



Buffalo Youth Hockey Association

COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

Updated 09/01/2020

The Buffalo Youth Hockey Association (“BYHA”) has implemented guidelines to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. These guidelines are taken from strategies set forth by the Minnesota Department of Health (“MDH”) and its Guidance for Social Distancing in youth sports, the Center for Disease Control (“CDC”), USA Hockey, Minnesota Hockey, and other local governing bodies. The BYHA, in concert with the Buffalo Civic Center will continue to update its COVID-19 Preparedness Plan as new guidelines are announced. The BYHA requires each of its members to follow these guidelines.

The information in the Preparedness Plan is not intended to be a substitute for any diagnosis, treatment of other professional medical advice. The information surrounding COVID-19 is constantly changing and BYHA makes no representation and assumes no responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of the information contained in this Preparedness Plan. However, BYHA will continue to do its best to update this Preparedness Plan and its members as to any changes mandated by the MDH, CDC, USA Hockey, Minnesota Hockey, and other governing bodies. Questions or concerns regarding this plan should be directed to the BYHA President - Lena Gawtry (acgawtry@gmail.com or #612-386-1104).

BYHA continues to work closely with the Buffalo Civic Center (“BCC”). Both the BYHA and the Buffalo Civic Center are committed to providing a safe and clean environment for those who enter and use their rinks. The BCC has instituted similar rules which need to be followed by all BYHA members when using their facilities. The rules and guidelines set forth in this BYHA Preparedness Plan align with the new COVID-related guidelines enacted by the BCC.

Minnesota Hockey and District 5 have both indicated that the season will progress as scheduled unless the state mandates youth sports, or specifically, youth hockey, be cancelled.

Minnesota Hockey released their Phase 3 plan stating that this final phase of return-to-play opens on September 1, 2020 and follows Minnesota’s Stay Safe Phase III Plan and MDH guidelines. Included within these guidelines are the following (for a full list of Minnesota Hockey’s return to play guidelines, visit: <https://buffalo.pucksystems2.com/covid-19>).

- Players or Coaches with any risk factors or symptoms should not participate.
- All participants (Players and Coaches) must be registered with USA Hockey for the 2020-21 season.
- Players should follow all posted rink guidelines and the BYHA COVID-19 Preparedness Plan.
- BYHA will follow Association Guidelines for Managing Confirmed COVID-19 Cases.

- Each team's manager will be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns and will help coordinate with the BYHA and local health authorities regarding positive cases.
- BYHA Dryland area is closed until further notice and indoor team training is not advised during Phase 3. Outdoor dryland training is available with social distancing measures in place. Please have your players dress accordingly.

AT-HOME PREPARATION BEFORE YOU ARRIVE AT THE RINK:

- Coaches and Players with any risk factors or illnesses should not participate in any on-ice or off-ice activity. Any Player, Coach, Parent, or Spectator exhibiting any symptoms or signs of an illness should NOT be in the rink or any activity at any time.
- A self-check should be performed by each member prior to participating in any BYHA activities. A sample monitoring document can be found here:
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facilityhlthscreen.pdf>
- If any of the following conditions exist, do not attend your BYHA activity:
 - Recent contact with a known infected person(s)
 - Experiencing typical symptoms of the Covid-19 illness
 - If temperature is elevated, and a fever is suspected, do not come to the BYHA event.
- All Coaches and Players must be registered with USA Hockey for the 2020-21 Season and complete the USA Hockey waiver before participating in any BYHA sanctioned activity.
- All Coaches and Players must be registered with the BYHA before any on-ice or off-ice activity will be allowed.
- It is expected that families will provide the coaches and team manager with accurate contact information with a responsible parent/guardian who:
 - Is able to be reached at all times during a BYHA event in case of an emergency.
 - Is available to immediately return to the rink if required.
 - Is to be used for any contact tracing, in case of an emergency.

RINK REQUIREMENTS and EXPECTATIONS:

- Complete your health self-check before arriving at your assigned Rink.
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facilityhlthscreen.pdf>
- If you have a fever >100.4, a cough or other COVID symptoms, do not attend your scheduled ice time, dry-land, or team activity.
 - Traveling Level Teams (Jr. Gold, Bantam, 15U, Peewee, and 12U): Parents and spectators should not be in the facility for practices or dryland.
 - Traveling Level Teams (Squirts and 10U): A Parent
 - Initiation Level Teams (Mites, 8U, Mini-Mites, 6U):
- For practices, we encourage drop off and pickup of participants to reduce the number of bodies in the building rather than remaining in the building as a spectator.
- Appropriate social distancing is required at all times for any players, coaches, and spectators.

