

ALLIANCE HOCKEY



*RETURN TO
HOCKEY
PLAN V2.0
Aug. 6, 2020*



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1 INTRODUCTION

ALLIANCE Hockey has worked in conjunction with Hockey Canada, the Ontario Hockey Federation, our members, staff and other volunteers to provide a **Return to Hockey Plan** specifically for ALLIANCE Hockey Participants.

The ALLIANCE Hockey Return to Hockey Plan is current as of August 6, 2020. It aligns with the OHF Return Hockey Framework and Hockey Canada’s Return to Hockey Safety Guidelines in focusing on the safety and wellbeing of all participants.

Updated versions of the Plan will be published and posted to the [ALLIANCE Hockey website](#) based on changes to the Government of Ontario’s Reopening Plan.

All timelines within this plan are subject to change based on ALLIANCE Hockey’s evaluation of environmental factors and Government of Ontario restrictions.

The information in this document is not a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. The knowledge and circumstances surrounding COVID-19 are ever changing and ALLIANCE Hockey recommends that the Government of Ontario COVID-19 site be accessed for the most up to date information.

This Plan must be considered only in conjunction with the documents that are referenced throughout and within the appendices.

WHO TO CONTACT?

ALLIANCE Hockey will continue to undertake member engagement strategies to help support Member Associations as they prepare for the implementation of each Return to Hockey component. Specific questions may be directed to appropriate ALLIANCE Hockey Staff based on topic:

- General – Tony Martindale (tmartindale@alliancehockey.com)
- Safety Guidelines, Sanctioning and Facilities – Tracy Pauli (tpauli@alliancehockey.com)
- On-Ice Session Planning – Tyler Tolton (ttolton@alliancehockey.com)
- Registration – Sue Hishon (shishon@alliancehockey.com)
- Officials – Chad Houben (chouben@alliancehockey.com)
- Member Messaging – Jill White (jwhite@alliancehockey.com)



2 PROTOCOLS & SAFETY IN THE GAME

Hockey Canada and its 13 Member Branches (including the OHF) have built a comprehensive Safety Guidelines document, along with an FAQ document, to provide direction and support as organizations (administrators, coaches, managers, trainers), parents and players prepare to return to hockey. The information included in these documents should be reviewed regularly, as it provides a solid framework to follow for any organization (and its members) as Return to Hockey planning is undertaken.

[See Appendix 1](#) – *Hockey Canada Safety Guidelines.*

[See Appendix 2](#) – *Hockey Canada Safety Guidelines FAQ.*

The Safety Guidelines provide guidance on a safe and positive return to hockey experience for our participants and stakeholders.

Sections include:

- Insurance Coverage.
- Hygiene Requirements and Checklist.
- Recommended Return to Hockey Procedures.
- What to do if there is a positive COVID-19 test.
- Guidelines for Officials.

ALLIANCE Hockey’s Member Associations are to ensure they do the following:

- follow the Government of Ontario and local Health Unit COVID-19 guidelines.
- comply with OHF and ALLIANCE Hockey Return to Hockey information.
- comply with all requirements in agreements with arenas/recreational facilities.
- communicate with their members the safety protocols and Return to Hockey approach that have been approved in Ontario, and for the organization. Members must track all participants and interactions, maintaining records in a secure location for 30 days from completion of activity. This is to be completed as part of a daily check-in procedure for participants. Information should be recorded.

Members are to report any COVID-19 cases as required by local public health services, Member, Association, and facility. ALLIANCE Hockey must be notified once the local health unit has been notified.

