



Chaska Chanhassen Hockey Association COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

Updated February 19, 2021

Chaska Chanhassen Hockey Association (“CCHA”) has implemented guidelines to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. These guidelines are taken from strategies set forth by the Minnesota Department of Health (“MDH”) and its [Guidance for Social Distancing](#) in youth sports, the Center for Disease Control (“CDC”), USA Hockey, Minnesota Hockey, and other local governing bodies. CCHA will continue to update its COVID-19 Preparedness Plan as new guidelines are announced. CCHA requires each of its members to follow these guidelines.

The information in this Preparedness Plan is not intended to be a substitute for any diagnosis, treatment or other professional medical advice. The information surrounding COVID-19 is constantly changing and CCHA makes no representation and assumes no responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of the information contained in this Preparedness Plan. However, CCHA will continue do its best to continue updating the Preparedness Plan and its members as to any changes mandated by the MDH, CDC, Minnesota Hockey, and other governing bodies.

CCHA continues to work closely with both the Chaska Community Center (“CCC”) and Victoria Recreation Center (“VRC”). Both of these facilities are committed to providing a safe and clean environment for those who enter and use their rinks. Both rinks have instituted similar rules which need to be followed by all CCHA members when using their facilities. The rules and guidelines set forth in this CCHA Preparedness Plan include the new COVID-related guidelines enacted by both CCC and VRC.

The rules set forth in CCHA's Preparedness Plan reflect Phase 5 of Minnesota Hockey's Return to Play Guidelines, updated January 12, 2020. In the event a different Phase is implemented, this Plan will be updated accordingly and the Association's members notified immediately. If changes are made to this Plan, the changed will be made as soon as CCHA is aware of them and the new language/rules will be in red font for the remainder of the week in this Plan. CCHA urges its members to review the Plan often throughout the season.

At-Home Preparation Before You Get to the Rink:

- Coaches and players with any risk factors or illnesses should not participate in any on-ice or off-ice activity. Any player, coach, parent, or spectator exhibiting any symptoms or signs of an illness should NOT be in the rink at any point.
- **WHEN TO STAY HOME:** (1) a player or coach tests positive for COVID-19; (2) a member of a player's or coach's household tests positive for COVID-19; (3) a player or coach is awaiting COVID-19 test results; (4) a member of a player's or coach's household is awaiting COVID-19 test results; (5) a player or coach is quarantined from close contact exposure at school, work or other sources; and/or (6) you are exhibiting any symptoms of illness (see below).
- A self-check should be performed by each member prior to participating in CCHA activities. Considerations include:
 - Recent contact with infected person(s)
 - Recent travel outside of Minnesota
 - Symptoms including elevated temperature of 100.0 or higher, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath (See MDH's [Is it COVID-19? Guide to Symptoms and Self-Screening Tool](#))
- All coaches and players must be registered with USA Hockey for the 2020-21 season and complete the USA Hockey waiver before participating in any CCHA-sanctioned activity.
- Families must provide the coaches and team managers with accurate contact information in case of an emergency, with the responsible parent/guardian able to be reached at all times, and be available to immediately return to the rink, in case of an emergency.

Requirements for Arrival at Both CCC and VRC Rinks:

