

Whitehorse Minor Hockey COVID-19 Return to Play Plan 2020



UPDATED -October 19, 2020

*Subject to change

Whitehorse Minor Hockey, under BC Hockey is now in Phase 3 of ViaSport Return to Play

- Divisions with larger enrollment (U9) and (U11) have two cohorts
- All practices and skills sessions will continue to follow the COVID-19 physical distance guidelines when possible
- All games will be played within cohorts (mini leagues) of up to 65
- Regarding game play situations-physical distancing should still be maintained when possible despite being with your cohort (warm up, pre and post-game, on the benches etc.)
- At this time, travel outside of Whitehorse for game play seems unlikely; however, might be possible for year-end tournaments, pending future travel restrictions and return to hockey phases
- Coaches and officials do not count as part of the Cohort providing they maintain physical distance and wear a mask when that is not possible

We are continuing to ask all athletes to come to the facility dressed and ready to go on the ice. The dressing rooms will take the place of the previous staging areas; meaning we require flow thru these spaces - they will not be used in their conventional manner. Coaches, assistant coaches and team managers will be available should players require assistance. In the case of the older groups it is expected that coaches and assistants don their gear in the team dressing room to provide a supervisory presence and to ensure the flow thru concept is maintained.

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
	Strictest Controls Prior to May 19, 2020	Transition Measures Approx. May 19th to Sept	Progressively Loosen Future date TBC	New Normal Future date TBC
Restrictions in Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain Physical Distance (2m) • No non-essential travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain Physical Distance (2m) • No non-essential travel • No group gatherings over 50 people 	Refer to PHO and local health authorities	Refer to PHO and local health authorities
Enhanced Protocols	Increased hand hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased hand hygiene • Symptom Screening in place 	Increased hand hygiene	Increased hand hygiene
Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor or within home • Facilities and playgrounds closed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor is safest • Indoor facilities slowly re-opening 	Outdoor/Indoor	Outdoor/Indoor
Participants	Individual activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Groups • No or limited spectators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groups sizes may increase • Limited spectators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large groups allowed • No restrictions on spectators
Non-contact Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low risk outdoor activities can occur (biking, running, etc.) • Virtual activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundamental movement skills • Modified training activities, drills 	Expansion of training activities	No restrictions on activity type
Contact Activities	Should not occur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should not occur • Contact sports should look for non-contact alternatives to training 	Introduction to pair or small group contact skills	No restrictions on activity type
Competition	Should not occur	In club play or modified games may slowly be introduced	Interclub or regional game play may be considered	Provincial competitions and larger scale events may return
Equipment	No shared equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal shared equipment • Disinfect any shared equipment before, during and after use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some shared equipment • Enhanced cleaning protocols in place 	Shared equipment

NO CONGREGATING is permitted in the facilities. You are required when possible and age permitting to drop your player off and pick them up from the rink. This is not the time to spectate during practices, visit with other parents or stand around the concourse - we have been warned extensively about this and do not want to lose our rink privileges! **When drop off is not an option- ONE PARENT OR GUARDIAN per player is permitted.**

The City has indicated that there will be a pick-up area sectioned off for parents at the CGC. Parents waiting for their players must remain in the viewing area or this designated area as to not disrupt the flow of traffic for other patrons-masks will be required when distancing is not be possible.

[BC HOCKEY FAQ DOCUMENT CLICK HERE](#)

During Game Play:

- Players will continue social distancing during non-competition activities (warmups, etc)
- Upon stoppage of play, opposing players must immediately physically distance (no scrums, no altercations)
- After the whistle players will go directly to their benches OR to the faceoff circle
- Should players not distance immediately after the whistle, penalties will be assessed
- Zero tolerance by officials for contact after whistles
- Coaches and officials are not considered part of the cohort- they must remain physically distanced and masked when that is not possible
- Off Ice Officials are required to wear masks inside the time keepers box

In the document below you will learn about on ice points of focus for officials and game play. It is important that everyone learns about the new guidelines.

[Hockey Canada's Points of Focus Document can be reviewed here](#), this is very important everyone understands the Officiating Guidelines thru COVID-19.

Important Facilities Information:

Ensure players enter the facility masked and continues wearing their mask until it is time to enter the ice area. After their ice time, masks will go back on, players will leave the facility and will meet their guardians on the way out of the facility.

Players are still expected to arrive at the rink dressed and ready to go on the ice! Bring your skates in a bag and be ready to put those on in the dressing room when the outdoors and floors become wet and too slippery. We do NOT want anyone slipping around the floors in their skate guards!

