

Minnesota Wild Special Hockey COVID-19 Policy & Preparedness Plan 2020-21 Season

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. As a result, federal, state, and local governments and federal and state health agencies recommend social distancing and wearing of face coverings and have, in many locations, prohibited the congregation of groups of people.

Minnesota Wild Special Hockey (“MSH”) takes the threat of COVID-19 to our players, coaches, volunteers, and their families extremely seriously. Accordingly, we have implemented additional safety requirements, outlined in this document. MSH serves athletes with disabilities and their families - many of whom have increased vulnerabilities. We greatly appreciate your understanding, your compliance with our requirements for the season, and your cooperation with our coaches, team managers, and volunteers to implement these added safety measures and requirements.

We cannot emphasize enough that each player, guardian, coach, volunteer, and/or family must seriously consider the risks associated with COVID-19 as it relates to your individual case when determining whether playing with MSH is right for you this season. Additionally, if you believe that complying with this Policy & Preparedness Plan is not possible for a player, guardian, family member, coach, or volunteer, we ask that you not participate in the 2020-21 season. We fully understand and appreciate if it isn't right for your family. We'll be here for you when we beat this!

With this Policy & Preparedness Plan, MSH has outlined its requirements and safety measures, which we hope will answer questions participants and their families may have regarding the upcoming season. Please contact covid19@mnspecialhockey.org with further questions or concerns.

I. Participant Agreement and Waiver

Full compliance with our COVID-19 policy is critical to maintaining the health and safety of our players, coaches, volunteers, spectators, and their families. Below are MSH's requirements and expectations of each player, guardian, spectator, coach, and volunteer.

A. COVID-19 Reporting Policy

At the time each player, coach, and volunteer registers with MSH at the beginning of the 2020-21 season, they will be asked to agree with the below policy as a condition of participation:

By registering with Minnesota Wild Special Hockey ("MSH"), I agree and promise that, at any time during the 2020-21 MSH season, I will not attend any MSH event if I am aware of any of the following:

- (1) I or anyone in my household tests positive for COVID-19;**
- (2) I have been exposed to a person who has tested positive for COVID-19;**
- (3) I exhibit any of the below symptoms,**
 - Fever or chills**
 - Cough**
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing**
 - Fatigue**
 - Muscle or body aches**
 - Headache**
 - New loss of taste or smell**
 - Sore throat**
 - Congestion or runny nose**
 - Nausea or vomiting**
 - Diarrhea.**
- (4) I have traveled out of the country in the past 30 days, or been in close contact with anyone who has traveled out of the country in the past 30 days.**

Further, I agree that if I or anyone in my household tests positive for COVID-19 or (2) I learn that I was exposed to a person who tested positive for COVID-19 within 14 days before my attendance at a MSH event, I will advise MSH immediately by filling out the

COVID-19 Exposure Registration online at <https://mnspecialhockey.sportngin.com/register/form/516909603>.

I further agree that if I test positive for COVID-19 at any time during the MSH 2020-21 season, I will not participate in or attend any MSH events until 14 days have passed since symptoms first appeared or I tested positive for COVID-19, 24 hours have passed since I last had a fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, and any symptoms have improved.

I also agree that I will make any person who attends any MSH event with me—spectator or otherwise—aware of the above policy. By attending any MSH event, all spectators certify that they are not aware that (1) they or anyone in their household has tested positive for COVID-19; (2) they have been exposed to a person who has tested positive for COVID-19; or (3) they exhibit any of the CDC’s COVID-19 symptoms, listed above.

Should any spectator test positive for COVID-19 or become aware that they were exposed to a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 within 14 days prior to attending a MSH event, that person must also immediately fill out the COVID-19 Exposure Registration online at <https://mnspecialhockey.sportngin.com/register/form/516909603> and not attend any MSH events until 14 days have passed since symptoms first appeared or the individual tested positive for COVID-19, 24 hours have passed since the individual last had a fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, and any symptoms have improved.

MSH will remind you of this reporting obligation periodically throughout the season; however, by registering with MSH, you accept the burden of complying with this policy. If MSH learns that any participant has not complied with MSH’s COVID-19 Reporting Policy, MSH reserves the right to suspend you from participating in any MSH event for the remainder of the 2020-21 season.

The symptoms listed above are those identified by the Centers for Disease Control (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) and the Minnesota Department of Health.

B. COVID-19 Waiver

At the time each player, coach, or volunteer registers with MSH at the beginning of the season, they will be asked to agree to the following COVID-19 Waiver:

By registering with Minnesota Wild Special Hockey (“MSH”) for the 2020-21 season, I acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and voluntarily assume the risk that I may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by attending any and all MSH events and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death. I understand that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 at the event may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of myself and others, including, but not limited to, MSH agents, volunteers, and program participants and their families.