- CCHA may require each player to complete a “Quick Entry Check-In” before entering the rink for any on-ice activity. This Check-In will assist in screening symptoms as well as allow for tracking in the event a player or coach tests positive for COVID-19. Team Managers will be trained on the use and application of this Check-In System if utilized.
- **MASKS:** Per state mandate, everyone (including players, coaches and officials) must wear a cloth face covering at all times inside an arena, including on the ice. Cloth masks are required for all participants on the ice, ages 6 and up. Players aged 5 and under are not required to wear masks on the ice (but must wear a mask coming into and out of the facility). Spectators must wear a mask at all times in the arenas. If a player, coach or parent has a medical exemption from wearing a mask documented by a physician, please inform the Team Covid Manager of this exemption. Copies of the physician’s written medical exemption must be kept with the Team Manager and Head Coach.
- **PLAYERS AND MASK PENALTIES:** If a player is found violating the mandatory mask rule, he/she will be subject to discipline as required by District 6 (1st offense = warning; 2nd offense = 3 game suspension; 3rd offense = 14 game suspension; 4th offense = hearing with D6 director and penalty TBD).
- **COACHES AND MASKS PENALTIES:** Coaches must wear masks on the ice unless they have a documented preexisting medical condition with prior notification to the District 6 Director. This rule is subject to change. Coaches who are on the bench must wear a mask at all times. District 6 has applied strict penalties for coaches’ mask violations in all games, scrimmages and practices (1st offense = \$500.00 and suspended for 14 days; 2nd offense = \$500.00 fine and 30-day suspension; 3rd offense = \$1000.00 fine and 1-year suspension).
- **ARRIVAL:** Skaters, coaches, and game operations personnel should arrive at the rink no more than **10 minutes** before the start of each session. Anyone who arrives earlier than **10 minutes** before each session needs to wait outside of the rink and be socially distanced from others. Goalies and officials may arrive **15 minutes** early.
 - Upper level players (Squirt, 10U, Peewee, 12U, Bantam, and 15U) should be dropped off at the rink and picked up afterwards for all practices. Spectators are NOT allowed for upper level practices.
 - Lower level players (Rookie, Termite, 6U, Mini Mite, Mite, 8U) may have ONE parent or guardian is allowed in the rink to help tie skates and assist with other equipment needs. This parent/guardian may stay at the rink, following social distance requirements and while wearing a mask, to provide

assistance to the player if needed during practice. **Other siblings/children are strongly discouraged from being in the arena but are allowed when absolutely necessary. Siblings/non-player children must be seated next to a parent/guardian at all times.**

- Players should come to the rink fully dressed, with the exception of skates and helmets (although arrival in skates with proper skate guards is strongly encouraged by the rinks for both skaters and goalies). Goalies should arrive in breezers on but may put on leg pads and chest protector inside the facility.
 - At CCC, all participants must enter through the Arena Doors (door #1).
 - At VRC, all participants must enter through the main VRC entrance doors.
 - To decrease congestion, do not pull up to drop off your player at the entrance doors if there are more than a few cars in line. Do not double park to drop off your player. Find a parking spot in the parking lot and have your player walk into the rink from the parking lot.
- **DRESSING**: All players must arrive at the rink fully dressed. The rinks urge the players to come with skates on, with proper skate guards. Arena lobbies may not be used for dressing, tying skates, or storing shoes/gear/belongings.
 - **BAGS**: Equipment bags are not allowed inside the facility (with the exception of goalies). All players must carry in gloves, skates, and helmet. Goalies may bring in one equipment bag. Players and coaches may bring in one small cinch bag or small backpack.
 - **TEMPERATURE CHECKS**: Temperature checks of all players (and parents/guardians of lower level players) may be conducted before each on-ice activity at the discretion of CCHA, taking into account the most recent recommendations from the CDC, MDH, and MN Hockey. If so, the temperature checks will take place prior to entrance of the locker rooms or common spaced used by players. CCHA will work with coaches and team managers on the execution of temperature checks.
 - Players need to provide their own water bottles filled at home and clearly labeled with the player's name. Do not use the water fountain at any facility.
 - Please have all players use the restroom at home before practice and games to limit the use of restrooms at the rinks.
 - **LOCKER ROOMS**: Locker Rooms are not available and will be closed for use. There is limited seating to tie skates in chairs around the rinks, available on a first-come, first-serve basis. This seating is limited so come to the rink fully dressed.

- All incoming players need to wait until all players who were on the ice before them have vacated the ice, benches and locker room area before entrance. There should be no interaction between the two groups.
- A designated team volunteer will be in charge of checking each team in to both CCC and VRC for every practice and game/scrimmage. The team volunteer will monitor the team's compliance with the rink rules and COVID Plan for the duration of the team's ice time, including entering, exiting, congregation, spectators, etc.