COVID-19 Safety Guidelines (from City of Whitehorse communication)

- COVID-19 Pre-screening of all patrons prior to entering the facility.
- NO SPITTING or blowing your nose without a tissue anywhere in the facility or on the ice.
- Water bottle fill stations are available in the concourse.
- Follow directional signage for entry/exits throughout the facility.
- Shower facilities are not available until further notice.
- Masks and/or face shields are welcome in the facility. Wear a mask in change rooms, narrow hallways, or anywhere physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- Athletes and spectators should be separated. Please use spectator seating and maintain physical distancing of at least 2 metres (6 feet) from other spectators and athletes.
- We recommend pick up and drop off for players. Note that CGC Age Guidelines still apply, requiring a guardian for youth age 9 and under.
- To ensure our facility can remain open and safe, please obey all rules as presented by the City of Whitehorse and Yukon Government. Failure to follow guidelines and policies could result in immediate removal from the facility and future booking privileges revoked. The City of Whitehorse may cancel future bookings without refunds.

Entering the facility:

- Any participant traveling outside of Yukon, BC, Nunavut or NWT must not attend for a minimum of 14 days upon returning to Yukon
- Participants arrive no more than 15 minutes before ice time.
- All players must come in dressed in their gear, no large hockey bag, carrying sticks, helmet, gloves and skates in a small bag for safety reasons.
- Participants must be able to tie own skates or arrive with skates and skate guards on.
- Parents will not be allowed in the hallways or dressing rooms.

Northwestel Arena: Entry through concourse doors, exit through arena hallway

ATCO/Leisure Ice: Entry through concourse doors by Booster Juice, exit through arena hallway

TAKHINI: Entry through marked entrance

Exiting the facility:

- Participants will have maximum 15 minutes to exit the facility.
- Participants will put their shoes on or skate guards (if floors are not slippery) and leave through door marked “EXIT”.
- On the way-out participants will hand sanitize and refrain from touching any walls or door frames as they exit.

Reporting and Compliance:

Whitehorse Minor Hockey is committed to following the Yukon Government’s Safe Six Practices

	1 Maintain physical distancing – keep 2 metres away from everyone who’s not a member of your bubble		4 Don’t gather in groups of more than 10 people indoors or 50 outdoors, and remember to keep 2 metres apart
	2 Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol		5 Limit travel to rural communities, and be respectful when you’re there
	3 Stay home if you’re feeling sick		6 Self-isolate if you’ve returned to Yukon and have been outside of BC, Nunavut or the NWT in the last 14 days, or if you’ve been in contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19

Safety Procedures & Hygiene:

- Any participant traveling outside of Yukon, BC, Nunavut or NWT must not attend for a minimum of 14 days upon returning to Yukon
- Social distancing markers will be in place to be followed
- Physical distancing will be practiced at all times (On and Off the ice)
- Masks are recommended when arriving or leaving the facility but are not mandatory
- Masks are mandatory when physical distancing is not achievable
- Participants are asked to arrive fully dressed to reduce time in the facility before and after activities
- Before leaving home, all participants need to self-assess
 - Are you experiencing any of these symptoms: Dry cough, tiredness, fever, sore throat, headache, difficulty breathing?
 - Have you traveled outside of Yukon, BC, Nunavut or NWT in the past 14 days?
 - Have you been in contact with anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms in the past 14 days?
- If a participant answers yes to any of the above questions, that participant will not attend

Hygiene:

- Minimize going in and out of doors – Enter and Exit through marked doors
- Absolutely no spitting on the ice, the floor or the benches
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or the bend of the arm, not the hand
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- All participants must have their own water bottle with their name labelled, no sharing of water bottles
- Participants are encouraged to wash equipment after each session (jerseys, pant shells, socks, under garments)
- Disinfection of areas in use (player’s boxes, timing booth, skate tying area, Family Change room, benches, surfaces and ledges/dasher boards) -Arenas done by staff between bookings

Signs of Sickness:

- **Any participant, player or volunteer, exhibiting signs or symptoms of any illness before an activity, should not attend**
- Notify the coach immediately if you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19
- Any participant, player or volunteer, exhibiting signs or symptoms of any illness during their participation will be asked to leave the on-ice session or activity immediately

- Link to Government of Yukon's Self Assessment Tool <https://service.yukon.ca/en/covid-19-self-assessment/>

Communications Officer:

Whitehorse Minor Hockey has identified Tanya MacKenzie as our Communications Officer. Tanya is the point of contact to address questions, updates or concerns regarding our Return to Play Plan. Tanya can be contacted at communications@whitehorseminorhockey.ca Tanya is supported by WMHA board member Krista Strand vphighperformance@whitehorseminorhockey.ca & Whitehorse Minor Hockey executive director Stacey Carefoot stacey@whitehorseminorhockey.ca

A friendly reminder..

In the event the season length is affected by a lockdown or a cohort is required to quarantine for a period, WMHA will do everything in their power to be fair to their members. However, please understand that there are several considerations and factors that impact how registration dollars are spent. Some expenses are fixed and will be difficult to recuperate in the event of a cancelled season, while other expenses may be easier to recuperate with enough notice. It is not possible to determine any of those details at this point, but please know that WMHA will do everything they can to ensure fair treatment of players and families and return as much of their registration fees as possible in the unfortunate event that the season length is negatively impacted.