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# HOCKEY EASTERN ONTARIO

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One Team, One Mission, One Goal



## MEMO

To: CCHL, EOJHL, U18 AAA, HEO AAA, District Chairs, Minor Hockey Associations

CC: HEO Board of Directors, HEO Staff

From: RTH Implementation Task Team

Date: July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Re: **Roadmap to Reopen: Return to play Safety Plan**

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As we move ever closer to returning to play the game we love, we still need to ensure that we are keeping our members safe and healthy. This is imperative to stopping the spread of COVID and the ever-changing variants.

The best way to achieving this is by vaccinating everyone who is eligible.

The Ontario Government's Roadmap to Reopen requires that all organizations develop and provide their facilities with a Safety Plan.

HEO's Return to Hockey Task Team has developed the following one-page comprehensive Safety Plan that all Minor Hockey Associations, Leagues and Teams can use.

Associations, Leagues and Teams can develop their own plan, if they include all the items noted in HEO's Safety Plan as outlined on page 3.

In addition to encouraging everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated, HEO is issuing the following directives:

- No tournaments will take place prior to October 1, 2021. Tournament sanctions may be sought and approved for tournaments occurring after this date.
- Travel permits to attend a tournament shall not be issued prior to October 1, 2021.
- Junior team travel for out of Branch pre-season games will be by exception, and approval by their respective League and HEO.
- Tryout and pre-season exhibition games between Branch minor hockey teams are permitted. Travel and sanctioning of games with teams from other Hockey Canada Members will be permitted beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>.



**Please note the following information has been provided by Sport Canada and is based on the current COVID landscape in Canada and is subject to change at any time and for any reason.**

- As of August 9, 2021, fully vaccinated U.S. Citizens will be able to enter Canada. All normal transfer regulations will apply.
- The border reopening will only apply to fully vaccinated U.S. Citizens; this does not currently apply to Non-U.S. Citizens.
- Entrance into Canada with full vaccination applies only to those individuals who have received Health Canada approved vaccines. Approved vaccines are Astra-Zeneca, Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson.
- The ability for non-U.S. players to enter Canada may change and will be updated when available.

**HEO's Return to Hockey Framework is being updated to reflect the Province of Ontario's amended regulations and will be available shortly.**



## HEO Safety Plan for Step 3 of the Province of Ontario's Roadmap to a Safe Return

Below are the minimum required safety protocols as per the Province of Ontario's Amended O. Reg. 364/20.

- Teams must have a designated Safety Officer (responsible for Screening and maintaining Participant Logs, and enforcement of all HEO and facility safety protocols).
- Associations must have a designated Safety Officer/s during the Tryout/Sort out process (responsible for Screening and maintaining Participant Logs, and enforcement of all safety protocols).
- COVID Screening must occur before anyone may participate in any sanctioned event.
- Teams/Associations must maintain a participation log for all participants involved in a game, practice, or off-ice event.
- Logs must have full name and contact information of each participant and must be retained for 30 days.
- Home team is responsible to log all participants (home & away) for games they host. And ensure that screening was completed with the Visiting team.
- On Ice Officials must be recorded in the Home Team's Participant Log.
- Masks must always be worn inside a facility while not taking part in games or practices. Masks must be worn, and social distancing maintained when in dressing rooms. Due to potential space limitations that may exist in dressing rooms, it is still encouraged for players and team officials to put on their equipment as much as is practically possible before a tryout, evaluation, or team event, before entering the facility. **(Please consult with your local facility for all required safety protocols).**
- On-Ice Officials are encouraged to pre-dress before an event if physical distancing cannot be maintained in the dressing room. Masks must be worn at all times while not engaged in game play. **(Please consult with your local facility for all required safety protocols).**
- Coaches, Trainers, Athletic Therapists, Off-Ice officials should wear masks on the Players' Bench and Penalty Box area. **(Please consult with your local facility for all required safety protocols).**
- Minimize social gatherings of participants and spectators both before and after the activity. This includes spectator areas and the parking lot.
- Limit carpooling and meals (in homes or at restaurants) to those within your household. Reserve carpooling with one (1) other household if there are transportation barriers.
- If travelling as a team by bus, please adhere to all physical distancing guidelines, and wear masks if physical distancing is not possible. Follow the bus operator's safety protocols.
- Clean and disinfect equipment between uses.
- Do not share your sports gear with other people. If necessary, shared equipment should be sanitized between users.
- Water Bottles must be clearly labelled with the participant's name. Water bottles cannot ever be shared.

**Facility operators are responsible to interpret and enforce all Provincial and local Public Health Safety Requirements. It is imperative that all Associations, Leagues and Teams work closely with and adhere to the facility's COVID safety protocol requirements.**