I voluntarily agree to assume all of the foregoing risks and accept sole responsibility for any injury to myself (including, but not limited to, personal injury, disability, and death), illness, damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense, of any kind, that I may experience or incur in connection with my attendance at any MSH event. On my behalf, I hereby release, covenant not to sue, discharge, and hold harmless MSH, and its agents and representatives, of and from the Claims, including all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs or expenses of any kind arising out of or relating thereto. I understand and agree that this release includes any Claims based on the actions, omissions, or negligence of MSH, its agents, and its representatives, whether a COVID-19 infection occurs before, during, or after participation in any MSH event.

C. Reporting Regarding COVID-19 Exposure

MSH has established a COVID-19 Exposure Registration online at <https://mnspecialhockey.sportngin.com/register/form/516909603>. Pursuant to the above COVID-19 Reporting Policy, any person who has participated in any MSH event – i.e., player, spectator, coach, or volunteer – must immediately report using that registration if: (1) the individual or anyone in their household tests positive for COVID-19; or (2) the individual becomes aware that they have been exposed to a person who tested positive for COVID-19 in the 14 days before

attending any MSH event. If any person is unable to use the registration, they may also email covid19@mnspecialhockey.org.

MSH's Board has established a COVID-19 Task Force. This group of individuals will receive any reports to the above COVID-19 Exposure Registration and will also monitor the covid19@mnspecialhockey.org email account. Should the MSH COVID-19 Task Force receive a report of a COVID-19 exposure, the Task Force will take the following steps:

- (1) Promptly advise the Team Manager of any team implicated by the exposure of the exposure's occurrence and ask the Team Manager to call all players and/or their guardians, volunteers, and coaches to advise them of the nature of the exposure (i.e., if a one-team practice, the players, coaches, and volunteers registered with that team or, if a multiple-team event, all players, coaches, and volunteers registered with any participating team).
- (2) Promptly email all individuals associated with the implicated teams advising them of the nature of the exposure, including all opponents over the previous 14 days, while maintaining that person's confidentiality in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- (3) Notify the Minnesota Department of Health of confirmed cases as required by Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4605.7050. A Minnesota Department of Health inbox has been established for sport organization COVID-19 case reporting: health.sports.covid19@state.mn.us or at 651-201-5000. MSH will then coordinate with the Minnesota Department of Health regarding any further communication that must occur to individuals who had close contact with that individual notifying them of a positive test.
- (4) Notify the involved arena of the positive test result.

MSH (including Team Managers and COVID-19 Coordinators) will not and cannot advise anyone of the name of the person who caused an exposure by law. We will advise those registered with the implicated teams whether (1) a person at an MSH event tested positive for COVID-19; (2) a member of the household of a person at an MSH event tested positive for COVID-19; or (3) a person at an MSH event was, in the 14 days before an event, exposed to a person who has tested positive for COVID-19. We will also advise whether that

individual was on the ice or in the stands during the MSH event, to our knowledge. We will then contact the Minnesota Department of Health and coordinate with them for further guidance.

D.Requirements for Arena Entry, Exit and Ice Time

Different arenas around the state may have different policies for COVID-19. For the sake of uniformity and fairness, MSH has adopted the below requirements, which will be enforced by Team Managers and Coaches. We recommend that all participants review the specific policies of any arena they are visiting to confirm that arena's COVID-19 policies. The MSH COVID-19 Task Force and Board also reserve the right, in their discretion, to amend these requirements during the season and to suspend participants for failure to comply.

MSH intends to follow Minnesota Hockey's Return to Play Guidelines, currently available online at https://cdn4.sportngin.com/attachments/document/99e6-2237198/Minnesota_Hockey_Return_to_Play_Phase_3_FINAL.pdf#_ga=2.256174927.558199394.1598803784-1661105250.1597611801. At the time this Policy & Preparedness Plan was drafted, Minnesota Hockey was in Phase 3.

Each team will have a COVID-19 Coordinator who will serve as the team's point of contact for COVID-19 issues.

A. Requirements for Entry – Per Minnesota Hockey

- Players may arrive no earlier than 15 minutes before scheduled ice time. Anyone arriving earlier than 15 minutes before their start time should wait outside of the facility and be socially distanced from others.
- Players must arrive dressed, except for skates and helmets.
- Players must be spaced 6 feet apart as they wait to enter.
- Upon arrival, skaters must wear a mask until they put on their helmet. Players without masks will not be admitted to the arena.
- COVID-19 Coordinators will go through the attached Symptom Checklist before permitting players to enter the arena. Any player reporting or exhibiting positive symptoms will not be allowed to participate and parents/guardians will be notified immediately and asked to pick the player up and leave. The decision whether to permit a player to enter the arena is solely within the discretion of the Team Manager. If the player

requires assistance in answering the questions on the Symptom Checklist, a parent or guardian must remain with the player to complete the Symptom Checklist with the COVID-19 Coordinator.

