



Eden Prairie Hockey Association COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

The information provided is to the best of our knowledge and is subject to change (FAQ's Current as of 8-27-2020).

Where can I find the most up-to-date COVID information for the EPHA?

Each time there is a significant change to the COVID protocol, an email blast will be sent to all EPHA members.

The information on ephockey.com/covid19 will be kept current.

Will the season happen?

Minnesota Hockey and District 6 have both indicated that the season will progress as scheduled unless the state mandates youth sports, or specifically youth hockey, be cancelled.

Minnesota Hockey released their Phase 3 plan stating that this final phase of return-to-play opens on September 1 and follows Minnesota's Stay Safe Phase III Plan and MDH guidelines. Included within these guidelines are the following (for a full list of the return to play guidelines, visit ephockey.com)

- Players or coaches with any risk factors or symptoms should not participate.
- All participants must be registered with USA hockey for the 2020-2021 season.
- Players should follow all posted rink guidelines and the EPHA COVID-19 preparedness plan.
- EPHA will follow Association Guidelines for Managing Confirmed COVID-19 Cases.
- Each team will have a designated COVID manager volunteer position who will be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns and will help coordinate with the EPHA and local health authorities regarding positive cases.
- EPCC Dryland area is closed until further notice and indoor team training is not advised during Phase 3. Outdoor dryland training is available with social distancing measures in place.
- Out of state tournament travel by the EPHA requires District 6 approval.

If the High School teams are cancelled by the MSHSL, does that mean association hockey is automatically cancelled?

The MSHSL (Minnesota State High School League) is completely independent of the MN Hockey Associations. The cancellation, or delay, of the High School hockey season will have no bearing on Association hockey being cancelled or delayed.

Will refunds be issued if the season is cancelled?

The EPHA will offer refunds for a fully cancelled season, less any previously allocated expenses, prorated to the determined date of cancellation.

- USA Hockey and the affiliate MN Hockey fees required prior to EPHA registration are non-refundable. Their organizations are separate from the EPHA and the fees cannot be refunded.

What is the registration fee insurance offered by SportsEngine?

The registration insurance included as an option during registration is offered in partnership with a third-party provider and SportsEngine. This insurance, which is similar to travel insurance, has no affiliation with the EPHA and is unrelated to any prorated refunds that would be granted by the EPHA.

What is RegSaver Insurance?

<https://help.sportsengine.com/en/articles/301-what-is-regsaver-registration-insurance>

RegSaver coverage for COVID?

<https://www.registrationsaver.com/covid-19/>

What if there is a positive case on my team?

The EPHA will follow the most current guidelines set forth by the CDC, the MDH, and local governments. A confirmed case of COVID on your team, as indicated by a positive test, should be reported to the EPHA board COVID contact Sarah Hendrickson by emailing secretary@ephockey.com. For purposes of tracking, positive cases will be reported to the Minnesota Department of Health at health.sports.covid19@state.mn.us or 651-201-5000.

- If a player/coach becomes symptomatic during an EPHA event, they will immediately be removed from the event, and if applicable, their parent/guardian will be notified of the necessity of an immediate pickup.
 - The facility will be notified so the areas of contact can be closed until properly sanitized.
- If a player/coach/parent is symptomatic and has taken a test, it is expected that the player removes themselves from all team activity until a result is obtained.
- If a player/coach tests positive, all team activities will be paused until local health officials and/or MDH is consulted.
 - All team members will be notified of a positive case on their team, while maintaining that person's confidentiality in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- The team COVID manager will notify any opponents or teams that practiced or played with the infected player over the previous 14 days.
- If a positive case is revealed on the team of an opponent, it is expected that the team monitor the health and temperatures of all involved very closely for 14 days.

Will we reschedule or refund practices that are missed because of COVID?

- If the Full Team is under "pause" or quarantine orders due to an exposure related to an EPHA event:
 - the EPHA will make reasonable efforts to assist the team to reallocate and reschedule ice times. If a substitute team cannot be found to trade an ice time and it is non-refundable by the facility, the practice time may be forfeited.