Requirements for On-Ice Activities:

- Two pods of a maximum of 25 people per pod (including players AND coaches/volunteers/on-ice helpers) are allowed on the ice and in the official box or benches at one time. Each pod must be consistent with the same players and coaches skating in the same pod during each on-ice activity. The pods should not mix during on-ice activities. The names of all players and coaches in each pod will be recorded.
- Mouthguards: Due to the state mandate of wearing a cloth mask at all times, mouthguards no longer need to be tethered. Mouthguards are required for levels 12U, Peewee, 15U, Bantam, and Jr. Gold, but do not need to be attached.
- While there may be times where there is close contact between players at practices, players should maintain as much social distancing as possible during practices. Coaches should plan drills and skill sessions accordingly while keeping social distancing guidelines in mind.
- Players should not leave the ice during practice unless absolutely necessary.
- Coaches should avoid physical contact with players whenever possible. If a younger player requires physical assistance, the coach should ask the player's parent or guardian for assistance.
- At the end of practice, players should not help pick up pucks or other equipment. Each player should exit the ice one by one and maintain social distancing.
- Absolutely no spitting by any player, coach or volunteer is allowed in the rink or on the ice at any time.

- Each team is responsible for cleaning/disinfecting the bench area and other areas utilized by players after each practice and game. CCHA will inform coaches and team managers on the location and use of the cleaning equipment and products.
- Indoor dryland activities are not allowed at this time.

Requirements for Exiting After On-Ice Activities are Completed:

- Players and coaches must exit the facility immediately at the conclusion of their ice time. Players should leave the rink fully dressed, except for helmet and gloves (rinks are urging players to keep skates on with proper skate guards if possible). This allows for the next group of skaters to enter while maintaining proper social distancing amongst all players. Everyone (players, coaches, team volunteers) must exit the facility within 5 minutes of the end of their ice time.
- Face Masks must remain on while exiting the ice, removing the helmet, and leaving the facility.
- For lower level players (Mite/8U and under), each parent/guardian must exit the facility immediately after practice with their player.
- For upper level players (Squirt/10U and up), parents/guardians must pick up their player outside of the facility at the end of practice. It is important that all parents/guardians are aware of practice end times so they can be punctual in picking up their player. Players should NOT be hanging around the facility waiting for a ride.
- At CCC, all participants must exit through the main arena doors, following the designated entrance/exit signs.
- At VRC, if playing on East, all participants should exit through East Rink back doors leading to back parking area. If playing on West, all participants should exit through the West rink doors leading to back parking area. Parents must pick up their players at the back parking lot of VRC. This applies to all upper AND lower level players.
- Coaches must remain at the facility until all players on their team are safely out of the facility and have been picked up.
- In order to decrease congestion for pick-up and drop-off times, do not arrive to pick up your player until the end of the scheduled ice time. Do not pull up to the front

of the rink and wait in line if there is a long line of cars. Do not double park to drop off/pick up players. Please find a parking spot in the parking lot and wait for your player to exit the arena.

- Players should not participate in team meetings, socializing or dryland activities after practice.
- Each player's gear should be cleaned and disinfected after each use.

Try-outs and Evaluations:

- Players should arrive at tryouts 45 minutes prior to the start of their session. Check-in will be conducted outside of VRC near the exterior concession stand window in the main parking lot area.
- Players may enter VRC no more than 15 minutes prior to the start of their session. (Goalies may enter VRC 20 minutes before the start of their session to allow time to get dressed.)
- Bags are not allowed in the rink during tryouts (except for goalies). Players should come fully dressed, with the exception of skates, helmets and gloves. Goalies may bring their bags and gear in and get dressed in the rink.
- All players must bring a pre-filled and labeled water bottle. Water fountains/filling stations will not be available for use.
- Temperature checks of all players (and parents/guardians of lower level players) may be conducted at the discretion of CCHA, taking into account the most recent recommendations from the CDC, MDH, and MN Hockey at the time of tryouts. If so, the temperature checks will take place at the check-in in front of VRC before each session.
- Masks must be worn by all players (and parents/guardians of lower level players) going into and out of the facility. Players may take their masks off before putting their helmet on and are not required to wear them on the ice. All persons on the bench, other than players, must wear a mask.
- Players will be assigned a pinny at the first session and are responsible for their pinny for the remainder of the try-out sessions. Players will take their pinny home in between sessions and are encouraged to clean them between each use. Players are responsible for wearing their pinny back to the rink for each tryout

session. Players will NOT be allowed on the ice without their assigned pinny. At the completion of each level's tryouts, all pinnies will be collected, cleaned and sanitized.

