



## Phase 3 Hockey User Group COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN GUIDE

updated October 8, 2020

BCRPA represents public recreation throughout BC, and have coordinated with all municipalities regarding the use of public facilities in the return to sport. Now that hockey is in Phase 3 of viaSport's Return to Sport, BCRPA offers this updated checklist to assist municipalities work with their hockey user groups to update their COVID-19 Safety Plan for the facility on which they will return to play. We first created the checklist in June when hockey restarted in municipal arenas.

This Guide was created at the request of the membership, and represents a collective approach to hosting hockey in public arenas. We consulted with both viaSport and RFABC on this Guide.

The Safety Plan submitted prior to the August 24 viaSport announcement of Phase 3 must be updated to reflect the changes to how you play hockey in Phase 3.

This checklist has been adapted for hockey based on the viaSport Guideline, [WorkSafeBC comprehensive tool](#), and PHO recommendations and Orders. For your reference, you can review on the [viaSport site](#) or on the PSO websites Safety Plans by sport organizations that have updated their sport specific Plans for Phase 3.

Municipal recreation facilities throughout BC have collaborated through BCRPA to establish a common and collective approach to the return to play. Some of the key points include:

- Consistent expectations province-wide for both the teams and the arena facilities;
- The size of the participant group for each booking (practice or game) cannot exceed 50 individuals including participants, coaches, assistants, referees, and spectators. This adheres to the PHO Order regarding [Gatherings and Events](#) (the Order);
- Staff (both facility and hockey team) are not counted among the limit of 50, as stated in the Order;
- The consideration for Game Day Essential Staff/Personnel (up to 10 individuals) may be discussed with the facility, and would not be counted to be among the limit of 50 by the Order, nor would they constitute a second "event" group;
- Spectators, unless they are among the hockey group of 50, are not permitted at this time.

Note that this is a municipality decision based on present feasibility. Constraints include facility capacity, staff complement, worker safety, space for physical distancing throughout the facility, separate access/egress and separate washrooms from the hockey group of 50 and others in the facility, among other considerations.

Furthermore, BCRPA and viaSport are working closely with the PHO to have clear guidance on Order and the interpretation of the group of 50; we will not consider spectator groups for the future before we have clarity.

**In Phase 3 of the Return to Sport Guideline, your plan will not be approved by the municipality**, but will be reviewed and form an essential component of your rental agreement/contract.

**It is the responsibility of your group to ensure your COVID-19 Safety Plan is followed by members of your group.**

Your COVID-19 Safety Plan must align with your sport's Return to Sport plan. For hockey:

- [viaSport](#)
- National Sport Organization: [Hockey Canada](#)
- Provincial Sport Organization: [BC Hockey](#)

### Physical Distance Expectations in Phase 3

Your COVID-19 Safety Plan must make clear that physical contact is only permissible within the field of play (the ice surface, the benches, the penalty box). Outside the field of play, those in your cohort must maintain two metres of physical distance



(e.g. dressing rooms, hallways, staging areas, etc). Individuals must wear masks within the cohort environment when outside the field of play if they are not able to maintain physical distancing. This includes but is not limited to shared spaces such as dressing rooms, hallways, staging areas, etc.

The following steps will guide you through the development of your safety plan.

### Step 1: Review the Municipality COVID-19 Safety Plan

- We have received and reviewed the Municipal COVID-19 Safety Plan, and aligned our COVID-19 Safety Plan with the Municipal Plan.
- We confirm that our group will not exceed 50 individuals, including participants, coaches, assistants, spectators.

### Step 2: Assess the risks at your sport

Identify areas where there may be risks, either through close physical proximity or through contaminated surfaces. The closer together individuals are and the longer they are close to each other, the greater the risk.

- We have identified and have a mitigation plan for areas where people gather outside the field of play, such as staging areas, lace-up spaces, chalk talk space, entrances and exits, dressing rooms, viewing spaces, lobbies, etc.;
- We have instructed all participants to commit to **not spitting anywhere in the facility or on the ice** due to the likelihood of virus transmission through the spread of droplets;
- We have identified situations and processes where individuals may be close to one another or members of the public;
- We have identified the equipment that may not be shared by individuals;
- We have identified surfaces that people touch often and must be sanitized;
- We have a first aid response plan (e.g. WorkSafeBC [Guide for Employers and Occupational First Aid Attendants](#)).

### Measures in place

List the risks and measures identified in your sport environment.

### Step 3: Implement protocols to reduce the risks

Select and implement protocols to minimize the risks of transmission. Look to the following for information, input, and guidance:

- Your sport-specific guidelines (Hockey Canada, BC Hockey, BCHL, etc);
- viaSport sport sector [Guidelines](#). (if you have questions about return to sport, please contact [info@viasport.ca](mailto:info@viasport.ca));
- BCRPA recreation sector [Guideline](#);
- Municipal facility guidelines (posted on city websites);
- Orders, guidance, and notices issued by the provincial health officer and relevant to your industry (updates posted [here](#)).

