



# ***RETURN TO PLAY***

**VERSION 8 - SEPTEMBER 3, 2021**



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## Message from Hockey Manitoba

On Thursday March 12, 2020, due to the health concerns associated with the COVID – 19 pandemic the 2019 – 2020 hockey season was cancelled by Hockey Canada. Although it was difficult to process the abrupt end to the hockey season, it was the best course of action for the game to do our part in keeping the country safe. The decision was made in an effort to help control the spread of the COVID – 19 virus with the overall priority for the health, safety, and well-being of over 600,000 Hockey Canada members.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 forced the interruption and pause of the 2020 – 2021 season and continues to play a significant role in the ability to seamlessly return to play for the 2021 – 2022 hockey season. Case numbers have oscillated back and forth since the start of the pandemic, and we cannot relax until this virus has been eradicated. The fundamental adherence of social distancing, wearing of masks, personal hygiene, and the importance of vaccination are necessary steps and practices that need to be employed to assist in the return pathway to normalcy and should not be ignored.

Hockey is the game of choice for over 35,000 Manitobans and the flagship sports program in our province with members comprised of ages U7 through to senior hockey. Hockey Manitoba is recognized as the largest Provincial Sport Organization (PSO) amongst the 70 plus sports overseen by Sport Manitoba and the strength and vitality Hockey Manitoba enjoys today is due in part to the ongoing contributions, commitments and investments made by each of our members. Our organization is committed to introducing the necessary steps so all members can “Return to Play” (RTP) in a safe and positive hockey environment.

In preparing for the RTP, Hockey Manitoba has worked in coordination with Hockey Canada, Sport Manitoba, the Province of Manitoba, and local health authorities to ensure all aspects of our RTP plan are properly executed with the central focus on players, coaches, officials, administrators, and volunteers. Part of our commitment includes an ongoing and regular review of our RTP protocols, which will help to enhance the positive hockey experience under the province’s health directives.

Hockey Manitoba recognizes the important role the game of hockey plays in the lives of countless Manitobans therefore, we are eager to resume play, however the health and safety of all participants must remain the number one priority. Please note that the resumption of play may not be linear as increasing restrictions may be required in response to fluctuating numbers of COVID – 19 cases in the province. As a result, our RTP plan will remain fluid and flexible to accommodate the necessary response to the changes within the community transmission as the province reopens and the changes in advice from the Provincial Health professionals.

This document, along with the Hockey Canada Safety Guidelines document, needs to be employed to assist in the return pathway to normalcy and should not be ignored. Hockey Manitoba highly encourages you to use these resources to review the most up to date information on COVID – 19.

Thank you.



**Bert Dow**  
President, Hockey Manitoba



**Peter Woods**  
Executive Director, Hockey Manitoba

## Acknowledgements

Thank you to the Hockey Manitoba Return to Play Task Team

- Hockey Manitoba Staff
- Board of Directors
- Review Committee

## Purpose of Document

The purpose of this document is to support Hockey Manitoba member programs by assisting the development of plans to guide the cautious step-by-step safe Return to Play during this pandemic. The RTP guidelines provide information on numerous topics and includes links to additional information and resources that can further support decision making and communication with boards, minor hockey associations, regions, leagues, and sporting members.

## Legal Disclaimer

The information contained in this document is not intended as a substitute for professional medical prognosis, recommendations, or treatment. Hockey Manitoba makes no representation and assumes no responsibility regarding the information concerning COVID – 19 due to the constant updates, and any information on COVID – 19 should be obtained from the Provincial Health Authority.



