

21-22

Version 21-03



RETURN TO HOCKEY

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SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

From the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, Hockey PEI established COVID-related Return to Hockey plans for our sport based on the guidance and requirements of the Government of PEI and The Chief Public Health Office. As Hockey PEI prepares for the 2021-22 season, our planning continues to be based on current direction from those bodies. That also means we will adapt to any new directions that may be provided if circumstances change in PEI.

Hockey PEI members will be asked to understand and adhere to the following documents and guidelines:



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SECTION 2

OPERATIONAL PLANS / COHORTS

As requested by the Chief Public Health office, all facilities must have an operational plan submitted to the Chief Public Health Office in accordance with the Governing Documentation prior to allowing any off- or on-ice activity.

In summary, the guidance indicates all arenas must continue to follow their 2020-21 approved operational plans for the time being with the following updates:

Indoor cohorts are now set at 100 as opposed to 50. If you were approved for 2 cohorts of 50 spectators, then they can all be included as one cohort. If you were approved for 3 cohorts of 50 spectators, you can now have 1 cohort of 100 and a second cohort of 50 but the two cohorts must be separated. If you were approved for less than 100 spectators, then you can have one cohort up to that number. Physical distancing is still required within the spectating areas of the facility.

On-ice cohorts should continue to arrive at the facility up to 30 minutes before their ice time and leave as quickly as possible after their ice time. (Arena's can set their time)

There isn't a need to be as strict with cohorts mixing around the washrooms and entrances/exits. There should still be efforts made for people to keep physical distancing and not to "crowd" in areas that tended to be congested in the past (lobbies, washrooms, etc.)

**ALL NEW OPERATIONAL PLANS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED TO:
CPHO: envhealth@ihis.org**

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SECTION 3

CONTACT TRACING

Contact tracing is still a requirement as is the need to have the group of spectators who are watching the game/practice/session vacate the facility before the next group enters (otherwise the contact tracing isn't effective). Spectators should continue to arrive just at the start time of the activity.

All players, coaches, officials and spectators must be tracked and that information must be stored for 30 days for the purposes of potential contact tracing.

Those participating or attending a Hockey PEI activity are required to pre-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to arriving at the activity; by attending, that participant is acknowledging that they pass the screening requirements and are showing no sign of COVID-19 symptoms.



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SECTION 4

MASKS & HYGIENE

All of the following measures are mandatory and are in place to reduce the risk of transmission where possible:

MASKS:

The Government of Prince Edward Island has re-implemented the Mandatory Mask mandate while indoors. What does this mean for Hockey?

ALL ATTENDEES OF HOCKEY PEI SANCTIONED EVENTS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A MASK WHILE INSIDE THE FACILITY AT ALL TIMES.

- Players and Officials may remove their mask prior to leaving the dressing room to enter onto the playing surface.
- Team Staff **MUST** keep masks on at all times, especially when on the players bench.
- Spectators are to wear their masks and follow facility guidelines while doing so.

Failure to abide by these measures will result in removal from the facility.



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SECTION 4

MASKS & HYGIENE

HYGIENE

- Continue to keep hands washed and sanitized frequently;
- Each participant must have their own water bottle (marked and named) and hand sanitizer;
- Ensure equipment is sanitized and cleaned prior to and following each session;
- Do not spit, blow nose freely, or release any bodily fluid anywhere in a facility due to a high risk of virus transfer.
- Please, no yelling as it increases the risk of transmission.
- No spitting is permitted at any time.
 - If a team is warned multiple times about spitting, officials will assess an Unsportsmanlike Conduct minor penalty Rule 9.2(a).
- As always, if you are feeling unwell, STAY HOME.



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SECTION 5

VAX PASS

Starting October 5, 2021, Prince Edward Island is introducing the PEI Vax Pass Program. Under this time-limited initiative, Hockey PEI sanctioned events require verification of a person's proof of vaccination for access to their venue or setting.

PARTICIPANTS

Any Hockey PEI activity is part of the Vax Pass program and as such proof of vaccination is required for the following participants below (a participant is defined as an individual).