- If an individual must quarantine due to an exposure unrelated to an EPHA event:
 - the individual will not receive a refund for initial lost ice time. If the required absence is deemed excessive, the Board will consider other actions on a case by case basis.
 - The EPHA understands this pandemic situation is unprecedented, and we MUST coordinate with local health authorities to manage COVID-19. Under no circumstance can we allow a player to participate in EPHA activities if mandates prevent it, and no EPHA player should be penalized for having to miss time due to COVID-19 concerns.

Do we expect to have travel/out-of-town tournaments?

Yes. As in previous seasons, we have booked our tournaments and are planning that the teams will travel to their respective tournaments. Tournament registration Fees and any related Gate Fees have already been paid and calculated into the base registration fee.

- If a player/family is not comfortable traveling to a tournament, they will not be penalized in any way by the team or Coaches.
- If the team is traveling to a tournament and a player opts out of participating in that tournament, a refund for that tournament will not be available.
- If the team is under a “pause” or quarantine per local officials or MDH guidelines (such as suspecting or having a confirmed case on their team), and thus must cancel because they are unable to travel, any refund granted will be subject to the policy of the tournament host.
- Tournament travel cities tentatively planned this year: *(This list meant as an FYI and is subject to change.)*
 - Duluth, MN | 10UA, 15UA, BAA, BC, JGA, JGB
 - Wilmar, MN | 10UB2, 12UB2
 - Roseau, MN | 12UA, 12UB1, PWAA, PWB1, BAA, BA
 - Grand Forks, ND | 15UB
 - Fargo, ND | SQA, SQB1
 - Walker, MN | SQB2, SQC
 - Brainerd, MN | PWB2
 - Breezy Point, MN | PWC
 - Hibbing, MN | BB2
- A tournament team traveling to play in Eden Prairie at an Eden Prairie Home Tournament who is needing to cancel will not be afforded a refund if the team spot is not replaced.

What if it is a team tradition to take a bus to an out-of-town tournament?

In accordance with the MDH and the Stay-Safe-MN plan, the EPHA recommends limiting the number of persons permitted in a vehicle at one time unless the vehicle allows for proper social distancing and ventilation.

- If a team wishes to secure a bus for travel to an out-of-town tournament, the EPHA mandates that any member of the team may opt out before the bus reservation is made. The bus expense would then be shared among only those choosing to participate and not be paid out of the general team fund.
- All participants must conduct a self-check of their health prior to boarding and wear a face covering while on the bus.

What if the team needs to forfeit a district game, will the forfeit fine be in place?

No. If a team needs to forfeit a district game due to COVID, the typical fine for that forfeiture will not be levied. It would be expected the game be rescheduled.

- Any game forfeiture should be reported to the EPHA Board, the EP Ice scheduler and District 6.

What happens if a District game is cancelled because of COVID?

Where available and time permitting, District teams will be expected to reschedule games that have been cancelled.

- If the game requires a reschedule as a result of COVID, the fine for rescheduling will be waived.

How do I know the protocol of the rink where we are playing?

It is the responsibility of the teams COVID manager to source and communicate each rink's protocol to the team prior to any on-ice event.

Who needs to wear a mask?

In accordance with the MDH and the Stay-Safe-MN plan, face coverings are required at all time inside a facility, with few exceptions.

The following is expected by the EPHA:

- Players are expected to provide their own mask and will wear their mask from the time they enter any facility until they put their helmet on. At the end of the skate, they will return their mask immediately upon removing their helmet. They will wear their mask until they exit the building.
 - Players are expected to follow the rink and association protocols. Any player refusing to follow and/or frequently violating the protocols will be removed from the premises and must appear in front of the Grievance Committee before they are able to return to their team.
 - It is suggested, but not required, that the COVID manager or team manager have a supply of back-up masks (paid for out of the team fund) should a participant find themselves without a mask. The EPHA will not provide masks.
- Coaches are expected to provide their own mask and will wear their mask as directed by each rink. It is the responsibility of the Coach to know, and adhere to, the expected protocol and inform his/her coaching staff. If a rink protocol is not posted, it is expected the coach and their staff wear their mask while on the bench.
 - Coaches who refuse to adhere to the posted mask regulations will be removed from the bench until they are able to appear in front of the EPHA Grievance Committee.
 - If a rink allows coaches to remove their masks while on the bench, Coaches are expected to wear their masks until they enter the bench area and return their mask before leaving the bench.
 - Coaches are expected to wear their masks in the locker-room.
- On-ice officials are not required to wear a mask while on the ice.
- Scoreboard, scoresheet and door attendants must wear a mask and limit the attendees in the booth to allow for social distances.