## Hockey Manitoba Return to Play Plan – Version 8 Update Summary

Section	Page	Change
Preparing Minor Hockey Associations to Reopen	5	New Public Health Orders announced Friday August 27, 2021. Released on Thursday September 2, 2021. Effective Friday September 3, 2021 at 12:01 a.m.
Face masks	11	Hockey Manitoba members (players, coaches, officials, volunteers) are required to follow the provincial government’s mandatory face mask policy while attending Hockey Manitoba-sanctioned activities.
COVID-19 Immunization Policy	11	In order to be eligible to participate in a Hockey Manitoba/Hockey Canada sanctioned program or event in Manitoba, all players, coaches, officials, off-ice officials, team staff, and volunteers 18 years of age and older are required to show proof that they are fully immunized.  Spectators 18 years of age and older who are watching sporting or recreational activities at the facility must produce proof that they are fully immunized.
Tournaments	12	Hockey Manitoba strongly recommends that all eligible minor hockey teams travelling into Manitoba for tournament or league play should be fully immunized. All teams travelling into Manitoba are required to follow all applicable provincial health guidelines.
Travel	12	Hockey Manitoba strongly recommends that any eligible members travelling outside of Manitoba for tournament or league play should be fully immunized. Members returning to the province must follow all applicable provincial health requirements.

Hockey Manitoba has removed certain information from previous versions of our Return to Play Plans based on relevancy and current Manitoba Public Health Orders.

## Communications Officer

1. It is required that each team appoint a [Communications Officer](#) who will be responsible to ensure all updated and relevant information is passed on to everyone within their jurisdiction.
2. The appointed individual will be responsible for monitoring all relevant updates from the public health authority and Hockey Manitoba, ensuring teams are following the Return to Play guidelines set by Hockey Manitoba, tracking attendance at all team events and ensuring any COVID-19 cases are reported as required by the provincial health authority. Google Forms, Excel Spreadsheets, or an app are recommended so that contact information is available immediately in the instance that contact tracing may be required. Please see the example Google spreadsheet [here](#).
  1. For all relevant updates or questions, the proper chain of communication should follow Hockey Manitoba → Region → Minor Hockey Association → Team or Hockey Manitoba → League/Accredited school → Team

Any information relevant to the respective region from Hockey Manitoba or the Province of Manitoba should be communicated through the appropriate channels. It is imperative that all Minor Hockey Associations, Leagues, Hockey Canada Accredited Schools, and Teams receive the necessary information and implement all necessary health and safety protocols.

Screening can be completed online by clicking [here](#) or in Interactive Voice Response (IVR) format at 1-877-308-9038.

For more information regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Communications Officer please review the [Hockey Canada Safety Guidelines](#).

## Safety Person

Each team's designated Safety Person must ensure facility safety for both indoor and outdoor hockey activities. For outdoor rinks the ice, boards, benches, and gate condition should be reviewed prior to the scheduling of a game and for games deemed safe by both teams. The Safety Person can refer to the [Hockey Canada Arena Safety Checklist](#) for further information.

## Preparing Minor Hockey Associations to Reopen

### Current Provincial Public Health Orders

1. On Friday August 27, 2021, the Manitoba Government announced changes to the Public Health Orders. The orders were released on Thursday September 2, 2021 and took effect on Friday September 3, 2021 at 12:01 a.m.

Indoor sporting and recreational facilities, including arenas, dance schools and martial arts studios, must not operate unless admission of members of the public to the facility is restricted to the following:

- (a) persons who produce proof that they are fully immunized;
- (b) persons who produce proof from the Government of Manitoba that there is a medical reason for the person not to receive a vaccine for COVID-19;
- (c) persons under 18 years of age

Spectators 18 years of age and older who are watching sporting or recreational activities at the facility must produce proof that they are fully immunized.

