

KEVIN BELL ARENA OPERATING PLAN AND PROTOCOLS
FOR ALL SPORTS & TYPES OF USE
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KEVIN BELL ARENA COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOR ALL SPORTS

Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to guide the Homer Hockey Association/Kevin Bell Arena in operating the Kevin Bell Arena (KBA) as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic. This plan supersedes the plan put into effect in October 2020 (“Kevin Bell Arena Operating Plan and Protocols for Practices and Scrimmages”) by providing guidance for operations related to game play and drop-in events, as well as practices and scrimmages. Protocols are detailed to ensure appropriate use of the facility by both staff and users. This document is adapted and derived from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), USA Hockey, Alaska State Hockey Association, Alaska Schools Athletic Association, State and local guidelines and mandates. The current version of this plan will be posted at kevinbellarena.org and linked to the City of Homer website. This document will be revisited and revised by the board as often as deemed necessary to stay up to date with COVID-19 precautions and to protect the overall health and safety of the staff, users, facility and community.

Staff Safety

Because a moderate number of people use the KBA for at least an hour at a time, the staff is subjected to a potentially greater exposure to disease.

To minimize virus transmission, the protocols below will be followed:

- KBA staff are required to wear a face covering when on duty and should maintain a 6’ social distance from others whenever possible.
- Employees and volunteers will have their temperature taken and recorded prior to the start of the work shift when community transmission is moderate or greater (i.e., yellow or red). They will also ask COVID-19 safety assessment questions of themselves before their work shifts under all risk levels.
- Hand sanitization stations will be placed in the entrance lobby, the designated exit door area, restrooms, manager’s office, skate sharpening room, and Zamboni room. KBA staff are encouraged to clean their hands and/or wear disposable gloves where appropriate. If staff prefer to wear heavier duty (reusable) gloves while working, those gloves should not be shared.
- The manager’s office will be restricted to staff only, and the mail “tower” and photocopier will be relocated to the snack shack where team managers can use them for team business.
- Staff should limit face-to-face interactions with users to *essential business* only.
- There should be minimal exchange of cash once the electronic payment system is in place.
- Safe-handling procedures for personnel who use cleaning products to clean equipment or spaces should be followed to prevent harm from chemicals or cross-contamination.

User Safety

Because physical exertion leads to more intense and frequent breathing (and therefore, increased exhalation and circulation of droplets and vapor that may contain virus), skaters and other user groups are advised to maintain a 10' distance from one another when and where practical during physical exertion.

To minimize virus transmission, the protocols below will be followed:

- KBA Staff or designated adult associated with user group will conduct and record assessments as appropriate – see table (page 7) for protocols to follow based on current risk level at the rink.
- Before entering the rink, everyone will be asked to self-assess their physical condition and self-screen their risk profile. If someone has symptoms, however mild, or are in a household where someone has symptoms, they cannot enter the facility.
- Persons entering the rink must be able to answer the following questions before entering:
Have you experienced symptoms?
Have you had close contact with someone experiencing symptoms or who's tested positive?
Have you had a positive test? Are you waiting for the results of a test?
- If temperature checks are required based upon current risk level, anyone with a reading greater than 100.3 degrees cannot enter the facility.
- Everyone entering the facility is required to sign the sign-in sheet for confirmation of screening questions and contact tracing should that become necessary.
- Lobby floor will be marked at 6' intervals so users can maintain an appropriate distance from one another while waiting to be screened before entering the rink area. Traffic flow in the lobby will be demarcated to allow people to move from outside in an orderly manner.
- Masks are mandatory at the KBA at all times; they are optional for users when they are on the ice. However, when code red exists, masks are strongly recommended to be worn on-ice.
- Maintain proper social distancing according to risk level/protocol action table.
- Users should use hand sanitizer when entering and leaving the KBA. Ample access to hand washing facilities and sanitizer will be available at the rink.
- Occupancy limited according to risk level action/protocol table.
- Abide by distancing aids: 6'-interval marks on floor and bleachers, seating for changing into/out of skates, etc
- User groups can impose stricter mitigation measures if that is their desire.
- Requests for accommodations to these mitigation measures should be brought to the KBA Advisory Board for consideration. Compliance by all is critical to enhancing the good health of our members as well as our capability to keeping the facility operating. Reducing disease transmission is within our power; pandemics are a function of biology, not politics.