- For upper level players (Squirts, PeeWee, Bantam, 10U, 12U, 15U), no parents/guardians are allowed in the facility. If an upper level goalie needs assistance with gear, then a parent/guardian may enter the rink to assist the goalie in getting dressed but must then immediately leave the facility after the player is dressed.
- For lower level players, ONE parent/guardian is allowed in the facility to assist with getting skates tied and other equipment needs. Once the lower level player is on the ice, the parent/guardian must exit the facility but stay nearby in case of an emergency. The parent/guardian of the lower level player may re-enter the rink at the conclusion of the evaluation to assist with the player's skates and gear.
- Players must follow the locker room guidelines set forth in the "Requirements for Arrival at Both CCC and VRC Rinks" section above, following social distancing requirements of no more than 10 players in the VRC lockers rooms with the remainder of the players utilizing designated socially-distanced seating outside of the locker rooms.
- All players should leave the facility immediately after their session.
- At VRC, all participants must enter through the main VRC doors and exit through the West Rink or East Rink back doors to minimize contact between groups.
- During tryouts, COVID-19 will be treated like any illness or excused absence. CCHA will follow its protocol to provide a reasonable score of any missed session(s) due to COVID-19. If a player misses tryouts, the player will be placed on a team as if they were injured based on the previous year's information from coaches and other individuals who know the player, in addition to like talent who completed the tryout process.
- Only members of the CCHA Hockey Development Committee and select members of the CCHA Board and Administration will be allowed in the Blue Line Room at VRC during tryouts. Evaluators will only be allowed in the Blue Line Room when needed to participate in critical discussions. No more than 11 individuals are allowed in the Blue Line Room at any time.

Local Games and Scrimmages:

- Games and scrimmages are allowed beginning January 14, 2021. Teams are strongly discouraged from traveling to play games outside of Minnesota.
- Any travel outside of Minnesota to other states must be approved by the Director of District 6. When traveling anywhere, special attention should be given to areas of high community spread according to MDH statistics. Travel to those areas is discouraged. The Director of District 6 must also give approval for any out-of-state teams traveling into Minnesota to play a CCHA team. Any requests for games outside of Minnesota or games with incoming out-of-state opponents must be made to District 6 by the CCHA President.
- In the score/announcer box, a maximum of two assigned adults are responsible for clock, scoresheet, and penalty box with no one else allowed in the area. The two clock/score/box volunteers must be from the home team. Masks must be worn in the score/announcer box and the assigned adults must maintain social distancing.
- No more than three coaches are allowed on the bench at all times. Coaches must wear a mask. One coach must be in charge of the players to monitor players and keep them socially distanced as much as possible.
- During a stoppage of play caused by a save, the goalie must drop the puck on the ice for the official to retrieve.
- There should be no pre- or post-game huddles or post-goal gatherings on the ice.
- Pre-game and post-game handshakes are not allowed. Minnesota Hockey suggests teams honor each other after the game with a “stick salute”.

Spectators:

- CCHA will follow all rules set in place by CCC and VRC and will update this document to reflect changes made and updates to the policies of both rinks.
- Two adult spectators are allowed for games and scrimmages. **Siblings and other children are discouraged from being in the arena but allowed when absolutely necessary. Siblings/non-player children must stay seated next to a parent/guardian at all times.**
- No spectators are allowed for upper level practices (Squirt/10U and up).

- One parent/guardian may be in the rink for lower level players (Mite/8U and under) during practices. **As with games, siblings and non-player children are discouraged from being in the arena but allowed when absolutely necessary. Siblings/non-player children must stay seated next to a parent/guardian at all times.**
- Necessary team volunteers (coaches, team manager, Covid manager, videographer, score/box/clock operators) are not considered to be spectators and are not included in the two-spectator limit.

Concessions:

- The opening and availability of Concessions at either CCC or VRC is not the sole decision of CCHA. CCHA will continue to follow all policies of both CCC and VRC which currently include very few spectators at the rink. Given the current rink rules regarding spectators, CCHA does not see a demand or need for concessions inside of either facility at this time. Alternatively, CCHA requests approval from both CCC and VRC for the possibility of food trucks and food vendors to be outside of both rinks, clear of all fire lanes and traffic flow, on various busy weekends during the hockey season.