## Hockey Manitoba Return to Play Phases for the 2021 – 2022 season

	Non - Competition Phase	Competition Phase
<b>Timeline</b>	Beginning September 1, 2021	
<b>Physical Distancing (Off the ice)</b>	2 metres (Except brief contact) Minimize prolonged (more than 10 minutes), close contact	2 metres (Except brief contact) Minimize contact
<b>Screening</b>	All participants are required to use Manitoba's COVID-19 screening tool before each session. Screening can be completed online at <a href="https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/">sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/</a> or in Interactive Voice Response (IVR) format at 1-877-308-9038.	
<b>Activity</b>	Practices, drills, scrimmages.  Online or In-person clinics.	Exhibition games, regular season games and tournaments (within province) beginning September 1, 2021.  Online or in-person clinics.
<b>Facilities</b>	<p>The operator of a facility must implement measures to ensure that members of the public at the facility are reasonably able to maintain a separation of at least two metres from other members of the public at the facility, excluding participants while they are actively engaged in a sporting or recreational activity and limit occupancy to all portions of the facility where sporting or recreational activities are not conducted according to the Province of Manitoba. Reduce time spent in shared spaces, including dressing rooms, players benches, at the board and medical rooms.</p> <p>Each team's designated Safety Person must ensure facility safety for both indoor and outdoor hockey activities. For outdoor rinks the ice, boards, benches, and gate condition should be reviewed prior to the scheduling of a game and for games deemed safe by both teams. The Safety Person can refer to the <a href="#">Hockey Canada Arena Safety Checklist</a> for further information.</p>	
<b>Spectators</b>	<p>Spectators 18 years of age and older are required to show that they are fully immunized in order to attend a Hockey Manitoba/Hockey Canada sanctioned program/event in Manitoba.</p> <p>Spectators that are under the age of 18 years old do not have to be fully immunized in order to attend a Hockey Manitoba/Hockey Canada sanctioned program/event in Manitoba but must be accompanied by a fully vaccinated adult (18 years of age and older).</p>	

## The Playing Surface

### Non-Competition Phase (Practices, drills, and scrimmages)

1. It is mandatory for players, coaches, officials, off-ice officials, volunteers, parents, and spectators to wear face masks when attending Hockey Manitoba-sanctioned activities.
  - a. Face masks must also be worn in all common areas including dressing rooms.
  - b. Coaches are required to wear face masks on the bench, but not on the ice during practices.
  - c. Spectators are required to wear face masks at all times in facilities, aside from eating and drinking.
  - d. Athletes, coaches, and officials DO NOT have to wear face masks while on the ice or participating in physical activity in a designated exercise area (determined by each facility).
2. Practices, drills, scrimmages are permitted.
  - a. Full equipment is required for players. All coaches must wear helmets.
  - b. Players and coaches may have to arrive dressed as dressing rooms may not be available.
3. There are no capacity limits for participants.
4. Players should stagger entering the ice surface from the dressing room.
5. Only properly rostered coaches are permitted on the ice.
6. Coaches should minimize chalk talk sessions or time at the board where athletes are required to congregate.
7. Utilize station-based skill development practice plans and have players/coaches spread out to maintain physical distancing.
8. Avoid drills that require players to stand in line or in groups for a long period of time.
9. When leaving the ice, coaches should excuse players one-by-one in an orderly fashion to ensure athletes are given appropriate time to exit the ice surface without congregating. Adequate time should be planned within the practice to ensure this can be done.
10. Players and coaches should observe physical distancing recommendations when possible while on the ice.

### Competition Phase (Practices, games, tournaments)

1. It is mandatory for players, coaches, officials, off-ice officials, volunteers, parents, and spectators to wear face masks when entering and exiting facilities for Hockey Manitoba-sanctioned activities.
  - a. Face masks must also be worn in all common areas including dressing rooms.
  - b. Coaches are required to wear face masks on the bench, but not on the ice during practices.
  - c. Spectators are required to wear face masks at all times in facilities, aside from eating and drinking.
  - d. Athletes, coaches, and officials DO NOT have to wear face masks while on the ice or participating in physical activity in a designated exercise area (determined by each facility).
2. Practices, drills, scrimmages, games and tournaments are permitted.
  - a. Full equipment is required for players. All coaches must wear helmets.
  - b. Players and coaches may have to arrive dressed as dressing rooms may not be available.
3. There are no capacity limits for participants.
4. Only properly rostered coaches are permitted on the ice.
5. Coaches should minimize chalk talk sessions or time at the board where athletes are required to congregate. Avoid drills that require players to stand in line or in groups for a long period of time.

### Game Protocols

1. It is the responsibility of everyone to reduce the amount of time spent in proximity to others. Officials can help reduce the amount of time players spend in proximity to each other by quickly blowing the whistle if the puck is not moving with multiple players engaged.

- a. Examples include puck battles with multiple players pinned along the boards and rebounds with multiple players battling in front of the net.
- b. As soon as an official blows their whistle, all players should separate and distance themselves immediately.

