



## **Woolwich Minor Hockey Association**

# **2021-2022 Return to Hockey Safety Plan**

**Updated Feb 3, 2022**

# Purpose and Overview

The purpose of this safety plan is to satisfy the requirements set out in the Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF) Return to Hockey Covid-19 Response for the 2021/2022 Hockey Season. Accordingly, Woolwich Minor Hockey Association (WMHA) has developed this Safety Plan for its members who will be using Woolwich Township facilities that support Woolwich Minor Hockey operations.

Within this safety plan includes measures & procedures to reduce the transmission risk of Covid-19 including requirements to ensure screening, physical distancing, masks or face coverings, the wearing of personal protective equipment and crowding prevention.

This document will continue to evolve as new information is presented.

# Information Resources

This plan will remain within all laws, guidelines and recommendations of the Provincial and Federal governments, Region of Waterloo Public Health Unit (PHU), Township of Woolwich (TW), Hockey Canada (HC), Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF), and the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA).

For up to date information please see the following:

Ontario Government Public Health - <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/>

Region Of Waterloo Public Health - <https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/living-here/covid-19-information-centre.aspx>

Township of Woolwich - <https://www.woolwich.ca/en/township-services/2019-novel-coronavirus.aspx#>

Hockey Canada - <https://www.hockeycanada.ca/en-ca/home>

Ontario Hockey Federation - <https://www.ohf.on.ca/risk-management/return-to-hockey-covid-19-response>

Ontario Minor Hockey Association - <https://www.omha.net/covid-19>

# WMHA Return to Play Leadership Team

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## Season Structure

The 2021-2022 season is planning to resemble traditional hockey that includes: normal rostered teams, leagues, regular programming, max participants on-ice, regular practice and games, benches considered field play, and full contact allowed. Dressing room use will continue to be minimized including the use of masks and distancing as well as coaches must wear masks on the bench. Travel is restricted to within Canada. All programs offered by WMHA will be within the guidance of HC, the OHF and the OMHA and will strictly adhere to the current “Stage” as determined by the OHF. Moreover, this plan is fluid, and will remain within all laws, guidelines and recommendations of the Provincial and Federal governments, Region of Waterloo Public Health Unit (PHU), and Township of Woolwich (TW).

## WMHA Governing Vaccination Policies

WMHA is a hockey association in Ontario that is governed by the Ontario Government and the OMHA’s policies and procedures.

### Government of Ontario

As per Ontario Regulation 645/21, beginning September 22, 2021, all individuals who are entering indoor municipal recreation facilities will be required to provide proof of vaccination along with ID. Exemptions include: Individuals under 18 years old who are entering the facility to participate in sport (e.g., organized league, pre-registered drop-in, swim lessons, etc.). Hockey participants including players, coaches and volunteers should check and adhere to their Association’s Return to Play protocols Children under 12 years old Individuals with a medical exemption. (A note from a doctor or registered nurse including a documented medical reason for not being fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and the effective time-period for the medical reason)

[O. Reg. 645/21: RULES FOR AREAS AT STEP 3 AND AT THE ROADMAP EXIT STEP](#)

## OMHA

The OMHA requires that all Affected Persons be Fully Vaccinated against COVID-19, in accordance with the remainder of this policy, as a condition of participating in any Sanctioned Activities during the 2021-22 hockey season. At present, this policy does not apply to hockey players born after 2009 or hockey spectators.

On November 1, 2021, any Player not Fully Vaccinated (i.e.: including the 14-day period after receiving their completed dose) or has not been granted an accommodation in accordance with Section 7 of OMHA's Vaccination Policy, will no longer be eligible to participate in any Sanctioned Activities until such time as they have presented satisfactory evidence that they have been Fully Vaccinated or been granted an accommodation.

### [Supporting OMHA Vaccination Policy](#)

Throughout this pandemic, the OMHA has followed the direction of Public Health Ontario and regional Public Health Units. As of this most recent announcement, there are no restrictions limiting programming that are coming from the Government. However, the [limits on spectator capacity](#) have been further updated, restricting arenas to 50% capacity but with a maximum of 1000 people, whichever is less.

In addition, individuals who are vaccinated, as well as children under 12 who have symptoms of COVID-19 will be [required to isolate for five days](#) following the onset of symptoms. These individuals can end isolation after five days if their symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours, and all public health and safety measures, such as masking and physical distancing, are followed.

Individuals who are unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or immunocompromised will be required to isolate for 10 days.

## Proof of Vaccination for Woolwich Minor Hockey

The recommended process for providing proof of vaccination:

- Submit online form through WMHA website
  - Players -> [Online Submission](#)
  - Coaches, Bench Staff, Team Staff, and Volunteers -> [Online Submission](#)
- In Person; Office hours will be shared through WMHA website

ONCE DOCUMENTATION IS REVIEWED, IT WILL BE DELETED.