- Families must provide the Team Manager and COVID-19 Coordinator with accurate contact information in the event of emergency while the player is at the arena. This information must be accurate and the Team Manager or COVID-19 Coordinator must be able to reach the designated person if the need arises.
- If there is an activity occurring at the rink before the team's scheduled start, the incoming team should wait until all players from the prior event have vacated the building. There must not be interaction between the two groups.
- Whenever possible, players should use the restroom at home prior to leaving for the rink in an effort to limit bathroom use at the facility.
- Players must go directly to assigned locker room.
- Players must remain 6 feet apart in the locker room.
- Parents/guardians are only permitted in the locker room if required to help the player to tie their skates or put on their helmet, and parents/guardians must wear a mask at all times inside the arena, including the locker room. Only one individual may be in the locker room or dressing area to assist their respective player.
- These steps will be directed by the Team Manager, who will wear a mask.
- No player shall share water bottles, snacks, towels, equipment, etc.
- Players must bring their own water bottle, labeled with their name, which must be filled prior to arriving to the arena. Players should not expect to be able to fill their water bottle at the rink.
- No one may spit at any time inside the arena, including on the ice.
- A maximum of two spectators per player are allowed for games. If arena or Minnesota Department of Health guidelines are stricter, teams must adhere to the arena/Minnesota Department of Health policy.

B. Requirements on Ice – Per Minnesota Hockey

- Players on ice will be instructed to practice social distancing of 6 feet and avoid any contact with other players as much as possible.
- Coaches and volunteers must wear masks at all times.
- Players are not required to wear masks while on the ice for team activities but must wear them in the arena otherwise.
- Coaches and volunteers will minimize player contact and emphasize 6 feet of distance while coaching.

- Coaches and volunteers participating in scheduled practices and games will be responsible for picking up pucks and moving nets.
- A maximum of two pods of 25 people are permitted on the ice at any one time. This total includes coaches of volunteers. Coaches must ensure there is no mixing between these two pods of people to minimize exposure.
- There will only be one individual in the clock area during games and he/she must wear a mask.
- After games are completed there will be no handshake line or chatting with other players, coaches, volunteers, etc. Teams should honor each other after the game with a stick salute.
- There will be no pregame or postgame huddles or post-goal gatherings on the ice.

C. Requirements for Exit – Per Minnesota Hockey

- Players will be asked to exit the ice immediately once ice time ends.
- Once ice time has concluded, players will be permitted to remove helmets, skates and gloves only; all other gear must remain on upon leaving the ice arena.
- Once an ice session is over, players will exit the ice using 6-foot spacing and return to their assigned locker room.
- Players will quickly take skates and helmet off and put shoes back on, and, when directed by the Team Manager, they will exit the arena immediately.
- Players are to be picked up immediately after their session. The person picking the player up must be punctual.
- Coaches and/or Team Managers will remain until all players have been picked up from the premises.

D. Requirements for Parents/Guardians/Spectators – Per Minnesota Hockey

- 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.
- Parents/guardians/spectators must wear masks or face coverings at all times inside the arena.
- Parents/guardians/spectators must maintain 6 feet of distance between themselves and members of any other household.

E. Other Notes Relating to Play

- Individuals taking buses to MSH events must maintain social distancing on the bus and must wear masks on the buses at all time. MSH will work with the bus company to ensure appropriate guidelines and rules are in place. Individuals must follow all rules and/or regulations established by the bus company.
- MSH recommends that all players wash clothing and gear after each practice.
- MSH recommends frequent hand-washing.

E. Reimbursement of Registration Fees

Players may request a reimbursement of registration fees should they choose to forego the season as follows:

September 1-December 31, 2020: 50% of MSH Registration Fee

January 1, 2021-later: No reimbursement

Please note that MSH cannot reimburse any part of the Registration Fee paid to USA Hockey. USA Hockey has no refund policy.

F. Cancellation of Season

The MSH Board is hopeful that, if all participants comply with the above policies and requirements, we will be able to enjoy a full season. The MSH Board will carefully monitor the situation as it relates to COVID-19 and, if the MSH Board, in its discretion, determines that the 2020-21 season must be cancelled, MSH will provide reimbursement as follows:

September 1-December 31, 2020: 50% of MSH Registration Fee

January 1, 2021-later: No reimbursement

Please note that MSH cannot reimburse any part of the Registration Fee paid to USA Hockey. USA Hockey has no refund policy.

Thank you for your compliance with this Policy & Preparedness Plan.
We look forward to a safe and fun season. With any questions, please contact
covid19@mnspecialhockey.org.

SYMPTOM CHECKLIST FOR COVID-19 COORDINATOR

1. I am not exhibiting any of the following symptoms associated with COVID-19:
 - a. Fever of 100.4 degree F or greater
 - b. Cough
 - c. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - d. Fatigue
 - e. Muscle or body aches
 - f. Headache
 - g. New loss of taste or smell
 - h. Sore throat
 - i. Congestion or runny nose
 - j. Nausea or vomiting
 - k. Diarrhea
2. I have not been in close contact with anyone within the last 14 days who has been quarantined due to COVID-19.
3. I have not been advised by any medical provider or health authority that I may have been exposed to COVID-19.
4. I have not traveled out of the country in the past 30 days or been in close contact with anyone who has traveled out of the country in the past 30 days.