- Buffalo Civic Center (“BCC”) is continually updating their rink specific COVID-19 plans to align with MDH, USA Hockey, and Minnesota Hockey recommendations and requirements. Links to the most current BCC plan can be found at: <https://buffalo.pucksystems2.com/covid-19>.
- BYHA expects these minimum expectations are followed by all players, coaches and spectators to ensure we remain as safe as possible:

1. ARRIVAL:

- All players, coaches and spectators must wear a mask when entering and exiting the BCC.
 - At BYHA, all participants must enter through the door nearest to their assigned rink.
 - The BCC is requesting that everyone use hand sanitizer upon entering the facility. There is a dispenser in the lobby, and others in each rink.
- Participants should utilize the Minnesota Symptom Screener Guide prior to any use of the facility.
 - All members of the BYHA will be encouraged to use a “Quick Entry Check In that can be accessed from a computer or your smartphone. This questionnaire will be found at the following places:
 - Posted on the BYHA Covid-19 webpage.
 - Posted in the arena lobby on the BYHA Bulletin Board.
 - Will be emailed out to the association members.
- It is recommended the players arrived dressed with the exception of skates, gloves and helmets.
 - Exceptions are made for goalies who will require additional equipment to be put on the rink.
 - Participants are allowed to bring their hockey bag into BYHA (subject to change, if needed).
- Please arrive NO earlier than 15 minutes before your scheduled ice time. Anyone arriving earlier than 15 minutes before their start time should wait outside of the facility and be socially distant from others.
- Locker rooms or dressing areas will be assigned and posted on the lobby monitor. Assignments are specific and are designed to keep groups/”pods” separated.
- It is recommended that no parents/guardians enter the facility unless necessary to help a young skater with their equipment needs (Squirt, 10U, Mite, 8U, Mini-Mite or 6U).
 - If entering, you must wear a face mask when in the facility.
 - Please maintain social distancing.
- While it is important to limit the number of people in the facility as much as possible, there may be circumstances in which a parent or guardian

must also bring in young siblings. This will be allowed, but should be limited as much as possible.

2. MASKS:

- a. ALL Players and Coaches must wear a mask when entering the facility, while in the facility, while in the locker room, and while exiting the facility.
- b. ALL Spectators must wear a mask at all times when entering, exiting, or inside of the facility.
- c. On the bench, a mask is required to be worn by coaches, door attendants, scorekeepers, and clock operators.
- d. On the ice, it is recommended, but not mandatory for players and on-ice officials to wear a mask.
- e. Coaches must be wearing masks at all times before, during, and after practice.
- f. Face Covering Specifications:
 - i. Types of face coverings can include a paper or disposable mask, a cloth mask, a neck gaiter, a scarf, a bandana, or a religious face covering.
 - ii. A face covering MUST cover the nose and mouth completely.
 - iii. The covering should not be tight or restrictive and should feel comfortable to wear.

3. WATER BOTTLES, RESTROOMS and LOCKER ROOMS:

- a. Players need to provide their own water bottles filled at home and clearly labeled with the player's name. The water bottle filling station will be available in both rinks - Purple and Peterson, however, if possible, please fill your water bottle at home.
 - i. Do NOT share your water bottle with others.
- b. There is to be no spitting or water bottle squirting anywhere within the rink facility.
- c. Please have all players use the restroom at home before practice and games to limit the use of restrooms at the rinks.
- d. Locker Rooms will be open 15 minutes ahead of scheduled ice time. Please wait for the previous group to leave the facility before entering. The locker rooms will be disinfected with a sprayer after each group has completed their session. All other areas of contact will be wiped/disinfected as much as possible.
- e. At the Mite, 8U, Mini-Mite and 6U levels, wear undergarments, as some open seating areas will be used for "locker rooms."
- f. Doors of locker rooms will remain open to increase airflow and minimize contact points.

4. OFF-ICE DRYLAND and PRE-GAME WARMUPS:

- a. The Dryland Room and Stickhandling Areas are closed until further notice.

- b. Any off-ice dryland or pre-game warmups need to be executed outside, utilizing social distancing, and not within any rink facility.
5. ON-ICE ACTIVITIES:
- a. Activity on the ice is limited to 2 groups of 25 which includes players and coaches.
 - b. Players and Coaches should not leave the ice during practice unless absolutely necessary.
 - c. Skaters and Coaches must remain with their specific “pods” throughout their time at the Civic Center.
6. EXITING AFTER ICE TIME:
- a. All Players and Coaches must exit all dressing areas/locker rooms within 10 minutes after exiting the ice. All players, coaches, spectators must be out of the building no later than 15 minutes after their ice time has ended.
 - b. Once a player removes his or her helmet, the player must wear a mask until outside of the facility.
 - c. For players aged 10 and under, each parent/guardian must exit the facility with their player after practice, scrimmage, game, or team activity.
 - d. Avoid players hanging around the facility waiting for a ride. It is your responsibility to know when your player is finished at the rink.
7. GAMES and SCRIMMAGES:
- a. In the score/announcer box, one assigned adult is responsible for the clock and the scoresheet with no one else allowed in the area. Masks must be worn in the score/announcer box.
 - b. Coaches must wear a mask at all times.
 - c. There should be no more than two coaches allowed in the bench area during games.
 - d. Coaches will figure out a system to maximize physical distance between players on the bench during game play, stoppages, intermissions, etc. Space outside the bench area (next to the bench) should be utilized whenever possible.
 - e. Pre-game and post-game handshakes are not allowed. Minnesota Hockey suggests teams honor each other after the game with a “stick salute.”
 - f. There should be no pregame or postgame huddles or post goal gatherings on the ice.
 - g. A two official system shall be used for games at all levels.
 - i. Electronic whistles are an acceptable option for on-ice officials.
8. SPECTATORS:
- a. Spectator guidelines will be determined by each rink facility and are subject to change. It will be up to the team manager, and parents to understand and follow the guidelines in each place.
 - i. For BYHA activities we are limiting nonessential visitors, spectators and volunteers at this time:

1. Minor Athletes (Squirts, 10U, Mites, 8U, Mini-Mites and 6U):
 - a. Practices: Minor athletes are allowed one adult chaperone during their practice to assist with any equipment needs. These parents/guardians may remain during practice, provided that they wear a mask as required and must practice safe social distancing (physical distancing).
 - b. Scrimmages/Games: A maximum of two spectators per player are allowed for games. Spectators should be physically distanced at all times. Cloth face coverings are required at all times inside the facility.
 2. Upper Traveling Level Athletes (Jr. Gold, Bantam, 15U, PeeWee, and 12U):
 - a. Practices: Athletes at the Upper Traveling Levels should be dropped off at the rink. Parents/Guardians should NOT remain in the arena.
 - b. Scrimmages/Games: A maximum of two spectators per player are allowed for games. Spectators should be physically distanced at all times. Cloth face coverings are required at all times inside the facility.
- b. In order to maintain appropriate social distance, and minimum over-crowding, siblings should plan to not attend practices, scrimmage or games if at all possible.
 - c. Please do NOT let your children run around the facility.

TEAM REQUIREMENTS:

- At the team meetings, coaches/managers should explain procedures to parents, and answer any questions.
- Coaches should be prepared as possible to ensure complete utilization of the allowed ice time. This also helps ensure that players are not distracted and know they need to be on time and ready to go, not engaged in other areas of the building.
- Each team MUST have an emergency plan for any positive cases within the team or association. If a case of COVID-19 is reported to you and is a part of your organization or team, please contact BYHA President - Lena Gawtry at #612-386-1104 or acgawtry@gmail.com.
- Each team must maintain accurate rosters of teams or pods and be prepared to support local public health contact tracing efforts.

- Safesport policies will continue to be in effect. There should always be a minimum of two adults at every on-ice event, and there should be no unsupervised one-on-one interaction between a player and a coach.

EMERGENCY PLAN FOR POTENTIAL SICK PLAYERS:

- All BYHA rostered teams will have a team manager and this person is the contact for anything COVID related for your team. This individual will need to complete the Safesport and background check requirements as defined by USA Hockey. The role of the manager will include the following activities:
 - Maintain up-to-date contact information for all players, parents and coaches.
 - Be the point of contact to Lena Gawtry - BYHA President for any positive or potential positive COVID cases.
 - Update the team on any changes in rink or facility COVID specific plan changes or requirements.
 - Upon a positive test to a player or coach on their team, notify any opponents or teams that practiced or played with the infected player over the previous 14 days.
 - Will provide a contact email on the game sheets that are turned into the District League Coordinator.
- In the event a player arrives at a facility and has an elevated temperature of 100.00 or higher, or in the event a player falls ill during an on-ice, off-ice or team activity, the player will be removed from the team and placed in a designated room with a supervising adult. The player's parent/guardian in the emergency contact listing will be contacted immediately to pick up the player.
- If a player/coach/parent is symptomatic and has taken a test, it is expected that the player removes themselves from all team activity until results are obtained.
- If a player tests positive for COVID, the family must report the positive result immediately to BYHA President - Lena Gawtry by emailing acgawtry@gmail.com. The BYHA will report the case to District 5, MDH and local health officials. BYHA will then contact those who had been in contact with the player and will follow up immediately with those identified on the contact list. ALL Team activities will be paused until local health officials and/or MDH is consulted.
- If a positive case is revealed on the team of an opponent, it is expected that the team monitors the health and temperatures of all involved very closely for 14 days.
- Prior to the start of the season, all coaches and team managers will be trained on how to handle COVID-related emergencies per Minnesota Hockey guidelines.

COMMUNICATION and PROTOCOL:

- BYHA will continue to update its members as to any changes to the COVID-19 Preparedness Plan. As information and guidelines from MDH, the CDC, USA Hockey, and Minnesota Hockey continue to change, BYHA will do its best to promptly update its Preparedness Plan and notify its members accordingly as soon as possible.

- The plan supplements existing BYHA policies, rules, procedures, and regulations. All current policies, rules, procedures, and regulations remain in full effect, except for instances where this plan directly contradicts another current policy, rule, procedure, or regulation. Therefore, users are encouraged to review all other such policies, rules, procedures, and regulations in conjunction with this plan. In the event a member has any questions related to the Preparedness Plan, please contact the BYHA President-Lena Gawtry at: acgawtry@gmail.com or #612-386-1104.
- The BYHA Preparedness Plan was communicated to all members as of September 16, 2020. Additional communication and trying will be ongoing as the COVID-19 effects continue to evolve.
- Please visit our BYHA website for the most current information:
<https://buffalo.pucksystems2.com/covid-19>

Certified by:
Lena Gawtry
President, Buffalo Youth Hockey Association
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