## Attendance & Contact Tracing for Woolwich Minor Hockey

- Once Teams are finalized; Woolwich Minor Hockey participants will sign-in using the SportsHeadz digital screening and contact tracing app or via the SportsHeadz web site
  - <https://health.sportsheadz.com/>

## Township of Woolwich Facility Access Information (WMC & St. Jacobs)

- Entrance for all ice use (WMC and St. Jacobs) is through the main entrance
- Everyone entering the facility must;
  - Screen through our [health screening and contact tracing](#) either in advance or upon arrival
  - Provide proof of vaccination with **enhanced certificate with QR code** and ID
- Reduce the number of spectators per player at practices and games (1 parent/guardian per player where possible)
- All participants will be permitted access to dressing rooms 15 minutes before their ice time, please go directly to the dressing room upon entry
- Waterloo Region is considering dressing rooms as an extension of the field of play so there will not be capacity limits at this time. However, we do ask that masks remain on except when on the ice and on the bench, physical distancing is occurring and that you keep player time in the dressing rooms to a minimum.
- We recommend that players come as dressed and ready as possible
- All spectators are asked to go directly to the participant viewing areas after vaccine screening
- No lobby use is permitted – please dress for an arena setting
- No outside food or drink is allowed in the building at this time
- As per Regional and Provincial regulations every person inside the facility must wear a face covering and maintain 2m physical distancing
- Hand sanitizer will be provided at the entrance and must be used prior to entering the facility by all participants and spectators
- There will be no team social activities, warm-ups or dryland training allowed in the facilities at this time

- Face coverings will be required in all areas of the facility including the dressing rooms up until you put your helmet on immediately before you are to enter the ice surface
- Face coverings must immediately be put back on at the conclusion of your ice time when you are in the dressing room
- Participants must vacate the dressing room within 15 minutes of the end of their ice time
- This timeline will be strictly enforced to allow for cleaning and sanitizing
- Groups that do not adhere to this could possibly lose their remaining ice times on their permit
- Showers will not be available at this time
- We ask that all patrons show patience and respect to staff and other users as we adjust to these new rules and regulations

## Hygiene

- **Hockey Canada's Safety Guidelines VERSION 2 Revised August 1, 2021:**  
[https://cdn.hockeycanada.ca/hockey-canada/Exclusive/return-to-hockey/downloads/HC\\_RTH\\_Safety-GUIDELINES\\_EN.pdf](https://cdn.hockeycanada.ca/hockey-canada/Exclusive/return-to-hockey/downloads/HC_RTH_Safety-GUIDELINES_EN.pdf)
- Water Bottles:

### The Hockey Canada Safety Program recommends the following protocol for the use of water bottles:

- Good team hygiene includes ensuring all players and staff have their own water bottles to prevent the transmission of viruses and bacteria.
- Bottles should be labelled and washed after each practice or game.
- It is prohibited for officials to drink from the goaltender's water bottle. If officials require water, they should have their own water bottle at the penalty bench.
- There should not be sharing of water bottles in the penalty box, as well as no sharing of towels.

- Minimize going in and out of doors, including the dressing room. Facility doors are considered high-risk touchpoints. Team staff should try and control the number of times players enter and exit dressing rooms, as this avoids contact with the door handles. Use the elbow to open
- Absolutely no sharing of drinks or food
- Team warm-ups and practices should adapt to proper spacing; reduce the number of one-area stations, including the players coming together in one group for instruction
- Towels should only be on the bench under the guidance of the safety person/trainer and for emergency use only. A towel should only be used once and then taken off the bench and washed
- Paper towels/tissue can be on hand to wipe the face or blow the nose if on the bench. Ensure tissues are properly disposed of. Garbage cans or a plastic bag should

be placed close to the bench. After a participant blows their nose they should clean their hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer

- Emphasize to all participants that spitting and blowing the nose without tissue is absolutely forbidden.
- Each player needs to have a marked water bottle, which is washed after each practice or game.
- Team Social Activities Before and after games and practices there are opportunities that present themselves such as group meals and group socializing. Hockey Canada strongly recommends that these types of gatherings be very closely assessed and avoided if there is any question as to their safety. These types of gatherings should only take place if they comply with public health authority and Member guidelines. Even with vaccines it is important to realize that in order to reduce the possibility of the spread of COVID-19 and to keep the hockey environment and the community healthy these types of gatherings need to be controlled.

## OHF Return To Hockey Plan

The URL contains the full Ontario Hockey Federations Return to Hockey Plan.

<https://www.ohf.on.ca/risk-management/return-to-hockey-covid-19-response>

### Return to Sport after a confirmed instance of COVID-19 in Hockey

The Ontario Hockey Federation feels that the protocols that have been established Nationally, by our Members, the local associations and the OHF will reduce the chance of transmission within our programming. The OHF also recognizes that there is an aspect of inevitability that an athlete or coach within our programming will at some point have a confirmed positive case of COVID 19 and as such protocols are required for this instance.

If anyone becomes ill at a hockey, they will:

- be immediately separated from others, in a separate room if possible, until they can go home
- be provided with a medical mask
- continue to be supervised according to the local hockey associations usual policy
- be asked to maintain physical distancing
- be unable to take team or public transportation

If your child becomes ill at hockey, they must go home;

- the team or local hockey association will contact you and you'll need to arrange for them to get home, in a way that does not include public transportation.

- we encourage you to have a plan for this ahead of time. you should consult their health care provider.
- they may recommend your child [get tested for covid-19](#).
- if you or your child are tested for covid-19, [it's easy to get the results](#).

## Communication Plan

### Membership

Website communication provides:

- Season plan
- Facility protocols
- Return to Play protocols
- Expectation for players and parents

The WMHA website will continue to be used as the primary method of sharing new information with the membership as it evolves.

### Team Coaching Staff

Coaches meeting to be conducted with the following agenda:

- Return to Play protocols
- Screening requirements and paperwork submission
- Facility protocols, dressing rooms
- Equipment requirements
- Hygiene requirements
- Trainer requirements

## Disclaimer

**The information in this document is presented for general knowledge purposes only and is not intended or implied to be a complete guide to Covid-19 or a substitute for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. WMHA makes no representation and takes no responsibility for the information concerning Covid-19. The information regarding Covid-19 changes daily and the most recent information should always be obtained from Public Health Authorities.**