Facility Safety

These protocols are designed to minimize access to areas not critical to use of the facility, which will in turn minimize the need to clean and sanitize areas formerly accessible to users. Cleaning and sanitizing will be conducted at regular intervals and recorded on maintenance logs.

- Home Dressing: for practices, scrimmages, and drop-in events locker rooms will be off-limits except for goalies who will be assigned a room for their exclusive use. Locker rooms may be available for official games, but use may be dictated by the current community transmission level of COVID-19.
- Bleachers, benches and chairs outside the locker rooms will be appropriately spaced and marked for use by skaters. Gear bags can be left in the skater's space while on the ice. To prevent "mixing" of consecutive groups, users will enter through the lobby and exit through the northwestern emergency exit near the manager's office. One user group must completely exit the building before the next group is allowed to enter from the lobby where they have undergone screening. Spectators may not re-enter the lobby after they've gone into the rink area.
- Users will be allowed to enter the rink area from the lobby 15 minutes before their scheduled ice time and will have 10 minutes to exit KBA after their ice time is over.
- High-touch surfaces in bathrooms and the lobby will be cleaned between groups, as will seats occupied by users, rink access doors, and skating/hockey skill development aids (the latter to be done by coaching staff who have opted to use specific pieces of equipment). Similarly, broom ball and curling participants will be supplied with sanitizing supplies to wipe down broom handles and any other equipment surfaces contacted by players.
- Restrooms in the entrance lobby and restroom in the corridor will be the only ones available for public use.
- Water fountains, except for bottle filling station, will be shut off. Users should bring their own water bottles.
- Large ventilation fans will be turned on to promote air turnover in the skating area in between user groups. Doors may also be opened to increase air circulation.
- Skate sharpening will require advanced planning; requests for immediate sharpening will not be honored. Staff will sanitize hands between each pair of skates sharpened.
- We may schedule up to 45 minutes between user groups to facilitate ice resurfacing and appropriate cleaning.
- Sanitizing of large areas (e.g., goalie locker room) may be done by sprayer/fogger.
- Toilet facilities will be disinfected and cleaned rigorously on a frequent basis.
- All staff and users will be required to "sign in" when entering the rink for confirmation of screening questions and contact tracing, should that become necessary.
- Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 is required to notify the KBA Advisory Board and public health officials. A two-week tracing report containing all of the users from the sign-in sheets will be made available to public health authorities. It is not the responsibility of HHA or any staff member to conduct contact tracing, unless directed to do so by public health officials (who are primarily responsible for this activity). If the

board or staff members are notified by public health officials that a user has tested positive, all users and staff will be informed of their potential exposure and take appropriate steps as the situation warrants. If a known COVID-19 positive user is not following KBA protocol, the rink manager or designated adult responsible for the user group will notify the KBA Advisory Board who will then notify the Homer and KPB Health departments.

- The rink will be closed for at least 24 hours after notification of a COVID-19 positive user or staff to allow for the notification to others who may have been exposed, and to allow for a deep cleaning of the rink.
- Under no circumstance will any HHA staff or board member reveal the identity of the person who tested positive.

Equipment Safety

- Enhancing sanitation is a key part of mitigating COVID-19 risk. Whenever possible, participants should avoid sharing equipment and should care for and carry their own personal equipment.
- Prevent surface contact transmission, for example: Identify high-use areas, such as lobby, office, bench areas, etc. Clean high-use areas often (i.e., after each user group vacates the building) and prevent contact in high-use areas when possible.
- Each person should, to the greatest extent possible, have their individual gear, and care for and carry their own equipment. Gear loaned for the season should be cared for and carried by the user. Any rink gear that could be a vector for COVID-19 transmission should be sanitized (by rink staff for consistency) upon return to the rink.

Non-Compliance Disciplinary Policy

HHA/KBA and the Board expect the support and accountability of all users, coaches, team managers, parents and other designated user group organizers to adhere to the policies outlined to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission and ensure the continued operation of the KBA. If a user group or individual user chooses not to comply with the policies outlined in this plan, the responsible party for the user group will be notified by the board president, KBA Advisory board, or other designated person. If non-compliance occurs, the following disciplinary measures will be followed:

- 1st Occurrence – A team official will reach out to the users/team member(s)/family member(s) and reiterate the policies.
- 2nd Occurrence – If non-compliance continues, practices for the user group will be suspended for 1 week.
- 3rd Occurrence – If non-compliance persists, the user group may be barred from using the KBA, as determined by the Board.