What other changes can I expect at the rink?

- Players and coaches are prohibited from spitting at any time or squirting water bottles for any reason other than as intended for personal use. EPHA will consider these instances to be violations of the Player Code of Conduct and subject to the 3-strikes rule.

- Spectators may be limited per each rink's capacity requirements, and teams and spectators should adhere to each arena/MDH policy and follow all guidelines.
- Expect reduced or eliminated pre-game indoor warm-ups and locker room chalk-talks, as most arenas are limiting the time before players are allowed to enter prior to their ice time.
- Expect to arrive at the arena dressed with the exception of skates, helmet and gloves.
- Expect some rinks to limit the use of hockey bags.
- Most arenas have reduced or eliminated concessions, access to water fountains, and even some restrooms. Players and spectators alike should arrive prepared for this potential.

Will tryouts be different because of COVID?

Yes. We have adjusted our processes to align with COVID-19 recommended safety measures.

Pre-season clinics:

- For purposes of contact tracing, players must stay within their assigned pre-season clinic and try-out groups. Changing groups to accommodate schedules will not be allowed.

Tryouts:

- Try-outs are expected to proceed as usual with group sizes adjusted to align to COVID protocols.
- Except to allow for social distances.
- The EPHA has increased our supply of try-out pinneys allowing for player pinneys to be worn only once before being sanitized.
- Players should arrive partially dressed. It is recommended they arrive fully dressed with the exception of skates, gloves and helmet.
- The EPHA will follow all existing policies related to excused absences, injuries, or illness during tryouts. If the situation requires special considerations (such as affecting multiple players) the EPHA Board will convene for an emergency session to vote on a suitable action.

Will the EPHA be offering growth programs such as Try Hockey for Free, Rookie Camp and Termites?

- At this time, we are planning and preparing to offer our full slate of 'New to Hockey' programming.
- We will be following all return to play guidelines as it relates to number of skaters and helpers on the ice.
- Spectators and Parent attendees will be limited based on current EPCC or Velocity rink guidelines. It is strongly suggested that all siblings do not attend if not participating.

Will the EPHA be offering the Mite Equipment Rental Program, allowing for the donation of and repurposing of used equipment, and the sharing of EPHA-owned goalie gear?

Mite Equipment Rental Program:

- The EPHA will be offering the Mite Equipment Rental Program, for additional details consult ephockey.com/equipment-program.

Equipment Donation Bins:

- For the time being, the donation bins will not be utilized at the EPCC. If you have an array of Mite/8U equipment in good shape that you would like to donate to our program, please contact Andrew Pieper at fundraising@ephockey.com.

- We will not be accepting donations of used gear in larger sizes or equipment in very used condition at this time.
- We always accept used sticks in good condition.

Mite/8U Shared Goalie Gear:

- The EPHA-owned goalie gear which typically is shared and rotated within Mite/8U teams will be distributed to teams per usual.
- It is the responsibility of the individual family utilizing the gear to assure it has been properly cleaned and sanitized prior to their player's use.
- Mite/8U goalies are encouraged to wear their own masks and helmets (goalie-specific helmets are not mandatory at these ages) and may also opt to wear their own skater gloves in lieu of the goalie glove and blocker.
- As is always the case, players can always opt out of their turn in the rotation for playing goalie without consequence.

Do you have a question that you don't see on this list? Please send an email to secretary@ephockey.com and your answer will be added and posted to all members ASAP.