



HOCKEY CALGARY

RETURN TO HOCKEY



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Mask Requirement

Effective as of August 27, 2021

After careful consideration and taking into account increases in COVID-19 cases and the vaccination rates for youth aged 12-19, Hockey Calgary in partnership with our member Associations will be implementing a mask requirement for all players, coaches, and team officials effective August 27, 2021. This requirement follows the action taken by both the Calgary Board of Education and the Calgary Catholic School District to mandate the use masks in all schools. **This requirement will be in place until September 27th, at which time we will review to determine a path forward.**

Details are as follows:

- **PLAYERS** – Players are required to wear masks upon entering the arena and in dressing room area. Players should remove their masks only immediately prior to putting on their helmet and entering onto the ice surface.
- **COACHES & BENCH STAFF** – All coaches and team staff are required to wear a mask at all times while off the ice. This includes the dressing room area, and the player’s bench. Coaches are permitted on ice without a mask when distancing from players, but must wear a mask on the ice when in close contact (inside 2 metres) of any player, coach, and/or official.
- **VOLUNTEERS** – All volunteers and minor officials are required to wear a mask in and around the direct playing area, in the timekeeper/penalty box area, and when in close contact with any player, coach or official.
- **OFFICIALS** – All Officials are required to wear a mask upon entering the arena, and in the dressing room area. Officials should remove their masks only immediately prior to putting on their helmet and entering onto the ice surface.
- **FANS (PARENTS)** – Masks are required in the dressing room area, player’s bench, penalty boxes, and timekeeper’s box. In all other areas of the facility spectators **MUST** follow the protocols as laid out by the individual facilities. Please note at time of writing all ‘City Operated’ facilities require masks to enter the facility. Hockey Calgary strongly recommends that all spectators wear masks while attending all HC sanctioned events.
 - **Note: These requirements are in effect regardless of vaccination status.**

[Mask Guidance](#)

The information in this document is not a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. The knowledge and circumstances around COVID-19 are changing constantly and Hockey Alberta recommends that the [Government of Alberta COVID-19 site](#) be accessed for the most up to date information.

2 OVERVIEW/PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Within the current Alberta Government Stage 3 of the Open for Summer Plan, there are currently no restrictions on youth sport activity. However, Hockey Calgary recognizes that the player base is largely under the age of 12 and are unable to receive a vaccine at this time. Therefore, the Hockey Calgary Return to Hockey Plan will feature guidelines and best practices that focus on reducing contact outside of what is necessary to play the game of hockey.

After a challenging 2020-21 season, Hockey Calgary is committed to providing players, coaches, parents, volunteers, and other stakeholders a hockey experience that is fun, safe, and as close to normal as possible.

While current guidance allows Hockey Calgary to offer an almost completely normal season, we understand that we are still in unpredictable times. We are committed to being flexible in our program design while making sure the safety of our participants is of utmost concern. This plan was developed to meet the needs of the players and focused on achieving the following key objectives:

1. **Safety!** Create a safe, healthy hockey environment for our players, coaches and volunteers
 - Safety is paramount, this plan was built in compliance with the Alberta Government Guidelines, and to minimize the risk of all participants
2. **FUN!** Maintain a culture of Fun!! Where participants can enjoy the game they love
 - Hockey Calgary is excited to resume operations that allows kids to be kids
3. **Flexible!** Create processes and procedures that allow Hockey Calgary and its member associations to react quickly to the ever-changing environment in the event of unpredictable changes.

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PROTOCOLS AND SAFETY

We cannot stress enough that the safety and well-being of our players, coaches, volunteers, and families is of utmost importance. Please familiarize yourself with COVID-19 Symptoms and the Government of Alberta Isolation Requirements.

[Government of Alberta - Symptoms Isolation Requirements](#)

Symptom Screening - [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#)

All participants are required to go through the above daily checklist on their own to ensure they are fit to participate in a scheduled activity. **Proof of completion is not required.** If a participant answers YES to any of the questions, they are not to attend, and must complete all AHS and Government of Alberta Isolation Requirements prior to returning to hockey.

Note: Associations are permitted to continue using the TeamSnap 'Health Check'

Contact Tracing

As per AHS, ***"As of July 29, you are no longer legally required to quarantine if you are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19."*** Therefore, Hockey Calgary will not have a strict contact tracing protocol. However, out of an abundance of caution, if there is an instance where Hockey Calgary or its member associations are made aware of a potential exposure, the team(s) will be notified. Hockey activities will resume as normal.

