

# GODERICH MINOR HOCKEY COVID-19 RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL

Last Updated: January 28, 2022

The following protocols and procedures will be implemented and enforced without exception by GMHI, in accordance with the Ontario Hockey Federation and Hockey Canada's [Return to Hockey Framework](#), and [Safety Guidelines](#).

The information provided is not a substitute for professional medical advice. The circumstances surrounding COVID-19 can change and GMHI recommends that the Government of Ontario and the Huron Perth Public Health Unit (HPPHU) websites be accessed regularly for the most up to date information. All timelines and guidelines within this plan are subject to change and evolve throughout the season based on environmental factors recommendations from Hockey Canada and the restrictions in place by the Government of Ontario.

All protocols and procedures remain in effect until further notice from GMHI. GMHI reserves the right to extend measures beyond that of the facility and our governing body. We insist that all participants show respect to our volunteers, facility staff, and each other. Failure to comply with protocols and/or act in a respectful and responsible manner will result in suspension from facilities and/or Goderich Minor Hockey. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

<b>PROTOCOL/PROCEDURE</b>
<b>PRE-SCREENING and FACILITY ENTRANCE</b>
The Maitland Recreation Centre/YMCA will be responsible for all screening procedures.
Each participant, parent, coach, volunteer and spectator who enters the MRC will be required to complete a screening assessment. A QR code for an online screening tool is available at the entrance to the facility, and paper copies are available for those who cannot complete the screening electronically.
All patrons 12 years and older will be asked to provide proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 ( <b>Ontario enhanced vaccine certificate with QR code required</b> ) and proof of identification.
Failure to complete screening will result in refused entry and may result in immediate, non-refundable suspension for the remainder of the 2021-22 (and possibly beyond) season.
Players, team officials and spectators may enter the MRC no more than 30 minutes before their assigned ice time and should leave within 30 minutes of the session/game ending.
<b>MASK WEARING and PHYSICAL DISTANCING</b>
All persons over the age of 2 entering a facility will wear a face covering (mask) at all times while in any facility (home or away). There are absolutely NO EXCEPTIONS (medical or otherwise). Players may remove their face coverings immediately before outfitting themselves with their helmets and mouthguards. A physical distance of 2 metres is to be maintained at all times in transition to and from the bench and ice. Coaches and team staff will wear proper face coverings at all times (in the dressing room, on the bench), <b><u>except when on the ice.</u></b>

Persons not wearing a proper face covering will be asked to leave the facility immediately. Failure to comply will result in immediate suspension of the family member and player from GMHI and potentially the YMCA.

GMHI will adopt and enforce all Hockey Canada and OHF protocols for on-ice protocols. Currently, we plan to resume regular on-ice programming (try-outs, practices, and games), but will adjust our protocols as advised by Hockey Canada, OHF, OMHA, and HPPH if necessary.

## **HYGIENE**

Hygiene guidelines are detailed on page 10 of Hockey Canada's [Safety Guidelines](#) document.

Personal, labelled water bottles may be used. Water bottles may not be shared and must be taken home and washed after each use.

Spitting (including spitting of water) and/or nose blowing are strictly prohibited. If either is needed, a tissue must be used that is immediately disposed of, followed by thorough hand washing.

Sanitizer and protective gloves will be kept in trainers' bags.

## **ON-ICE and FACILITY CAPACITY**

The Maitland Recreation Centre is limited to a TOTAL of 200 spectators. Maximum facility capacity will be determined by building fire code.

Spectators are allowed to attend all programming, but must be screened and provide proof of vaccination.

Dressing room capacity at the Maitland Recreation Centre is limited to a maximum of 15 which includes skaters, coaches, team staff and parents. It is expected that all personnel in the dressing rooms will maintain physical distance, and that unnecessary entrance into the dressing rooms will be avoided.

Dressing room showers and washrooms are **open and can be used**. Dressing rooms should be vacated within 30 minutes of the session ending.

## **TEAM STAFFING**

Only currently certified coaches and trainers should be permitted on the ice.

The GMHI Health Communications Officer will revise guidelines and maintain an up-to-date Safety Plan throughout the season based on the recommendations of the OHF, OMHA, Hockey Canada, HPPH, and the Government of Ontario. More team staff may be needed to assist with screening/tracking requirements.

