

## Covid-19 Arena Re-Entry Guidance (#4 – February 2021)

**Welcome back:** We look forward to welcoming you, your organization, and its members back to Strathcona County arenas within the new guidelines and facility procedures. Your collaboration and communication are very important as we reopen arenas. Our shared responsibility will help keep arenas open. The health and safety of everyone is our priority.

### [Government of Alberta Covid-19-Relaunch for Sports, Physical Activity and Recreation](#)

- **Pre-screening measures:** Stay home if you are sick or displaying any symptoms of COVID-19. Follow the pre-screen procedures outlined by Alberta Health Services and posted at the facility.
- **Contact Tracing:** Sport and recreation organizations are responsible for keeping track of their participants for the purpose of contact tracing in the event of an outbreak. Refer to AHS Guidelines for COVID-19 Relaunch Guidance for Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation – Stage 2 (AHS-SPAR, p. 4 Oct/20).
- **3 Meters Physical Distancing:** Maintain 3-meter physical distancing between people, when engaged in activity.-
- **Non-Medical Masks (face coverings):** To stop the spread of COVID-19, non-medical masks (face coverings will be required) for people 2 years of age or older, attending an indoor public place (Chief Medical Officer of Health Order 02-2021, Part 5 Masks). Masks should be worn indoors except when engaging in intense physical activity.
- **Limit Contact:** Maximum of 2 groups of 10 individuals on the ice at the same time; including: participants, officials, coaches, and trainers. The two groupings must be clearly separated (half ice), maintaining physical distancing, with no cross over of participants permitted.

### **Recreation, Parks & Culture will:**

**Apply:** A zero tolerance approach to organizations not following AHS SPAR or Strathcona County Re-Entry Guidelines.

**Communicate:** Covid -19 re-entry protocols with facility guests including players, coaches, parents and staff through on-site media (signage, posters, conversations) and on-line media.

**Initiate:** Covid-19 Protocol Response, when Strathcona County Covid-19 Guidelines are not followed and adhered to.

**Pre-screen:** RPC staff team members will be pre-screened daily using a Health Assessment Pre-screening Tool.

**Use Facility Ambassadors:** To greet and help guests navigate the new guidelines required for arenas – modified entry/exit, dressing rooms, and ice and spectator capacities.

**Educate:** Facility users about new facility procedures implemented to avoid the spread of Covid-19.

**Collaborate:** With facility user groups and individuals on ways everyone can help reduce the spread of Covid-19.

**Post Capacity Limits:** For arena dressing rooms, spectators (when permitted) and other spaces using 3 meters physical distancing guidance.

**Clean and Disinfect:** Additional cleaning and disinfecting measures will be used to ensure a safe and healthy environment for everyone. Staff will be disinfecting arena and common touch points between users.

**Reduce Risk:** Provide hand sanitizer at facility entrances and in various locations throughout the facility and increased frequency of cleaning and disinfecting.

**Reduce Crossover:** Facilities will promote 3 metres physical distancing and where possible implement one-way traffic flow and modify entry and exits points to reduce contact between groups.

**Review:** In collaboration with all stakeholders, evaluate guidelines and update as needed based on AHS and Government of Alberta direction and guidance.

**Arena User Groups will:**

**Create an Arena Re-Entry Plan:** Prior to booking ice, organizations must submit in writing to Strathcona County a Return-to-Play Plan; including confirmation of coaching certification according to Minor Sport Associations Path Forward Step 1.

**Communicate and Educate:** With participants, parents, coaches and trainers on AHS Covid-19 Guidelines as well as Strathcona County's requirements, procedures and facility postings and signage.

**Identify Covid Coordinators:** For the purposes of helping players, and managing Covid-19 related matters, organizations will assign two individuals for each training group/group of 10. These individuals will be Strathcona County's point of contact.

**Pre-screen:** Prior to their arrival at the arena, coaches and participants must complete the Covid-19 pre-screen process pursuant to AHS requirements with their Covid Coordinators (AHS – SPAR, p. 4 Oct/20).

**Spectators:** Are not permitted at this time.

**Masks:** All participants and coaches should wear masks while inside the facility. Masks are not required for players during physical activity on the ice. Coaches must keep their masks on while on the ice and remain physically distanced.

**Arrive ready to train or play:** Participants should sanitize hands upon arrival and come with equipment on (AHS – SPAR, p. 2 Oct/20), as dressing rooms will be limited to accommodate physical distancing. Bring a pre-filled, labelled water bottle.

**Limit Contact:** A maximum of 2 groups of 10 individuals (inclusive of players, coaches and trainers) may be on the ice (surface and players' benches) at the same time, provided 3 metre distancing is maintained. Groups must be separated, physically distanced and no cross over of groups is permitted.

**Reduce Crossover:** Coaches will promote physical distancing by guiding entry and exit in and out of dressing rooms to help reduce contact between groups. By doing so this prevents individuals coming off the ice from crossing over with individuals coming onto the ice. Coaches are responsible for their team, ensuring everyone leaves and clears the hallways.

**Dressing Rooms:** Are limited to participants and coaches to provide 2-meter physical distancing (AHS -SPAR, p. 12 Oct/20). **Time should be limited to 10 minutes prior to and after scheduled ice times.** A group will be limited to 1 dressing room. Washrooms will be available; however, showers are not available. Dressing rooms are not permitted to be used for instruction such as reviewing drills or practice plans; and players and coaches should avoid unnecessary socializing.

**Exit:** Coaches and participants have 10 minutes after their ice time before they must exit. Everyone must leave the ice and benches immediately after their scheduled time and proceed directly to the dressing room area. Do not congregate after your ice time in the players benches or hallways. All belongings must be removed to allow for disinfecting.

**Minimize Contact with High Touch Surfaces:** Everyone should minimize contacting high-touch surfaces like door handles. Warm-up space is not available. Common area chairs and tables will not be available to reduce gathering areas and to promote physical distancing.

**Additional support required:** Spaces may be set aside for skaters to put skates on where facilities can accommodate such space. Groups with individuals needing help with skate tying should consider how to manage this within physical distancing guidelines. Parents of participants needing help with skate tying need to coordinate with coaches in advance of their child's ice time. Skate tying prior to arrival and the use of skate guards is strongly recommended.

**Hockey Canada, Ringette Alberta and Skate Canada have developed sport specific guidelines to provide direction on how their activities can be modified to comply with AHS and Government of Alberta directives regarding physical distancing and avoiding the sharing of common equipment. Groups are expected to follow their sport governing body's guidelines with respect to these modifications. It is also the group's responsibility, to ensure sanctioned activities are permitted through their sport governing body.**