Familiarize yourself with the symptoms of COVID-19 and follow AHS and Government guidelines if you are not feeling well. **DO NOT ATTEND HOCKEY ACTIVITIES IF YOU ARE SICK**

[Hockey Canada Safety Guidelines.](#)

[Hockey Canada Safety Guidelines FAQ's](#)

4 FACILITIES

Hockey Calgary does not own or manage any of the arena facilities within the Calgary area. The individual facilities have implemented protocols to meet the requirements of Alberta Health. They also have the ability to strengthen these guidelines if they feel it is important to the safe operations of the facility.

As user groups it is our responsibility to follow the requirements as outlined by each individual facility and ensure that we are respecting the premises. The facility management has the ability to cancel any and all bookings and stop the Hockey Calgary program from operating in their building. **Not respecting the facilities protocols and procedures jeopardizes the entire Hockey Calgary program.**

City of Calgary facilities require the use of masks for all spectators and arena users while not on the ice surface itself.

Please see the Hockey Calgary Website for an up-to-date [Facility Protocol Guide](#)

Hockey Calgary Best Practices:

In an effort to reduce the amount of close contact away from the game, the following best practices are recommended by Hockey Calgary:

Please note that these best practices/recommendations are trumped by any facility specific restrictions.

- **Entry & Exit time** – players are recommended to arrive pre-dressed for ice-times. It is recommended that players not arrive earlier than 30 minutes prior to their ice time for Practices, and 45 minutes prior to their ice time for games. Players should vacate the facility within 15 minutes of the end of their ice time.
- **Dressing Room Usage** – Anyone in the dressing room must wear a mask. Physical distanced is recommended (if possible).
- **Fountains** – it is recommended that players fill their water bottles before arriving at the arena.
- **Spectators** – at this time, there are no Hockey Calgary or government restrictions on spectators and indoor gatherings. Please be sure to follow individual facility protocols.

Please be aware that these guidelines and best practices can be modified or changed as we move through the season, we will do our best to provide updates.

5 RETURN TO HOCKEY

Timeline and Seasonal Structure

At this time, the 2021-22 season will follow traditional start dates and timelines. Please see the:

- [Hockey Calgary Important Dates](#)
- [Hockey Calgary Community Hockey Seasonal Calendar](#)

Arrival/Exit Times

Players are recommended to arrive pre-dressed for ice-times. It is recommended that players not arrive earlier than 30 minutes prior to their ice time for Practices, and 45 minutes prior to their ice time for games. Players should vacate the facility within 15 minutes of the end of their ice time.

Games

- Post game handshakes are not permitted
- All off-ice officials are required to wear a mask
- All off-ice officials will be provided by the home team

Off-ice Training and Team Activities

Teams are permitted to take part in off-ice training and team activities, but should limit the amount of time spent congregating before and after the activity itself.

Tournaments

There are no restrictions on tournament play at this time. However, all teams must follow federal and provincial travel restrictions and guidelines. Please note that these restrictions and guidelines are constantly evolving and teams should plan for unexpected changes.

Tournament sanctions and travel permits are obtained by applying using Team Manager and Coach user accounts via <https://www.hockeycalgary.ca/login>

6 REFEREES

Certification, Training and Registration

Our officiating partner, Central Region Referees' Committee, administers all certification, training and registration. Please visit <http://czrc.ab.ca/> for more details.

Further details on officiating can be found by visiting the Hockey Alberta Officials website at <https://officials.hockeyalberta.ca/news/>

7 COACHES, TEAM OFFICIALS AND OFF-ICE OFFICIALS

Masks/PPE (Personal Protective Equipment):

- **All coaches and team staff** are **required to wear a mask** at all times while off the ice. They are permitted on ice without a mask and while distancing from players, but must wear a mask on the ice when in close contact (inside 2 metres) of any player, coach, and/or official.
 - **Note: this requirement is in effect regardless of vaccination status.**

Hockey Calgary masking requirement aligns with the direction taken by the CBE and the CCSD. Masking requirements will be reevaluated at the end of September 2021.

Certification and Training:

Hockey Alberta will maintain the same requirements for all Coaches and Team Officials for the 2021-22 season (November 15 deadline),

For current coaching requirements and available clinics: [COACH EDUCATION](#)

Off-Ice Officials (timekeepers and scorekeepers) – SUBJECT TO CHANGE:

A scorekeeper and timekeeper will be required for all games during the 'Regular Season' and 'Playoffs'. To limit potential contact, the following protocols will take place:

- 1 Scorekeeper – Provided by the Home Team
- 1 Timekeeper – Provided by the Home Team
- 2 Penalty box volunteers – provided by each the Home Team
- Off-Ice Officials are required to:
 - Wear a mask at all times

8 APPENDICES

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