## **GETTING DRESSED/UNDRESSED**

Players and on-ice team staff will arrive no more than 30 minutes prior to their assigned ice time and will maintain physical distance and face coverings (masks) while dressing. Players will remove face coverings immediately before departure from the dressing room AND will immediately outfit themselves with helmets and mouthguards upon removal of their masks.

Upon re-entry to the dressing room, players will maintain physical distance, and immediately replace their face covering upon removal of helmets and mouthguards. Mouthguards will be placed in containers, and NOT on benches or boards in any part of any facility.

Team officials will remove their face coverings immediately before stepping on the ice, and replace them immediately upon exit of the ice surface. Team officials on the bench will wear face coverings at all times.

Washrooms and showers are available for use at the Maitland Recreation Centre.

### **ON-ICE PROGRAMMING**

There **will** be tryouts for the 2021-2022 season.

OHF Stage 3 programming (Ontario Government Step 3) for Minor Hockey may begin on September 7 in accordance with the OHF Regulations. OHF Stage 4 programming (start date TBD) will be similar to OHF Stage 3 programming, but with fewer restrictions within facilities based on the Ontario Government, Public Health Unit and Municipality guidance.

OHF Stage 3 programming will consist of traditional hockey (practices, games, etc.) Stage 3 and Stage 4 guidelines can be found on page 6 of the [Return to Hockey Framework](#).

Benches are considered field play and do not require physical distancing. Coaches/team staff are expected to wear masks on the bench.

Full contact is **permitted** in both Stage 3 and Stage 4 of OHF programming.

### **LIMITING OFF-ICE CONTACT**

Teams are expected to limit pre- and post- activity gathering time at the facility, arriving no earlier than 30 minutes before and leaving no later than 30 minutes after their scheduled activity.

Parents/spectators are expected to limit gathering and socially distance.

Carpooling to and from programming should be avoided, but if it is necessary, masks should be worn at all times.

### **VACCINATION POLICY**

As described in the [OMHA Vaccination Policy](#), all of the following persons are **required to be Fully Vaccinated** (i.e. including the 14-day period after receiving their completed dose) by **October 31, 2021**:

- Players born in 2009 or earlier
- Team Officials (Coaches, Trainers and Managers, etc.)
- Game Officials (referees, linespersons, timekeepers, etc.)
- Association Officials (minor hockey association directors, officers, executive and staff)
- OMHA Officials (directors, officers, executive and staff, including hockey development personnel)
- Volunteers
- Instructors (third parties engaged by Associations or Teams to provide specialized instruction (e.g., power skating, goaltending coaching).

**This policy does not apply to players born in 2010 or later, or to hockey spectators (including parents/guardians).** However, arenas and facilities may enforce their own vaccine policies for spectators.

As of November 1, 2021, any of the groups described above who are NOT Fully Vaccinated (i.e.: including the 14-day period after receiving their completed dose) or who have not been granted an accommodation in accordance with Section 7 of the [OMHA Vaccination Policy](#), will no longer be able to participate in any GMHI activities.

If a COVID-19 vaccine is approved for people born in 2010 or later, the OMHA may re-evaluate the Vaccination Policy and require proof of vaccination from players born in those years

Any unvaccinated person requiring Accommodation must complete a request using the following link: <https://form.jotform.com/212446027965055> , which will be reviewed by the OMHA designate. If the Accommodation is granted, it is the responsibility of the applicant to notify GMHI that their Accommodation has been approved by the OMHA.

Any person who is granted Accommodation must undergo regular COVID-19 testing and show proof of a negative test taken less than 72 hours before each Sanctioned Activity. Proof of a negative test can be sent to the GMHI Health Communications Officer: [health@goderichminorhockey.ca](mailto:health@goderichminorhockey.ca)

#### **NON-INJURY RELATED ILLNESS**

If a COVID-19 case is confirmed at hockey, Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) will be notified and advise on how to proceed.

If any player becomes ill while at hockey, they will be immediately separated from others, required to wear a mask, and must be picked up by a parent/guardian. Team staff will contact parents if they are not at the facility at the time. Players are then advised to contact their physician or HPPH to determine if a COVID test is required.

Players or team officials who fall ill, test positive for COVID-19, or are asked to self-isolate, should contact their **physician/HPPH** and the **GMHI Health Communications Officer** for guidance before returning to participate in hockey.

#### **GMHI Health Communications Officer**

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#### **Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH)**

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