation and health in their decision making.

Take care,
Cheryl



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