



AVHA/BHC Firehawks COVID-19 Policy

On August 24, Minnesota Hockey announced that on September 1 it will move to Phase 3 of its Return to Play Guidelines. As Minnesota Hockey associations, Burnsville Hockey Club (BHC) and Apple Valley Hockey Association (AVHA) are prepared to follow the Minnesota Hockey guidelines while adhering to the guidelines set forth by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and local government and rink officials.

Please review the full [Minnesota Hockey Return to play guidelines](#) here.

Even with these measures, BHC and AVHA cannot guarantee that participants (players, coaches, volunteers, etc.) will not be exposed to COVID-19. Participants and their parents/legal guardians should consider the risks before participating in any hockey activities. It is a shared responsibility to protect everyone from COVID-19 and participants should follow MDH/CDC guidelines to reduce the risk of exposure, including but not limited to the following:

- Stay home as much as possible;
- Stay at least 6 feet from other people if you are in public places;
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick;
- Wash your hands often, with soap and water. Wash for at least 20 seconds;
- Always wash your hands after being in a public place;
- Always wash your hands after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing;
- If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol;
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. Throw used tissues in the trash;
- Wear face coverings/masks that cover your nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of your face.

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to report any positive cases or close contacts impacting the player's household, and the responsibility of the coaches to self-report.

- Inform your team and/or association COVID-19 contact of a player testing positive, someone in their household testing positive or having been exposed to someone confirmed to have COVID-19.
- Stay home for a minimum of 10 days since symptoms first appeared and until there is no fever for at least three days without medication AND improvement of other symptoms.
- Siblings and household members should also stay home for 14 days and follow the [MDH Decision Tree](#) on when to return.

*If it is determined that a parent/guardian or coach has intentionally failed to inform the team and/or association of a positive case in the household or close contact as stated above the Grievance Committee will be consulted to determine corrective action up to and including suspension from the team.

Mandatory “My Health Check” for all athletes, coaches, and spectators:

By allowing your child to participate in Firehawks events, you are confirming that neither your child, anyone in your immediate household, nor anyone your child has been in immediate contact with in the past two weeks has exhibited any of the following COVID-19 identified symptoms:

Upon arrival each day, parents are to ask their athletes the additional screening questions below: Fever (100.4) 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

Should a coach or athlete begin to feel ill or show symptoms while attending a team event, they are required to report their condition to their designated Team COVID Manager. Coaches and/or athletes will need to leave the premises immediately, and their team area will then be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

AVHA/BHC will follow the most current guidelines set forth by the CDC, the MDH, and local governments. A confirmed case of COVID on your team, as indicated by a positive test, should be reported to the AVHA/BHC board COVID contact Nicole Jenne by emailing secretary@burnsvillehockey.com. For purposes of tracking, positive cases will be reported to the Minnesota Department of Health at health.sports.covid19@state.mn.us or 651-201-5000.

- If a player/coach becomes symptomatic during an AVHA/BHC event, they will immediately be removed from the event, and if applicable, their parent/guardian will be notified of the necessity of an immediate pickup.
 - The facility will be notified so the areas of contact can be closed until properly sanitized.
- 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 a result is obtained.
- If a player/coach tests positive, all team activities will be paused until local health officials and/or MDH is consulted.
 - All team members will be notified of a positive case on their team, while maintaining that person’s confidentiality in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- The team COVID manager will notify any opponents or teams that practiced or played with the infected player over the previous 14 days.
- 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.

Player and/or Team Quarantine – “Rule of 3”

AVHA/BHC and each team will work with a “Rule of 3” COVID-19 approach when athletes report a positive COVID-19 testing.

Player/Coach:

- 1st player/coach with a confirmed positive test must quarantine for 14 days
- 2nd player/coach with a confirmed positive test must quarantine for 14 days
- 3rd player/coach with a confirmed positive test will result in a team 14 day quarantine

Association:

- 1st team with 3 positive COVID-19 testing athletes must quarantine for 14 days
- 2nd team with 3 positive COVID-19 testing athletes must quarantine for 14 days
- 3rd team with 3 positive COVID-19 testing athletes, the AVHA/BHC Boards of Directors will evaluate appropriate action based on guidelines established by the State of MN, MN Hockey, USA Hockey, District 8, CDC, MDH, AVHA and BHC.

Cancelled practices and games due to COVID

In the event that our season is cancelled, all AVHA/BHC members will still be responsible for all non-recoverable expenses that have accrued up to the time of season cancellation.

