



September 27, 2021

Dear GHC Members:

RE: City of Calgary Bylaw and Next Steps / Team Health & Safety Coordinator

Despite the multiple challenges we have faced since the end of August, our evaluation process is now complete. I want to acknowledge the tremendous effort that all of our volunteers, evaluators, on-ice help, and board members have put in that is above and beyond that of a “normal” evaluation process and season. There has been an enormous amount of information and changes released for everyone to digest and interpret, and they have all been trying to understand it and come up with a path forward. I ask that you take a moment to thank these folks for all of their hard work in getting us to this point.

On Wednesday, September 22, 2021, the City of Calgary passed a bylaw to strengthen the Government of Alberta issued restrictions and reduce the confusion around the requirements. The province has also provided a [COVID-19 Guidance for Restrictions Exemption Program](#). Hockey Calgary and our member Associations are still clarifying a few points in this announcement, but in simplistic terms as it relates to Hockey Calgary the restrictions are as follows:

➔ **All person’s 12+ (2009 Birth Year) entering recreational facilities within the City of Calgary will require proof of vaccination (or proof of medical exemption or a negative Covid-19 test in the last 72 hours) effective September 23, 2021.**

Moving forward each facility within Calgary will have different protocols in place as to how they monitor and verify this information.

- All facilities require the user group be responsible for ensuring participants (players and team officials) meet the proof of vaccine and face covering requirements.
- Some facilities (City of Calgary) will be responsible for ensuring spectators meet the proof of vaccine requirements. Other facilities have put this responsibility on the user group.
- Some facilities require the user group to provide a list of verified participants prior to use of their facility.
- Some facilities will check each person upon entry.
- Proof and vaccination (or exemption, or negative test as per the bylaw) and personal identification should be carried with each participant.

What Does This Mean for GHC?

GHC has implemented several guidelines in order to be compliant with facility guidelines. Similar to last season, GHC will be creating a Health & Safety Coordinator volunteer position for each team.

Girls Hockey Calgary Association (GHC)

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Health & Safety Coordinator Roles and Responsibilities

- Request that all rostered Players (12+) and all Coaches & Credited Volunteers (18+) upload their proof of vaccination to Team Snap [using these steps](#).
 - In lieu of proof of vaccination, participants can provide proof of medical exemption or proof of a valid negative COVID-19 test to the team HSC.
 - Alternatively, families may send medical information directly to Health & Safety Officer (ghchealthandsafety@gmail.com). Confirmation will be sent to HSC.
- Compile lists of the team players and coaches of those that are vaccinated, tested, or choosing not to say, and provide that information to the Health & Safety Officer. (The reason that a list is being generated for the team is because a number of facilities are asking for them from their user groups prior to use of their facility.)
- Designate a back-up person in the event the HSC is unable to attend an event.

A family may choose NOT to share this information with GHC. This will result in the following:

- The team HSC will have a discussion with those families choosing not to share and remind them that they are to have all of the proper documentation available should the facility ask for them. Their names will be forwarded to the Health & Safety Officer and VP Operations.
- Please note, failure to provide this information to any facility that requests it may result in discipline for the player or sanction for the family.

We would also like to remind everyone that masking is mandatory in all public indoor spaces, regardless of vaccination status. There has already been one public health complaint to one of our facility partners where spectators being unmasked and not socially distanced. We cannot stress this enough: **Failure to comply with the public health order, City of Calgary bylaw, and facility guidelines jeopardizes our ice permits and could affect not just your child's season, but that of the entire association.**

We understand that information has been changing rapidly over the past week. We are struggling just as much as you, our members, to try and understand it all and come up with one all-encompassing plan that will allow us to operate and continue to have a season. We also understand that these rapid changes have some anger and frustration as these restrictions may contradict one's own beliefs. Please remember that coaches, volunteers, and board members are all doing the best they can under difficult circumstances to try and balance the needs of the membership along with the safety of our players and volunteers, and the health requirements set out by all levels of government and our facility partners, and that it is all done so that our kids can continue to play. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

Yours in hockey,

Jeff Walker

Director of Operations / Health & Safety Officer

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