## 2. Faceoffs

- a. It is recommended that all players and the official remain distanced at the top, bottom, or to the side of the face-off circle until the official blows the whistle and then move to their appropriate positions for the puck drop.

## 3. Handshakes / Cheers

- a. Officials may greet coaches, but no handshakes are permitted.
- b. All participants (including coaches/staff and officials) should avoid handshakes, fist bumps, hugs, or any physical contact, including goal celebrations.
- c. Players will not shake hands following a game. Teams may line up on respective blue lines and raise their sticks.
- d. Pre-game cheers on the ice should only take place if physical distancing between players can occur

## 4. On-ice Officials

- a. All Hockey Manitoba sanctioned games (including exhibition) must use registered officials.
- b. Only registered officials for the current season may be used.
- c. It is the officiating assignors' responsibility to relay information of arena specific protocols to any and all officials they have assigned (i.e. sign-in sheets, separate officials entrance, etc.).
- d. Ensure any official who refuses any game for any reason is not subject to future assigning restrictions.
- e. Limit travel for officials where practical.
- f. Sanitize hands regularly before games. Officials will be allowed to carry a sanitize bottle on the ice and allowed to apply during games.
- g. Officials will try to limit their presence around players between whistles.
- h. If dressing rooms are available, officials must follow facility guidelines and enforce physical distancing in dressing rooms.
- i. Only on-ice officials will be allowed in dressing rooms.

## 5. Faceoffs

- a. It is recommended that all players and the official remain distanced at the top, bottom or to the side of the face-off circle until the official blows the whistle and then move to their appropriate positions for the puck drop.

## 6. Bench/Penalty Box Protocol

- a. Benches, including penalty boxes, should be sanitized between each use by facility staff.
- b. Hand sanitizer should be available on the bench provided by each team.
- c. Full team permitted on the team bench. Every other player should sit/stand to further distance on the bench.
- d. All participants are asked to maintain social distancing practices while on the bench or in the penalty box.
- e. It is recommended that the same person open/close the gates and wear gloves.

## 7. Off-ice Officials

- a. If the facility has gates between the time-keeper box and penalty boxes, they should remain closed at all times during the game.
- b. Officials should communicate with off-ice officials through the gate as opposed to using the hole in the box.
- c. Timekeepers should remind players in the penalty boxes to physically distance as much as possible
- d. Off-ice officials should not enter the officials dressing room.

## 8. Cross-ice and Half-ice Hockey

- a. U7
  - i. Due to limited time and space in the dressing room, it is recommended that players arrive fully dressed except for skates, gloves, and helmet.
  - ii. Limit of two games on each ice surface.
  - iii. Games should remain at 3 on 3 cross-ice beneath the blue lines.
  - iv. The neutral zone can be used for players not currently in the game zone.
- b. U9
  - i. Due to limited time and space in the dressing room, it is recommended that players arrive fully dressed except for skates, gloves, and helmet.
  - ii. Games should remain at 4 on 4 half-ice.
  - iii. The development zone is required to be used to distance players.

## Maintaining a Healthy Environment

### Facility Protocols

#### 1. General

- a. All facilities in Manitoba where Hockey Manitoba-sanctioned activities are to take place are required to comply wholly with current health and safety standards as prescribed by the Provincial government as it relates to COVID-19.
- b. There are no capacity limits in facilities except for spectator areas (50 per cent of usual capacity or unless otherwise indicated by a specific facility).
- c. All staff members and visitors (players, coaches, officials, parents) must use the [Province of Manitoba Online Screening Tool](#) before coming to any facility in Manitoba where Hockey Manitoba-sanctioned activities are to take place. Furthermore, any staff, players, coaches, officials, or parents who are feeling ill and showing COVID-19 like symptoms must stay home and not enter any facilities.
- d. The Province of Manitoba recommends that facilities implement measures to ensure members of the public in the facility are sensibly able to maintain a distance of at least two metres from other members of the public at the facility, excluding participants who are playing hockey on the ice. Distancing markers should be located throughout facilities in high-traffic areas.

#### 2. Training and Signage

- a. All facility staff should be informed and updated regularly regarding public safety and cleaning requirements.

