



Communicable Disease Plan

November 7, 2021

INTRODUCTION

Sooke & District Minor Hockey Association (SDMHA) is committed to providing safe and healthy environments for all members of our hockey community. In alignment with the [BC Restart plan](#), [ViaSport](#), [BC Hockey](#), [VIAHA](#) and [SEAPARC](#) facility guidelines this communicable disease (CD) plan outlines the ongoing prevention measures that everyone needs to follow as we transition from prescriptive COVID-19 safety measures to general communicable disease prevention measures that are guided by public health.

SCOPE

This CD plan applies to all SDMHA players, parents, guardians, spectators, team staff, and Executive members engaged in any hockey activity including try-outs, practices, games, meetings, dryland training and other related hockey activities.

TRANSITION PERIOD

During the transitional months of July and August the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) and viaSport are recommending sports organizations still maintain some existing safety measures as we gradually and safely ease restrictions in anticipation of the full return to sport activities in the fall.

In addition to this CD plan, SDMHA may still be required to follow applicable activity-specific (e.g. fundraising, indoor dryland training), safety guidelines or ongoing PHO requirements (e.g. gatherings and events). Similarly, those engaged in travel for practices or games (e.g. out of town games, tournaments) will still need to follow local, provincial or federal travel restrictions, local community entry requirements, as well as facility requirements or safety plans.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION

Communicable disease prevention focuses on basic risk reduction principles to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases. The fundamental components of communicable disease prevention include both ongoing measures to be maintained at all times and additional measures to be implemented as advised by public health during periods of elevated risk. SHMA will regularly monitor and review communicable disease information from public health authorities, and update the campus community of any changes affecting hockey activities, including updating the CD plan as required.



ONGOING PREVENTION MEASURES

Encouraging players and parents to stay at home when sick

- All players and parents must continue to do a daily health self-assessment.
- If you are ill or have symptoms of a communicable disease (e.g. fever and/or chills, recent onset of coughing, diarrhea):
 - please stay home
 - notify your coach or team manager of your absence
 - consult the [COVID-19 self-assessment tool](#) to see if you should get tested, and contact 811 if you require medical advice
- Anyone attending a SDMHA event that is visibly ill or displaying symptoms of a communicable disease will be sent home immediately. The SDMHA Executive will be notified if this should happen and will follow-up to ensure that there is minimal risk to the team(s) and Association.

Promoting hand-washing and hygiene practices

- Washing your hands regularly, or using hand sanitizers if a washroom or sink is not readily available, is one of the most simple and effective ways to minimize the spread of communicable diseases.
- In addition, covering your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough will also help to reduce the spread of germs.
- All SEAPARC washroom facilities will be re-opened and available for players, parents and the public to facilitate regular handwashing. SEAPARC will also continue to supply hand sanitizer stations at all main entrances, and additional locations in buildings with higher occupancy levels, to promote hand hygiene.
- SDMHA teams will keep a supply of portable hand sanitizer available for use.
- Water bottles are for individual use only, it is recommended they be labelled with a name and washed frequently.
- Hockey equipment should be clean and not shared with anyone else.
- For outdoor or dryland activities, individuals should ensure they bring hand sanitizer if washing facilities are not available (e.g. outdoor events, vehicles, field locations, etc.). SEAPARC has posted signage throughout the facility to remind everyone of these important practices.



COVID-19 SPECIFIC PREVENTION MEASURES

Mandatory face mask/covering

- As of October 29, 2021, by Order of the PHO, everyone 5 years and older is required to wear a face covering in all public indoor settings. This includes, but is not limited to, indoor recreation facilities such as lobbies, dressing rooms, washrooms, stands/bleachers, score/timekeeping boxes, and benches. Further information can be found here: [FACE COVERINGS \(COVID-19\)](#)
- SDMHA strongly recommends that everyone wear a mask if they are able to do so.
- Players, coaches and on ice volunteers are not required to wear face masks when on the ice surface or moving directly to or from the ice surface.

Vaccination requirement/proof of vaccination

- Child and youth sport participants, 21 years or less continue to be exempt from the proof of vaccination requirement.
- As of October 24, 2021, proof of vaccination consisting of two doses is required for select activities, until January 31, 2022 and is subject to extensions. People 19+ must show government photo ID with their BC vaccination QR code. Those aged 12-18 do not need to show ID.
- As of October 25, 2021, volunteers leading the sport of 22 years and older (coaches, instructors and on ice volunteers) for child and youth sport are required to show proof of vaccine to SDMHA to participate. (The previous order that volunteer coaches, instructors were exempt, no longer applies).
 - At the SEAPARC facility; unvaccinated adults (parents/ guardians) that need to tie skates and assist children to be ready to go on the ice can assist from the arena lobby area (common space) but shall not remain in the facility to spectate.
 - Unvaccinated adults may not enter the dressing room(s).
 - Unvaccinated adults can drop off and pick up their kids but shall not linger in the common space of the facility.
 - Common space(s) including lobbies and washrooms do not require proof of vaccination, however, access is only permitted to assist children and youth to participate in sport (e.g. skate tying). Anyone that has not provided proof of vaccination must leave immediately after assisting their player.
- ALL spectators 12 and older of child and youth sport are required to show proof of vaccination. 100% capacity is allowed for spectators at any event where proof of vaccine is checked. (The previous order of no proof of vaccine if under fifty (50) people no longer applies).
- At the SEAPARC facility the main arena bleacher door(s) will be the point where SDMHA will scan the BC vaccine QR codes for spectators 12 years and older.
- Signage will be posted; anyone entering the bleachers must show proof of vaccination to enter.
- **Vaccination requirements may vary facility to facility. Be sure to check entry requirements with hosting facility or team manager prior to attending. SDMHA members are expected to know and understand the documentation/admission rules when playing away games. SDMHA members may face disciplinary action for disregarding the rules of other facilities/Associations.**



Spectator capacity

- There is currently no limitation on spectator capacity as all spectator 12+ are required to be fully vaccinated.

Reducing congregation and crowding in small spaces

- The SEAPARC lobby is small and becomes easily congested, SDMHA strongly recommends the following:
 - Players use the dressing rooms when possible, followed by the lobby benches.
 - Limit of one parent to player in the lobby while getting ready.
 - Promptly exiting the lobby once your player is ready to go on the ice or is finished.
 - U7/U9 players come dressed, or dress in the parking lot and leave hockey bags in your vehicle.

RESPONDING TO ELEVATED RISK

- The level of risk of certain communicable diseases, including COVID-19, may elevate from time to time or on a seasonal basis. This may occur at a local or regional level or within a facility.
- In addition to maintaining the ongoing prevention measures, SDMHA will monitor public health information and be responsive to any further directives from the local medical health officer or provincial health officer which could include, for example, implementing enhanced cleaning measures, distancing requirements or masking guidance.
- Any changes to prevention measures during periods of elevated risk will be communicated to those affected in our Association.

COMMUNICATION AND MONITORING

- This CD plan will be available on the SDMHA website and shared widely on SDMHA social media
- Team staff should ensure that everyone on their teams have reviewed the CD Plan and understand and follow the measures in place.
- The prevention measures will be reinforced through signage, social media and other communication tools on a regular basis.
- The ongoing review and evaluation of the CD plan will involve the SDMHA Executive, as part of its annual consultation process on health and safety programs. Monitoring of the ongoing prevention measures is shared responsibility of team staff and Association members.
- Individuals should report any health and safety concerns to their team manager or team safety, who is responsible to follow-up and address any concerns.