Ensure you have a risk reduction plan that includes the following levels of protection cited by [WorkSafeBC](#).

**First level protection (elimination): *Limit the number of people and ensure physical distance whenever possible***

- We have established maximum player numbers for our sport that meets PHO, viaSport, and facility requirements. We agree that for games and practices we will have no more than 50 players, coaches, trainers, and officials participating in the event.
- We acknowledge that the arena capacity is the decision of the municipality, based on the ability to maintain 2 metres between individuals in all areas of the arena except the field of play. The capacity of the field of play is determined by the facility;
- We acknowledge that the group is expected to maintain physical distance off the field of play;
- We acknowledge that the municipality does not allow spectators over and above the hockey group of 50;
- We have implemented measures to keep participants and others at least 2 metres apart, wherever possible, including off-ice warm-up, expedient arrival and departure, etc.;
- We have communicated to the players, coaches, parents and all individuals associated with our group that we have established measures to keep participants and others at least 2 metres apart, wherever possible;
- We have established and communicated occupancy limits for common areas such as meeting rooms, change rooms, and washrooms;
- We have established a protocol for the PHO requirement of contact tracing, and will document every individual entering the facility who is associated with our booking and retain the list for 30 days.

**Measures in place**

List your control measures for maintaining physical distance in your sport environment.

**Second level protection (engineering): *Barriers and partitions***

- We have discussed with the municipalities the engineering barriers that have been installed.

**Measures in place**

Describe how barriers or partitions will be used in your environment (if appropriate).

**Third level protection (administrative): *Rules and guidelines***

- We have identified rules and guidelines for how participants, coaches, volunteers, parents should conduct themselves in order to reduce transmission of COVID-19;
- We have communicated to players that spitting is strictly forbidden everywhere in the facility;

- We have clearly communicated these rules and guidelines through a combination of training and signage;
- We have identified an individual to be our COVID-19 Safety Plan Ambassador who will oversee our group's adherence to our plan;
- We have agreement from all participants that they will adhere to the rules and guidelines we have established to keep participants and others at least 2 metres apart outside the field of play, wherever possible.

#### **Measures in place**

List the rules and guidelines that everyone is required to follow. This should include movement from the parking lot or arrival area to the area and play and back. The rules must include things like how the group will ensure a two metre distance between players and others when off the field of play, how the limit of 50 for the event will be ensured, how congested areas will be managed to reduce gathering and lingering, hand hygiene protocols (come with clean hands, bring and frequently use personal hand sanitizers), and no sharing of equipment.

#### **Fourth level protection: Using masks (a measure in addition to other control measures)**

- We have reviewed the information on selecting and using masks and instructions on how to use a mask;
- We understand the limitations of masks to protect the wearer from respiratory droplets. We understand that masks should only be considered when other control measures cannot be implemented;
- We have trained individuals on the proper use of masks (if applicable).

#### **Measures in place**

Who will use masks?

What instances will require the use of masks?

How have participants been informed of the correct use of masks?

#### **Reduce the risk of surface transmission through effective cleaning and hygiene practices**

- We have reviewed the information on cleaning and disinfecting surfaces;
- Our sport facility has enough handwashing stations on site for our participants. Handwashing locations are visible and easily accessed;
- We have communicated good hygiene practices to participants, coaches, volunteers, etc.;
- We have implemented cleaning protocols for all common areas and surfaces;



- We have removed unnecessary equipment to simplify the cleaning process.

#### **Cleaning protocols**

Provide information about your cleaning plan. Specify who is responsible for cleaning, the cleaning schedule, and what the cleaning protocols will include (e.g., which surfaces, tools, equipment, etc).

#### **Step 4: Develop policies**

Develop the necessary policies to manage your sport.

- Our policies ensure that participants and others showing symptoms of COVID-19 are prohibited from participating in sport activities;
- Anyone who has had symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 10 days. Symptoms include fever, chills, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, and new muscle aches or headache;
- Anyone directed by Public Health to self-isolate;
- Anyone who has arrived from outside of Canada or who has had contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case must self-isolate for 14 days and monitor for symptoms;

Our policy addresses individuals who may start to feel ill while participating. It includes the following:

- Instruct the participant to go straight home. [Consult the [BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#), or call 811 for further guidance related to testing and self-isolation.];
- Sick individuals should report to first aid (or designated individual), even with mild symptoms;
- Sick participants should be asked to wash or sanitize their hands, provided with a mask, and isolated;
- If the participant becomes severely ill (e.g., difficulty breathing, chest pain), call 911. Clean and disinfect any surfaces that the ill participant has come into contact with.

#### **Measures in place**

List your relevant policies

#### **Step 5: Develop communication plans**

You must ensure that everyone participating in the sport activity knows how to keep themselves safe while participating:

- We have created and communicated to participants, coaches, and support volunteers our safe sport plan that adheres to physical distancing, and have confirmed that they agree to play our sport as outlined;
- We have communicated that participants not observing the new safe sport plan will not be permitted to play;
- We have a communication and training plan to ensure everyone is trained in policies and procedures;