*COVID Reimbursement Plan - If the season is canceled pre-tryouts there will be a full refund. If the season is canceled post-tryouts the refund will be prorated based on the amount of ice used and operational costs.

In the event that the season is altered due to changes in mandates relating to social distancing (i.e. number of people allowed on the ice at a time, game play limitations, etc.), fees for ice and operational costs may need to be adjusted to comply.

In the event that a player is diagnosed with COVID-19, or is directed by a medical professional or other policy to quarantine and cannot take part in team activities for a period of time, the player will still be responsible for all team fees during their absence.

COVID-19 Positive Athlete Refund Policy

- In the event that AVHA/BHC is informed of an athlete testing positive for COVID-19, that player will be asked to quarantine for 14 days. Said player will be responsible for incurred costs during the 14-day period. If the period extends beyond 28 days, the team will be asked to cover/absorb said player's costs.
- In the event that 3 or more athletes on a team test positive for COVID-19, the entire team will be asked to quarantine for 14 days. AVHA/BHC will work with other teams and the arenas to re-assign ice. Teams/athletes will be responsible for any future ice and/or tournament costs that are not able to be re-assigned.

Contact Tracing

Each team must maintain accurate rosters and attendance records for each game and practice.

- Parents should utilize the SportsEngine tool to update their players availability and attendance consistently throughout the season.
- AVHA/BHC will inform families and coaches if they have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 at a Firehawks event. Should anyone be exposed directly to the COVID-19 virus, they will be notified immediately of exposure.

Mask and Equipment requirements

In accordance with the MDH and the Stay-Safe-MN plan, face coverings are required at all times inside a facility, with few exceptions.

The following is expected:

- Players are expected to provide their own mask and will wear their mask from the time they enter any facility until they put their helmet on. At the end of the skate, they will return their mask immediately upon removing their helmet. They will wear their mask until they exit the building.
 - Players are expected to follow the rink and association protocols. Any player refusing to follow and/or frequently violating the protocols will be removed from the premises and must appear in front of the Grievance Committee before they are able to return to their team.
 - It is suggested, but not required, that the COVID manager or team manager have a supply of back-up masks (paid for out of the team fund) should a participant find themselves without a mask. AVHA/BHC will not provide masks.
- As directed by MN Hockey, coaches must be wearing masks at all times before, during and after practice. Players are not required to wear masks while on the ice for team activities.
 - Coaches who refuse to adhere to the posted mask regulations will be removed from the bench until they are able to appear in front of the AVHA and/or BHC Grievance Committee.
 - If a rink allows coaches to remove their masks while on the bench, Coaches are expected to wear their masks until they enter the bench area and return their mask before leaving the bench.
 - Coaches are also expected to wear their masks on the bench and in the locker-room.
- On-ice officials are not required to wear a mask while on the ice.
- Scoreboard, scoresheet and door attendants must wear a mask and limit the attendees in the booth to allow for social distances.

The AVHA/BHC-owned goalie gear which typically is shared and rotated within Mite/8U teams will be distributed to teams per usual.

- It is the responsibility of the individual family utilizing the gear to assure it has been properly cleaned and sanitized prior to their player's use.
- Mite/8U goalies are encouraged to wear their own masks and helmets (goalie-specific helmets are not mandatory at these ages) and may also opt to wear their own skater gloves in lieu of the goalie glove and blocker.
- As is always the case, players can always opt out of their turn in the rotation for playing goalie without consequence.

Player equipment and water bottles

- Players should be bringing their own rehydration liquids to the arena in clearly marked or labeled containers. Players should not plan on refilling their containers at the rink.
- Water bottles, equipment and uniforms should not be shared amongst players unless cleaned and sanitized.

COVID-19 Protocols for Tryouts and Mite Evaluations

Players and goalies must stay with their designated groups during all clinic and tryout sessions. Positive COVID cases during clinics or tryouts should be reported directly to Nicole Jenne at secretary@burnsvillehockey.com

Players: It is recommended that players arrive at the arena fully dressed, with the exception of skates and helmets. Arrival in skates with proper skate guards is encouraged. Players need to provide their own water bottles, clearly labeled, and filled at home.

All exiting players will have 10 minutes to vacate the arena. No congregation in the lobby or other open areas will be permitted.

Traveling parents will not be allowed to enter the arena. Volunteers will be on hand to tie skates for younger players.

Mite Parents will be allowed one parent or guardian to enter the arena to assist with equipment needs. Parents/guardians may stay in the arena, following social distancing requirements. Mite check-in will take place outside (weather permitting).