Game Play

COVID-19 transmission rates throughout Alaska in mid-November are rising with anticipated stresses placed on Kenai Peninsula health care systems. A plea from the governor to lessen COVID transmission and mandates in other communities (including Anchorage, where out-of-town teams will not be hosted) also indicate state-wide concern for disease spread. Many rinks are closed or anticipate closure soon. In consideration of these factors, the Homer Hockey Association board of directors has decided that *facility use will be restricted to Association members, and local curling and broom ball groups only* until conditions improve.

Game play differs most from other on-ice activities because players use team benches for somewhat extended periods of time and in proximity to one another; there is little opportunity for social distancing unless there are few players on the roster. In other activities, ice users are less likely to congregate.

Ideally, games will be played among teams whose community risk levels are identical. Additional COVID-19 precautions are deemed unnecessary if HHA hockey teams host teams that come from communities in which the risk level is lower than Homer's. Conversely, more stringent mitigation protocols will be followed if Homer hosts teams coming from communities whose risk level is higher than Homer's. KBA protocols will be followed that correspond to the highest risk level of any participating team. The Action Protocol table (page 7) outlines the measures to follow under the range of risk levels.

For games in which a single out-of-town team is visiting, each of the two teams will be assigned two locker rooms for the duration of the contest. This will allow for greater social distancing within and between teams. Locker rooms may not be sanitized between games. For events that have more than two participating teams, time between games will be extended to 45 minutes to allow for locker room disinfecting. Mitigation protocols for drop-in events follow those for hockey games.

KBA Closures

The rink manager or KBA Advisory Board will check the community risk level on a daily basis, prior to the scheduled opening of the facility. Changes in risk level and associated protocols will be communicated to the membership via e-mail and will be made available online. KBA operations will follow the action protocol table associated with the current risk level. Changes between clear, green, yellow and red will be consistent with the assigned community risk level and will require no Board action. A change in risk level to black will be at the discretion of the Board and will result in the closure of the KBA.

If the KBA is a known contact location for a COVID-19 positive user, the building will be closed for a minimum of 24 hours and cleaned per CDC guidelines. Reopening will be consistent with the risk level and associated action protocols outlined in this plan. The board will re-evaluate these mitigation measures as necessary and may adjust them at any time as deemed necessary. The measures outlined in this plan will be in force until the board deems the plan is no longer needed and public health officials and government authorities notify communities that COVID-19 risk is negligible.

Action Protocol Table.

Action Protocols for ALL Ice Uses

Risk Level Color Code	Scrimmages & Practices						Drop-in Events & Hockey Games					
	Mask wearing	Contact tracing form used	Screening questions	Temperature screening required	Social distance	# of visitors allowed in building	Mask wearing	Contact tracing form used	Screening questions	Temperature screening required	Social distance	# of visitors allowed in building
clear	<----- <i>no COVID-19 mitigation measures needed</i> ----->											
green	YES, except on ice	YES	YES	NO	≥6'	40 on ice, + up to 160 visitors	YES, except on ice	YES	YES	NO	≥6'	40 on ice, + up to 160 visitors
yellow	YES, except on ice	YES	YES	YES	≥10'	40 on ice + up to 2 family members/ user	YES, except on ice	YES	YES	YES	≥10'	40 on ice + up to 1 family member/ user
red	YES off-ice, advised on-ice	YES	YES	YES	≥10'	40 on ice, no spectators*	YES, everywhere	YES	YES	YES	≥10'	40 on ice, no spectators*
black	<----- <i>facility closed (determined by HHA Board)</i> ----->											

* Parents may assist youth 10 & under with gear but must exit the building during practice. One parent/skater may stay in the facility for youth 8 & under.

Disclaimer: while green, yellow, and red color codes relate to KPBSD COVID-19 risk categories, the HHA Board of Directors retains flexibility in determining risk levels at the rink.

CLEAR

- no COVID-19 mitigation measures needed

GREEN

- mask-wearing required, except when on ice
- 6' social distancing when off the ice; 10' when physically exerting oneself
- maximum of 40 users on ice and up to 160 visitors
- temperature screening not required
- all users and visitors required to sign the sign-in sheet upon entering building
- spectating children must be under direct supervision of parent/guardian at all times and stay within the immediate area occupied by the parent

YELLOW

- mask-wearing required, except when on ice
- 10' social distancing on and off the ice
- maximum of 40 users on the ice and up to 2 family members per user during practices and scrimmages; for games, up to 40 skaters and up to 1 family member per skater
- temperature screening required (>100.3 degrees not permitted)
- all users and visitors required to sign the sign-in sheet upon entering building
- spectating children must be under direct supervision of parent/guardian at all times and stay within immediate area occupied by the parent