[See Appendix 3](#) – *Session Participant Tracking*

Reporting a Positive COVID-19 Case (As per Hockey Canada Safety Guidelines)

SECTION 8

Positive COVID-19 Test in Hockey Environment

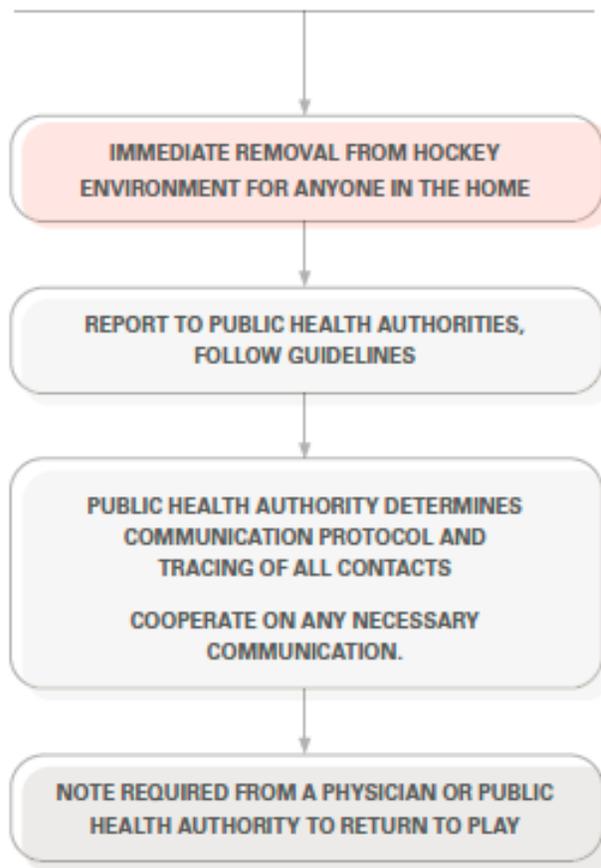
Important!

If a sick participant (or their parent/guardian if the participant is a minor) elects to inform a team/hockey association/Member that they have been diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual informed shall seek the sick participant/their parent's/guardian's consent to contact public health authorities in order to obtain advice on communication with other potentially impacted participants. The sick participant (or their parent/guardian if the participant is a minor) should be asked to advise Public Health of this consent.

Explain the communication that will take place and **NEVER** disclose the sick person's name.

PARTICIPANT TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 AND CONTACTS THEIR PHYSICIAN

FOLLOW PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDELINES



In Canada, the management of public health crises is a matter involving close coordination between all levels of government. There is therefore a variety of public and private sector privacy legislation at the federal, provincial and territorial levels that govern the collection, use and disclosure of personal information. There are provincial and territorial privacy authorities that oversee compliance with the [privacy legislation](#) at the federal, provincial and territorial levels that govern the collection, use and disclosure of personal information. There are provincial and territorial privacy authorities that oversee compliance with the privacy legislation in their respective jurisdictions, and some have [published their own statements](#) relevant to the matter of COVID-19.



ALLIANCE HOCKEY – RETURN TO HOCKEY PLAN

Parents and players also play key roles in the Return to Hockey. Their responsibilities include:

- stay at home if experiencing any symptoms (such as those listed on the [OHF Health Screening Questionnaire](#)).
- become educated on the safety protocols and procedures prior to attending session and adhere to them while at the session.
- ensure each player has his/her own water bottle which is sanitized prior to each session, and his/her own hand sanitizer for use while on the ice.
- ensure equipment is dried, cleaned and/or sanitized following each session.
- arrange appropriate transportation to and from the session.
- refrain from cheering and yelling as it presents a high risk of spreading droplets.
- do not spit, blow nose freely or release any bodily fluid anywhere in any facility due to an extremely high risk of virus transfer.

A detailed outline of responsibilities of Administrators, Coaches and Managers, Safety Person and Trainer, Players and Parents can be found in the Hockey Canada Safety Guidelines – Roles and Responsibilities.

[See Appendix 4 – Roles and Responsibilities, pages 31-34.](#)



3 COMMUNICATIONS

It is crucial for ALLIANCE Hockey and our Members to communicate with our respective audiences on the details of the Return to Hockey Plan and the programming planned by each organization. Returning and potential new participants want to know what programming is available from their local MHA or team, and that it is aligned with planning by ALLIANCE Hockey, the OHF and Hockey Canada. It is also important to ensure that the entire hockey community understands that the safety of all participants is paramount to ALLIANCE Hockey and our Members.

ALLIANCE Hockey is committed to providing regular updates to our Members. Our Return to Hockey Plan and its appendices, Bulletins and Memoranda pertaining to COVID-19, and other related materials will be housed on the ALLIANCE Hockey website on a special Return to Hockey page.