Volunteers:

- Any member signed up for volunteer shifts while either themselves or a family member have taken a COVID-19 test and are awaiting test results should not fulfill that volunteer shift and notify Volunteer Coordinator Kelly Olson immediately at volunteer.coordinator@cchockey.org. Once test results are back, notify the Volunteer Coordinator of the results immediately. If negative and symptom-free, the member can resume normal shifts. If positive, the member may not fulfill volunteer shifts until the timeline requirements from the MDH are met (See [MDH Decision Tree](#)).
- No volunteer credits will be given for missed shifts due to illness, COVID-19 symptoms, positive COVID-19 test results or possible exposure to COVID-19. Members who missed shifts due to COVID-related concerns are still required to complete all volunteer hours.
- If members do not notify the Volunteer Coordinator prior to their shift and do not show up for their shift, a fine of \$25 will be issued pursuant to the CCHA Volunteer Policy.

Activities and Events in Locations other than Ice Arenas:

- When participating in any CCHA activity or event at a location other than VRC and CCC (as referenced above), all CCHA players, coaches and parents/guardians must follow the rules and guidelines set forth by those non-rink locations, including but not limited to:
 - Performing a self-check for symptoms prior to arrival and staying home if any symptoms are present (see “Symptoms of Illness”, page 2, above);
 - Wearing masks when indoors; and
 - Maintaining social distancing during any CCHA activity or event.
- Pursuant to the guidelines of MN Hockey and District 6, CCHA does not approve of any scheduled off-ice team parties or team activities.

Emergency Plans for Ill Players:

- In the event a player arrives at a facility and has an elevated temperature of 100.0 degrees or higher, or in the event a player falls ill during an on-ice activity, the player will be removed from the ice and placed in a designated room at CCC or VRC with a supervising adult. The player’s parent/guardian in the emergency contact listing will be contacted immediately to pick up the player.
- If a player tests positive for COVID, the family must report the positive result immediately to their Team Covid Manager and also to CCHA by emailing **lowergirls@cchockey.org**. CCHA will report the case to MDH and local health officials. CCHA will then work with MDH to identify those who had been in contact with the player and will follow up with those identified immediately. During these communications with teammates and those who came in contact, the player’s identity will remain confidential. For more information on the response to a positive case and whether quarantining of a team will be necessary, please refer to the Minnesota Department of Health’s [COVID-19 Sports Guidance for Youth and Adults](#) (specifically pages 5-6).
- Any player who tests positive for COVID-19 must stay home for a minimum of 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND until there is no fever for at least 24 hours without medication AND all other symptoms have improved.
- Those in close contact with an infected player, including siblings and household members, should stay home for 14 days and follow the [MDH Decision Tree](#) on when to return.

- If a member of a player's household tests positive for COVID-19, that player must stay home for 14 days from the last date of close contact with the positive case. Even if the player receives a negative test result, they need to complete 14 days of quarantine before returning to the team. If another member of the household tests positive, the 14-day quarantine resets at the most recent positive test result.
- Pursuant to MN Hockey rules enacted 10/25/20, if the MDH determines a player is to be quarantined, that player is ineligible for participation until the quarantine period issued by the MDH has expired. If a player who is under quarantine plays in a game, then rules subject to an ineligible player shall be enforced. Under these rules, the entire team would be ineligible for District, Region and State Tournaments, and the head coach would be suspended for the rest of the season.
- If a player tests positive for COVID-19 and had recently been at the rink, the rink may close for up to 24 hours to allow for proper cleaning and sanitization.
- Prior to the start of the season, all coaches and team managers will be trained on how to handle COVID-related emergencies per Minnesota Hockey guidelines.

Refunds:

- There will be no partial refunds to a player for missed practices, games, or tournaments due to a COVID-19 diagnosis.
- In the event the season is cancelled early due to COVID-19, a partial refund will be issued to members after adjusting for all prorated operational costs incurred by CCHA.
- If the season is not cancelled but a registered player chooses to no longer play, then refunds will be issued pursuant to the CCHA Operating Policies Handbook, pages 35-36.
- No refunds will be issued for any jersey or apparel purchases.

CCHA will continue to update its members as to any changes to the COVID-19 Preparedness Plan. As information and guidelines from MDH, the CDC, and Minnesota Hockey continue to change, CCHA will do its best to promptly update its Preparedness Plan and notify its members accordingly as soon as possible. In the event a member has any questions related to the Preparedness Plan, please contact CCHA at lowergirls@cchockey.org.