- b. Signage should be located throughout the arena, in relation to physical distancing, hand washing, self-screening, hand sanitizing, and wearing a face mask.

### 3. Entry/Exit in Facilities

- a. Physical distancing should be enforced at the entrances and exits of all facilities using physical barriers and security personnel (where possible).
- b. Players, team staff, officials and spectators should avoid congregating in groups anywhere in the facilities.
- c. At the conclusion of ice sessions players, team staff, officials, and spectators should leave promptly (within 20 minutes), being respectful of physical distancing.
- d. Hand sanitizer dispensers should be placed at key guest entrances and high-contact areas such as the main lobby, entrance to the ice surface, and other high traffic areas.

### 4. Concourse/Lobby Areas

- a. Facilities should have decals on the floor to direct player/coach/official/spectator movement using one-way traffic systems where feasible.
- b. Individuals should always maintain necessary physical distancing when they are in the concourse/lobby areas.
- c. Individual off-ice warm-ups are only permitted in areas where physical distancing can occur (ie. gym space or outdoors)
- d. Warm-up or sports equipment should not be shared.

### 5. Concessions

- a. If food or concession services are provided, they should follow provincial restaurant guidelines.

### 5. Spectators

- a. Spectators 18 years of age and older are required to show that they are fully immunized in order to attend a Hockey Manitoba/Hockey Canada sanctioned program/event in Manitoba.
- b. Spectators that are under the age of 18 years old do not have to be fully immunized in order to attend a Hockey Manitoba/Hockey Canada sanctioned program/event in Manitoba but must be accompanied by a fully vaccinated adult (18 years of age and older).
- c. Spectators are required to wear face masks at all times in facilities, aside from eating and drinking.
- d. Must maintain at least two metres from other members of the public.

### 6. Cleaning/Sanitizing

- a. All facilities where Hockey Manitoba sanctioned activities are to take place must ensure that all cleaning and sanitizing guidelines established by the Province of Manitoba's health authorities are implemented before, during, and following every game or practice.
- b. Hand sanitizer and/or wipe stations must be readily available in all areas of the facility, including dressing rooms, benches, penalty boxes, score clock, concourse, seating; washrooms, and entry/exit points.
- c. Latex gloves should be available at the dressing room and bench areas, and for all staff in the facility.
- d. Regular cleaning must occur in high touch areas (railings, door handles, elevators, etc.).
- e. Teams can assist in keeping facilities clean by encouraging frequent hand washing and avoiding touching surfaces whenever possible.

## 7. Washrooms

- a. Physical distancing should be enforced by the use of physical barriers and signage.
- b. Guidelines for the number of people allowed in a public washroom will be determined by Manitoba's Public Health Minister.
- c. Every second stall or urinal, where applicable, will be closed to allow for proper physical distancing.
- d. Washrooms should be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis according to current health and safety standards in the Province of Manitoba.

## 8. Face Masks

- a. It is mandatory for players, coaches, officials, off-ice officials, volunteers, parents, and spectators to wear face masks when entering and exiting facilities for Hockey Manitoba-sanctioned activities.
- b. Face masks must also be worn in all common areas including dressing rooms.
- c. Coaches are required to wear face masks on the bench, but not on the ice during practices.
- d. Spectators are required to wear face masks at all times in facilities, aside from eating and drinking.
- e. Athletes, coaches, and officials DO NOT have to wear face masks while on the ice or participating in physical activity in a designated exercise area (determined by each facility).
- f. Hockey Manitoba members (players, coaches, officials, volunteers) who are in violation of the provincial government's mandatory face mask policy may be subject to sanctions from Public Health or Hockey Manitoba.

