

COVID-19 UPDATE



Greetings mentors and families,

Following the announcements by Public Health and the Government of New Brunswick, Big Brothers Big Sisters will require proof of vaccination or a medical exemption, prior to taking part in any **organized group programs** for those 12 years old and over. We ask that our volunteers and young people bring their proof of vaccination (both doses) and a government issued ID on their next visit or send/show a copy to your mentoring or program coordinator. Any children under 12 years old are exempt but any adult accompanying them must be vaccinated or have a medical exemption. Those who are unvaccinated (unless medically exempt), unfortunately are not able to participate unless there is a virtual way to do this.

When **visiting in the BBBS office**, we are still enforcing the **safety protocols** we have had for some time:

- mask use by staff and all guests/visitors
- requiring the use of hand sanitizer upon entry
- social distancing whenever possible
- extra sanitizing

When a staff person is making **appointments at a family or volunteer homes**, service delivery staff must enforce the use of the same safety protocols including mask wearing for everyone in the home (those near the appointment space) and staff members. Appointments should be done virtually if this cannot be done.

For **community-based matches**, Bigs and Littles must utilize the above safety protocols when on outings together along with our existing transportation safety protocols (masks, back seats for Littles, hand sanitization, wiping down the vehicle after, etc.). As indicated by Public Health/GNB, proof of full vaccination will be required if matches decide to access certain services, businesses and events. We are encouraging **outdoor outings or home-based activities** at this time but **if all parties are vaccinated**, mentors are encouraged to collect a photocopy of the mentee's vaccination record as it will be required if visiting various locations.

We are **not requiring both parties to be vaccinated**, however, if you are NOT comfortable with the other person in your match being unvaccinated, please speak with your mentoring coordinator about this to discuss options which may include a virtual platform for the time being. These changes will come into effect **today, September 23rd, 2021**.

We thank our volunteers, families and community partners for their continued cooperation and support.

Any questions, please let me know.

Laurie Collins, Executive Director