- Hockey PEI participants 18 years of age and under participating in activities that involve participants who are all 18 years of age and under are exempt from showing vaccinations.
 - If the group has a combination of participants 18 years and under and 19 years and over, all participants are required to show their vaccine status.

VOLUNTEERS

Please note that all Hockey PEI volunteers involved in a sanctioned activity (regardless of age) are required to show proof of vaccination. This includes coaches, managers, program leaders, and support personnel (trainers).

**Employees of businesses and organizations that offer these programs are not required to show proof of vaccination.

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SECTION 5

VAX PASS

OFFICIALS

Hockey PEI On-Ice Officials (Referees) and Off-Ice Officials (clock operators, game sheet workers) like volunteers, must be fully vaccinated and show proof of vaccination 12 years and above.

SPECTATORS

All spectators of Hockey PEI sanctioned events, 12 years and above are required to show proof of vaccination to enter as a spectator.

- Children under the age of 12 are exempt from needing to provide a proof of vaccination.
- Children who are soon turning 12 have a three-month grace period from their birthday to get fully vaccinated and provide proof of vaccination should it be required (eg. Should they be in volunteer role, spectator or mixed groups that include participants 19 and over).



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SECTION 5

VAX PASS

CONTACT TRACING & OPERATIONAL PLANS

There is no longer the requirement to contact trace for any Vaxpass event (participants or spectators)

VaxPass Timing for Arenas/Programs:

The timing of arrivals and departures should follow the same as the operational plans from last year.

- On-Ice cohort, arrive 30 minutes prior to the ice time and depart within 15 minutes afterwards
- Spectator cohort, enter the facility about 5-10 minutes before the start time (once the spectators at the ice before your activity has vacated the facility)

Maintaining a Vaxpass List:

As per Section 23(b) of the Public Health Act:

Teams can keep a list of consistent spectators (parents, grandparents, etc) and have those spectators sign a form indicating the proof of vaccination has been presented, checked and confirmed. If a team or organization believes this will assist in making the position of VaxPass checker easier/quicker, it can be a strategy that can be used, however it is not required to be used.

For receive a sample form please contact your local Minor Hockey Association.

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SECTION 5

VAX PASS

COMPLIANCE

At Hockey PEI sanctioned events and where proof of vaccination is required, the following public health measures must be followed:

- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection routine (for facilities)
- Ensure hand washing and/or hand sanitizing stations are available and accessible
- For organized cohorts, you can have up to 200 people indoors and 400 people outdoors.
- During short periods of interaction at entry/exit points, washrooms and concessions, physical distancing should be maintained.
- If dealing with multiple cohorts, an operational plan is required
- Non-medical masks are required for all indoor activities

****Members of Hockey PEI sanctioned events who do not comply with the Public Health Order may be issued a violation ticket by Public Health.**

****Screeners or facility operators of Hockey PEI sanctioned events have the right to refuse service/entrance to anyone who is not abiding by the Public Health Order – in particular those who refuse to or cannot show proof they are fully vaccinated.**

If anyone checking proof of vaccination for Hockey PEI sanctioned events feels threatened, they should avoid confrontation and immediately call 911 or local law enforcement.

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SECTION 5

INTERPROVINCIAL PLAY & TOURNAMENTS

INTERPROVINCIAL TRAVEL is permitted as long as government restrictions allow. Members must follow all travel restrictions set out by the provincial government and must hold a valid PEI Pass. Travel Permit forms also must be issued to the Hockey PEI Office and teams must receive approval prior to travelling off island.

TOURNAMENT SANCTIONING is now permitted for the 2021-22 season. Host Committees can submit their Tournament Application form to the Hockey PEI Office for approval. All tournaments must follow current CPHO guidelines surrounding indoor gatherings and sporting events.

At this time, Tournaments will only be sanctioned for Island teams to participate in until Hockey PEI receives further clarification from its partners at Hockey Nova Scotia and Hockey New Brunswick. Further communication on Tournaments will be distributed the week of October 11th to 17th.



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