## 9. COVID-19 Immunization Policy

- a. In order to be eligible to participate in a Hockey Manitoba / Hockey Canada sanctioned program/event in Manitoba, all players, coaches, officials, off-ice officials, team staff, and volunteers 18 years of age and older are required to show proof that they are fully immunized (i.e. including the 14-day period after receiving their completed dose).
- b. All members 18 years of age and older must present evidence demonstrating that they have received the completed series of an accepted COVID-19 vaccine to enter all indoor recreational facilities in Manitoba.
- c. Hockey Manitoba will comply with the Manitoba Human Rights Code (MHRC) and accept accommodations that have been provided by the provincial government. Any members seeking a medical or religious accommodation must do so through an application to the provincial government.
- d. Any member 18 years of age and older who has not been granted an accommodation and cannot provide proof of full COVID-19 immunization will no longer be eligible to enter an indoor recreation facility in Manitoba which would prevent them from participating in any Hockey Manitoba/Hockey Canada sanctioned program in Manitoba until such time as they present satisfactory evidence that they are fully vaccinated.
- e. Members under 18 years of age do not need to be fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus in order to participate in a Hockey Manitoba/Hockey Canada sanctioned program/event in Manitoba.
- f. Spectators 18 years of age and older are required to show that they are fully immunized in order to attend a Hockey Manitoba/Hockey Canada sanctioned program/event in Manitoba. Spectators that are under the age of 18 years old do not have to be fully immunized in order to attend a Hockey Manitoba/Hockey Canada sanctioned program/event in Manitoba but must be accompanied by a fully vaccinated adult (18 years of age and older).

## Tournaments and Travel

### 1. Tournaments

- a. Teams will be permitted to participate in tournaments within the province as of **September 1, 2021**.
- b. Currently, no teams will be accepted for tournament play from outside of Manitoba prior to **October 1, 2021**.
- c. Hockey Manitoba strongly recommends that all eligible minor hockey teams travelling into Manitoba for tournament or league play should be fully immunized.
- d. All teams travelling into Manitoba are required to follow all applicable provincial health guidelines.

### 2. Travel

- a. Currently, Hockey Manitoba teams will not be permitted to travel outside of the province until **October 1, 2021**, unless participating in regular season play.
- b. Hockey Manitoba will be accepting travel permit applications as of **September 15, 2021**.
- c. Hockey Manitoba strongly recommends that any eligible members travelling outside of Manitoba for tournament or league play should be fully immunized.
- d. Members returning to the province must follow all applicable provincial health requirements.

## Team Hygiene

### 1. Equipment

- a. Equipment such as water bottles and towels should not be shared.
- b. Water bottles should be labelled to identify to whom they belong.
- c. Water bottles should be filled at home.
- d. Water bottles should be cleaned thoroughly before and after each event.
- e. Equipment such as jerseys, pant shells, socks, bandanas/skull caps and compression gear, should be washed after each event.
- f. Equipment that is shared (pucks, pylons, etc.) must only be handled by the owner of the equipment.

### 2. Dressing Room Protocols (If permitted by facility)

- a. Participants must follow all facility safety guidelines/protocols
- b. There are no capacity limits in dressing rooms but physical distancing of at least two metres is strongly recommended.
- c. Only team personnel will be allowed in dressing rooms (coaches, medical staff, and players)
  - i. If a parent is required, only one parent per player will be permitted. No additional family members will be allowed in dressing rooms.
- d. It is strongly recommended that participants show up fully dressed, minus their gloves, skates, and helmet.
- e. It is recommended that teams use two dressing rooms to physically distance players when available.
- f. Players may arrive at the facility no more than 45 minutes prior to the ice-time and leave no more than 20 minutes following (unless otherwise specified by a facility).
- g. Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes should be available to players.
- h. Sharing food or drink is not permitted.
- i. Players and coaches should do their best to ensure no personal belongings are left behind and that dressing rooms are kept tidy (sock tape and stick tape, etc. should not be left on the ground).

- j. Dressing rooms should be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized after each use by facility staff.
- k. If additional rooms are used (medical room, officials' room) teams must advise staff to be cleaned.
- l. Washrooms, showers, and water fountains are available at the discretion of the facility.
- m. Individuals may not share clothing, soap, shampoo, or other personal items such as razors and towels.
- n. Spitting is prohibited anywhere in the facility.

### 3. Off-ice Training

- a. Team off-ice training is permitted based on facility protocols.
- b. Teams must practice physical distancing and proper hygiene at all times.
- c. Face masks may be removed while participating in off-ice physical activity in a designated exercise area.