RED

- mask-wearing required off ice; encouraged on ice during practices and scrimmages, and mandatory during games [games are currently limited to HHA members, or local participants in the case of broom ball and curling]
- 10' social distancing on and off the ice
- maximum of 40 users on the ice, no spectators allowed
- parents of youth aged 10 and under may help the child with gear but must exit the building during practice; one parent/skater may stay in the facility for youth 6 & under.
- temperature screening required (>100.3 degrees not permitted)
- all users required to sign the sign-in sheet upon entering building

BLACK

- facility closed

NOTE: KBA protocols will be followed that correspond to the team coming from a community with the greatest level of transmission risk.

Appendix A. Reference Material

Assumptions Made in Document

Early reports on SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19, stated that the virus can survive for days on the common plastic and metal surfaces at the KBA, *and* that the virus has extended viability in cold conditions typical of the unheated areas of our rink facility. More recent reports make clear that the greatest threat is transmission of viral matter by airborne transmission and that surface transmission is less of a threat than originally reported. Based on the reduced temperatures at the rink, however, the virus will likely linger longer in our facility than in more conventional public spaces.

All users who choose to enter the KBA must know that there is virtually no way that the HHA/KBA or the board can stop all risk of transmission and that, in fact, that is not the legal duty of either entity. In fact, the facility and its employees and oversight board has the legal duty to minimize and mitigate risks by acting reasonably and prudently in operations of the rink, but that duty does not include a mandate of absolute safety. All users entering the rink must realize and agree that they are (legally speaking) assuming risks related to the transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Specifically, anyone entering the KBA should assume that surfaces, breathing spaces and fellow users are potentially contaminated with COVID-19 so that persons entering the rink shall be required to behave in a manner that mitigates risk of transmission to themselves and to others. This includes standard safety precautions that we all should be using when we step outside our home base “bubbles”: social distancing, wearing face masks (where appropriate and where mandated), and frequent hand cleaning.

Health and safety have always been important in the responsible operation of the rink facility. The COVID-19 pandemic adds a layer of risk of a transmissible disease both in daily life and at the rink. These guidelines are intended to provide a path to an organized and ‘safer’ (reflecting the reality that the rink cannot operate and be made 100% safe anymore than can be expected in any other area of daily life right now) operation of the rink by providing a common set of actions that can be used.

Note and Disclaimer

Disclaimer: The information contained within these operational guidelines may change from time to time due to the evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic. It must not by itself be relied upon in determining obligations or other decisions. Users/readers of this document must independently verify any information on which they wish to rely. It is expected that all users of the rink will have familiarized themselves with governmental, health authority, and regulatory guidance prior to entering the rink and that they will assume the known and unknown risks of the COVID-19 virus. KBA, HHA and the board do not assume, and expressly disclaim, any legal or other liability for any inaccuracy, mistake, misstatement, or any other error of whatsoever nature contained herein. The information accessible in this document has been compiled from many sources that are not controlled by HHA/KBA or the board. While reasonable care has been taken in the compilation and publication of the contents of this document, HHA/KBA makes no representations or warranties, whether express or implied, as to the accuracy or suitability of the information or materials contained in this document. HHA/KBA shall not be

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Comparative Local Approaches

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is a governing body that has devised a category system related to COVID-19 risk levels that will help inform the KBA of rink operations on a daily basis. While the risk levels will be utilized, it does not mandate a change in KBA operations.

This link gives the current status of risk level:

<https://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/communications.aspx?id=42007>

Category risks are assigned as “high” (red), “moderate” (yellow), and “low” (green). In addition, the KBA Advisory Board inserted two additional color rankings (clear and black) to tailor them to KBA operations.

In the event of a sudden emergency, HHA/KBA will rely on guidance from the State of Alaska Department of Public Health or other local authorities (e.g., the South Peninsula Hospital) to adjust operations.

The following information provides details of conduct and work procedures at the rink. These will be implemented as long as COVID-19 continues to be a pandemic.

Cleaning & sanitizing guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

See also:

Cleveland Clinic:

- [Return to work amid COVID-19: A Cleveland Clinic Guide](#)
- [COVID-19: Creating a Safe Workplace](#)
- [Advice on Reopening Business: Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [WHO COVID-19 management in the accommodation sector](#)