

SWZ COVID-19 FAQ & Guidelines for Parents, Guardians and Spectators

The SWZ COVID-19 FAQ & Guidelines are designed to support parents, guardians and spectators as we all work together to ensure that all hockey related activities are done in a safe manner and help to limit the potential exposure or spread of COVID-19 to everyone involved. The guidelines are based on the current requirement set forth by AHS, Hockey Edmonton, the City of Edmonton and Hockey Alberta and are subject to change.

Guidelines are based on the following principles:

- There will be players, coaches and volunteers who are not fully vaccinated yet.
- Hockey requires attendance in crowded indoor spaces.
- Hockey Alberta, Hockey Edmonton and the City of Edmonton have mandated that masks be worn when possible in the arena and in certain situations, on the ice (see Masking Guidelines).
- Practice physical distancing of 3m when possible.

GENERAL FAQ FOR THE 2021-2022 SEASON

Has Hockey Canada made the COVID-19 vaccine mandatory to register for hockey?

Hockey Canada has not made vaccines mandatory at this time but encourages anyone who is eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccines to give appropriate consideration to getting vaccinated. Always check with your Member, and public health authority for any requirements that may exist within your jurisdiction¹.

What are the current masking guidelines/requirements?

Please note these requirements and recommendations are in effect regardless of vaccination status. The following requirements are for Hockey Edmonton players, coaches, officials and volunteers in any arena inside or outside Edmonton:

PLAYERS – Players are required to wear masks upon entering any arena and in the dressing room area. Players should remove their masks only immediately prior to putting on their helmets and entering onto the ice surface.

COACHES & BENCH STAFF – Coaches and team staff are required to wear masks entering those facilities and in the dressing room areas and on the players' benches. Coaches are permitted on the ice without a mask when distancing from players but must wear a mask on the ice when in close contact (inside 2 meters) of a player, coach and/or official.

VOLUNTEERS – Volunteers and minor officials are required to wear a mask when entering the facility and around the playing area, such as the timekeeper/penalty box area, and when in close contact with any player, coach or official.

OFFICIALS – Officials are required to wear a mask upon entering the arenas and in the dressing room areas. Officials should remove their masks only immediately prior to putting on their helmet and entering onto the ice surface.

¹ <https://www.hockeycanada.ca/en-ca/exclusive/return-to-hockey/plans/safety>

² <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-public-health-actions.aspx>

PARENTS/FANS – Masks are required in the dressing room areas, players’ benches, penalty boxes and timekeeper’s box. In other areas of the facility, spectators must follow the protocols laid out in the individual facility.

OUT OF TOWN TRAVEL – If bus travel is required to a game outside of Edmonton, all people on the bus are required to wear masks.

What do I do if my child tests positive for COVID-19?

Keep your child home and out of the hockey environment. In Alberta, isolation is still legally required for people who have COVID-19 symptoms or tested positive². Your child should not return to hockey activities until they have met all requirements of AHS and they are symptom free for 24 hours.

What if a person the participant is residing with such as a parent/family member tests positive for COVID-19? What protocols should we follow?

While in Alberta quarantine is no longer legally required for close contacts positive cases, unless directed to do so by local public health officials², please contact your health care provider and/or call 811 for the most up-to-date instructions. Anyone identified as a close contact should stay out of the hockey environment until all public health authority steps have been completed. Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 should stay out of the hockey environment until all steps outlined by their health care provider and public health authority are completed and they are symptom free for 24 hours¹.

If someone on my child’s team tests positive for COVID-19, will the team be allowed to continue to play hockey?

As Alberta currently no longer legally required for close contacts positive cases, unless directed to do so by local public health officials, teams will continue to be allowed to play unless instructed otherwise by AHS. Any players who are symptomatic are required to stay home and contact your health care provider and/or call 811 for the most up-to-date instructions. Your child should not return to hockey activities until they have met all requirements of AHS and they are symptom free for 24 hours.

What if my child is sick but does not have COVID-19?

Players should be symptom free for 24 hours from ANY illness prior to returning to the ice.

What should I expect if my child begins to feel ill at a hockey activity?

If participants do not feel well or have identified respiratory symptoms, ensure they advise team staff immediately and put on a mask. The participant should immediately go home and follow up with their health care provider and the public health authority if COVID-19 is suspected. They should not return to the hockey environment until all steps outlined by their health care provider and public health authority are completed and they are symptom free for 24 hours¹.

Can I come and watch my player practice/play?

Due to the provincial mandate, arena capacity is reduced to 1/3 capacity. In order to comply with this mandate, *players are only allow ONE spectator per ice time.*

¹ <https://www.hockeycanada.ca/en-ca/exclusive/return-to-hockey/plans/safety>

² <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-public-health-actions.aspx>

For additional information on guidelines related to COVID-19 and hockey please read:

Hockey Canada: [Return to Hockey | Safety & Protocols \(hockeycanada.ca\)](https://www.hockeycanada.ca/en-ca/exclusive/return-to-hockey/plans/safety)

Hockey Alberta: [Return to Hockey | Hockey Alberta](https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-public-health-actions.aspx)

Hockey Edmonton: [Hockey Edmonton : Website by RAMP InterActive](https://www.edmonton.ca/activities_parks_recreation/documents/PDF/ArenasSafetyGuidelines.pdf)

Government of Alberta: [COVID-19 public health actions | Alberta.ca](https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-public-health-actions.aspx)

City of Edmonton Facilities Guidelines:

https://www.edmonton.ca/activities_parks_recreation/documents/PDF/ArenasSafetyGuidelines.pdf

Health Canada Approved Disinfecting Products: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/list.html#tbl1>

¹ <https://www.hockeycanada.ca/en-ca/exclusive/return-to-hockey/plans/safety>

² <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-public-health-actions.aspx>