### 4. Medical Treatment/Therapy

- a. Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes should be made available as players enter and leave.
- b. Medical rooms/tables will be disinfected between player treatments.
- c. Protective face masks and gloves should be worn.
- d. Therapists must wash hands and change gloves between each athlete they treat.

### 5. Protocol for symptoms of COVID-19/ positive COVID-19 test results

Any individual who exhibits symptoms such as a cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose, or sore throat and has a suspected case of COVID-19, must adhere to the following protocol:

- a. Notify the Head Coach or appropriate team contact person immediately.
- b. The individual will be instructed to be isolated.
- c. The individual must contact Manitoba's Public Health Authority to determine if a COVID-19 test is required. If a test is not required, the individual may return if they have been symptom-free for 24 hours.
- d. If a test is required, the individual must follow provincial [COVID-19 testing criteria](#) until they have received their test results.

## Insurance

Under Hockey Canada’s current General Liability policy, the following is the definition for ‘bodily injury’: “Bodily Injury” means bodily injury, sickness, disease, mental injury, mental anguish, or nervous shock sustained by a person, including death resulting from any of these at any time. As it relates to COVID-19, that would fall within the definition – more specifically, under disease.

Liability claims against Hockey Canada always need to be proven by the third party, so continuing to update and enforce risk-management guidelines as new risks emerge, such as COVID-19, are imperative. Understand that Hockey Canada and its Members are actively working on updating risk-management protocols related to Return to Hockey guidelines post-COVID-19.

As with all claim scenarios, the insurance company would investigate all claims presented against any Member of Hockey Canada that falls within the ‘bodily injury’ definition and would confirm coverage based on the framing of the allegations. It will also be important to review new municipal rink/private rink facility contracts post-COVID-19 for all rentals; in all likelihood, they will now contain a new clause which absolves the municipality/private facility owners of any liability related to COVID-19.

New lease agreements will need to be carefully scrutinized, given that organizations will potentially have little control over cleaning/sanitizing of rented premises and should not be expected to take on all liability related to COVID-19 in these facilities.

Finally, it should be noted that many insurance companies are implementing Communicable Disease/COVID-19 exclusions on all policies either immediately, or upon renewal. Hockey Canada can advise that AIG, who is Hockey Canada’s primary General Liability insurer, has agreed to waive this exclusion in the General Liability policy until Sept. 1, 2023. Hockey Canada will NOT have this exclusion in its policy until that date, at the earliest.

## Conclusion

Hockey Manitoba believes that the RTP guidelines set forth in this document and additional resources will prepare participants to safely return to hockey. As information regarding the COVID – 19 virus changes, our RTP plan will remain fluid and flexible to accommodate the necessary response to advice from the Provincial Health professionals.

Thank you to the Task Team and the Hockey Manitoba Board of Directors for their support making this document possible.

Any members requesting concessions to the guidelines set forth by Hockey Manitoba must do so in writing to the Executive Director for consideration.

Please visit [Hockey Manitoba’s Return to Play webpage](#) regularly for important information and regular updates.

## Resources and References

### Hockey Manitoba

[Hockey Manitoba Return to Play](#)

[Hockey Manitoba Communications Officer](#)

[Hockey Manitoba Facility Signage](#)

### Hockey Canada

[Hockey Canada Return to Hockey Safety Guidelines](#)

[Hockey Canada Return to Hockey FAQ](#)

[Hockey Canada Seasonal Structure](#)

[Hockey Canada Network App](#)

[Hockey Canada Arena Safety Checklist](#)

### Province of Manitoba

[Province of Manitoba COVID-19 Updates](#)

[Province of Manitoba State of Emergency](#)

[Risk Assessment and Mitigation Tool](#)

[Province of Manitoba's COVID-19 online screening tool](#)

[Province of Manitoba Emergency Measures Act](#)

[Province of Manitoba – Where can I get tested?](#)

[Province of Manitoba COVID-19 News Releases](#)

[Province of Manitoba State of Emergency and Public Health Orders](#)

### Government of Canada

[Government of Canada travel restrictions](#)

[Government of Canada travel advisories](#)

[Government of Canada About Non-medical masks](#)