We encourage our Member Associations to engage in regular and open communication with your members as a key part of returning safely to the rink. Members should have a designated page on their website for information related to your program plans. That page should include a link to the ALLIANCE Hockey Return to Hockey page.

It is recommended that each organization identify a communications person who is responsible to update and circulate all relevant information to everyone within their jurisdiction.

Responsibilities can include:

- Monitoring all relevant updates from the Government of Ontario and local public Health Units.
- Monitoring all relevant updates from ALLIANCE Hockey.
- Communicating with your local facilities on guidelines and updates.
- Ensuring Members are following the prevention guidelines set by the Member/hockey association/league.
- Meeting with their Members on a regular basis to assist in facilitating updates.

4 FACILITIES & SPECTATORS

ALLIANCE Hockey Member Associations and arena facilities must work together to ensure everyone complies with public health guidelines, and that facility users are prepared for the processes and procedures in place at the facilities they use. All ALLIANCE Hockey Member Associations are reminded to engage in positive and open communication with their facilities in planning a safe return to the rink.

Facilities will adopt the standards required by the Government of Ontario, ORFA, the OHF and update and adapt to changes as required. Those standards may differ between facilities or municipalities, so the onus is on the Member to reach out as part of the facility rental agreement process for clarification of the following:

Public and Private facilities that are providing training to hockey need to ensure that they maintain their own insurance on their facility and are compliant with the Ministry of Labour Protocols and those protocols specific to the Ontario Government Emergency Order.

All hockey programming providers that are sanctioned by the Provincial Sport Organizations in Ontario will:

- be listed on the OHF website and will be able to present a Hockey Canada Insurance Certificate and Certificate of Validation.
- be required to complete a tracking document of participation use and an ice surface by ice surface training attendance form; and
- be required to have a COVID-19 Contact Person.

Facilities are directed to utilize the information provided by the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association (ORFA) as an industry standard material: [ORFA Reentering and Reopening](#).

[See Appendix 5 – Facilities, OHF RTH, Section 4, page 8.](#)



5 CERTIFICATION & TRAINING

The structure of certification and training clinics and seminars for Coaches, Team Officials and On-Ice Officials is unknown. Hockey Canada and the OHF are investigating the feasibility and options for online certification programs.

Depending on guidelines and protocols in place with the Government of Ontario as the summer progresses, decisions will be confirmed on how these sessions will be offered and this information will be communicated to our Members and the provincial hockey community. This information will be updated on the Return to Hockey page on the ALLIANCE Hockey website, as well as Coach and Officials sections at alliancehockey.com.

[See Appendix 6](#) – Stakeholder Requirements, OHF RTH, Section 7, page 13.



6 RETURN TO HOCKEY PROGRAMMING

Approval Process

ALLIANCE Hockey will only approve ALLIANCE Hockey Member Associations who make application on behalf of their 2019-20 registered players and coaches. It is entirely up to the Member Association to participate in the 2019-20 Return to Play Framework.

Who Can Participate?

- ALLIANCE Hockey Member Associations who choose to implement a Return to Hockey Plan and adhere to the rules as outlined in the Return to Hockey Plan
- Participation is only for 2019-20 registered participants in your ALLIANCE Hockey Member Minor Association with no exceptions
- Insurance Coverage is valid until August 31, 2020 and only covers 2019-20 participants

[See Appendix 7 – Stage 2 Explained, OHF RTH, Section 11, page 18-21.](#)

Procedure

STEP 1: Member Association determines that they wish to proceed with programming.

STEP 2: Arrange a meeting and site visit with your facility to discuss:

- Your Association’s “**Return to Play Plan & Protocols**” [see Schedule A];
 - Pre-screening measures for participants entering the venue – questionnaires, temperature checks, etc. This is NOT the responsibility of the facility – they are neither equipped with the staffing nor the equipment needed.
 - Your ability to track participants in the event of positive COVID tests.
 - The facility’s health & safety measures – sanitization, limitations on who is allowed into the building, dressing room guidelines, re-opening processes, signage (“off-limits” areas, “how to wash your hands”, etc.), etc.
- ✓ Be prepared to provide the venue with your Association’s “Return to Play Plan”

STEP 3: Member Association must submit their “Return to Play Plan” to ALLIANCE Hockey and request a new certificate of insurance from BFL*. This request is for *Summer Ice Only* for the period up until August 31, 2020 and must mirror the Ontario COVID 19 Emergency Order. NOTE: Existing BFL Insurance (from the 2019-20 season) is not valid/applicable.

*Prior to applying for an insurance certificate through the BFL link, your Association’s Return to Play Plan must be approved by ALLIANCE Hockey. ALLIANCE Hockey will keep a copy of all Plans on file.

To apply for an insurance certificate, use the link: <https://sportscert.bflcanada.ca/?BRANCH=AHA> (also available on the ALLIANCE Hockey website. Association’s are required to upload the



municipal/facility Ice Rental Terms and Conditions when submitting the request for the insurance certificate. Complete instructions to obtain an insurance certificate from BFL are also available on the ALLIANCE web page: https://alliancehockey.com/Pages/1129/Insurance_Certificate_Request/
When submitting the request for an insurance certificate on the BFL portal, indicate that the “Event” is **“Other – On Ice Development Only - Only Hockey Canada Members are covered.”**
Again, only participants registered with your Minor Hockey Association during the 2019-20 Season will be covered.

Instructors Permitted:

- Must have been registered, certified and approved with your Minor Hockey Association as a Coach or Trainer in the 2019-2020 season.
- Must have completed the following certifications:
 - ✓ Rowan’s Law
 - ✓ Respect in Sport – Activity Leader
 - ✓ Gender Identity and Expression
 - ✓ Coach or Trainer certification

[See Appendix 6](#) – Stakeholder Requirements, OHF RTH, Section 7, page 13.

Participants Permitted:

- Players must have been registered with your Association in the 2019-2020 season.

Registration, Rosters & Next Steps

[See Appendix 8](#)

[See Appendix 9](#)...Alternative Skills Instruction



SCHEDULE “A”

RETURN TO PLAY PLAN AND PROTOCOLS - SAMPLE TEMPLATE -

Activity – Skills Training	Protocol
Compliance with Regulations	Based on: OHF Return to Hockey Protocols Hockey Canada Safety Guidelines ORFA Re-opening Guidelines
Compliance with Protocols	Certification of On-Ice Instructors Screening Documents for all participants
Education	Assign a Communications Officer All Participants – Staff, Players, Volunteers, Parents COVID-19 Public Resources - Public Health Ontario COVID-19 Find an Assessment Centre/ Take a self-assessment - Public Health Ontario
Response Plan	Protocols and procedures if there has been exposure or any positive cases of COVID-19
Facility Coordination	Communication with Facility Management – steps taken and measures in place to ensure the health and safety of all persons attending the venue
Screening	Provide tools for effective screening for all participants and individuals taking part in the skills training OHF Health Screening Questionnaire
Tracking / Organizing Groups	Tracking forms required for contact tracing Arranging groups to minimize contact
Logistics	Players arriving / picking up – entrances, exits Specific age groupings / specific days Group Scheduling
Training Specifics	Who? What? How? Refer to Ontario Provincial Guidelines as to each Phase
Roles and Responsibilities	Develop specific roles for each participating individual: Administrators, Bench Staff, Players, Parent
Hygiene Checklist	Prior to Event, Prior to Arrival, At Event, After Event



7 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Hockey Canada Safety Guidelines

Appendix 2 – Hockey Canada Safety Guidelines FAQ

Appendix 3 – Session Participant Tracking

Appendix 4 – Roles and Responsibilities, pages 31-34

Appendix 5 – Facilities, OHF RTH, Section 4, page 8

Appendix 6 – Stakeholder Requirements, OHF RTH, Section 7, page 13

Appendix 7 – Stage 2 Explained, OHF RTH, Section 11, page 18-21

Appendix 8...Registration, Rosters & Next Steps

Appendix 9 – Alternative Skills Instruction

