



EGMHA – COVID-19 Response

# Return to Hockey Framework - 2021/2022 Season

---

Revised Date: August 31, 2021

## PURPOSE:

East Gwillimbury Minor Hockey Association (EGMHA) in conjunction with Hockey Canada, OHF, OMHA and the town of East Gwillimbury want to ensure that in every phase of our return the safety of our Players, Coaches, Officials, Administrators and Volunteers are at the center of our plan and decision making. This plan focuses on making the return to hockey fluid while enhancing the experience. This document is used for the purposes of the EGMHA only and does not make assertion to hockey programming that falls outside of its jurisdiction.

# DISCLAIMER

The information in this document is not intended or implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. The East Gwillimbury Minor Hockey Association and its Members make no representation and assume no responsibility in respect of their information concerning COVID-19 as the circumstances are constantly changing, and any information on COVID-19 should be obtained from York Regional Public Health.

# FRAMEWORK FOR RETURN TO HOCKEY

EGMHA as a member of OMHA, OHF and Hockey Canada will abide by and enforce the return to hockey policies outlined in the “[OHF Return to Hockey Framework](#)”, August 27, 2021 and subsequent updated versions.

This framework outlines a staged approach for Return to Play, with us moving into Stage 3 for the 2021/2022 season.

We have put together a committee including Jeff Mackey (VP Rep), Sherri Annis (VP LL), Dan Ruby (VP HL) and Doug Westland (VP Player Development) to implement our Return to Play plan

While the COVID-19 Pandemic is still evolving, the OHF continues to work with its partners to prepare for a return to traditional programming for the 2021-2022 season with the necessary measures in response to COVID-19.

Their plan to return recognizes that hockey must comply with the Government requirements but that to the best of our ability the focus is on traditional hockey operating from the beginning of the season. Ontario has transferred its platform to the Roadmap to Reopen Ontario which is comprised of three steps.

## **OHF Stage 1 - Ontario Government Step 1**

No indoor sport programming allowed under the government regulations in Step 1.

## **OHF Stage 2 - Ontario Government Step 2**

No indoor sport programming allowed under the government regulations in Step 2

## **OHF Stage 3 - Ontario Government Step 3**

OHF Stage 3 programming for Minor Hockey will begin on September 7 in accordance with the OHF

Regulations adopted by the OHF Members. Junior, Senior and Female programming is eligible to begin in accordance with the date established by the Member responsible.

## **In-Person Training**

Instructional Training – Individual athlete training on or off ice sanctioned by the OHF with numbers of participants based on the Ontario Government and Public Health restrictions

- OHF Members may conduct programming with the use of an instructor who meets the qualifications under the OHF Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Development Program Policy.
- Minor Hockey Associations may conduct, with the approval of their Member, instructional training for players registered with their MHA, where such training is conducted by a registered coach with the MHA.

- In process and fully licensed Hockey Canada Licensed Development Specialists who are in compliance with the OHF Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Development Program Policy may conduct training.
- If utilizing a private skills instructor or is a registered coach with the MHA; MHAs will need to validate that the skills instructor qualifies under the OHF Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Development Program Policy.
- Junior hockey teams may conduct programming with the approval of their Member for players that they have registered or any players that are on their protected list and eligible players that have received their Permission to Skate from their last carded Team either from the 2020-2021 season if they registered or the 2019-2020 season if they weren't registered for 2020-2021.

### **Virtual Training**

Sport Science – sleep, nutrition, fitness, training, dance, flexibility, yoga, mental training and mental health.

- Such programming that is being offered will be done with approval of the OHF or Member for the purpose of sanctioning and insurance.

### **Professional Development**

Training of stakeholders online or in person in compliance with the Ontario Government's Roadmap to Reopen

Ontario and OHF policies.

- OHF Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Development Program
- Gender Identity and Expression
- Hockey Canada Safety Program/Hockey Trainers Certification Program
- Officials On-Line Recertification
- Respect-In-Sport
- Hockey University – Planning a Safe Return
- Etc.

### **Tryouts, Team Practices and Games**

- Based on OHF Playing Regulations posted at <https://www.ohf.on.ca/rules/by-laws-and-policies>.

### **OHF Stage 4 - Ontario Government Exiting Step 3**

OHF Stage 4 programming is the same as OHF Stage 3 programming. The only changes in programming will be determined by fewer restrictions within facilities as determined by the Ontario Government, Public Health Units and Municipalities.

OHF STAGE	ONTARIO GOV. STAGE	OUTLINE	PLAYER CONTACT	# OF PARTICIPANTS	STRUCTURE	TRAVEL
STAGE 1	Step 1	No programming allowed.				
STAGE 2	Step 2	No programming allowed				
STAGE 3	Step 3	Traditional Hockey  Regular Practice and games  Bench is considered field play  Dressing room use minimized, masks and distancing  Coaches must wear masks on the Bench	Full contact allowed	Max participants (players & coaches) on-ice in accordance with PHU, municipality or facility; if more restrictive than Ontario government Step 3 which is based on building fire code	MHA/ Leagues/ Teams  Regular Programming	Within Canada unless approved otherwise by your Member, on application
STAGE 4	Step 3 Exit	Masking required except when in participation of sport programing.  Coaches must wear mask on the Bench	Full contact allowed	Based on PHU, municipality or facility requirements	MHA/ Leagues/ Teams  Regular Programming	Within Canada unless approved otherwise by your Member, on application
<p>If crossing Public Health Unit boundaries or municipal boundaries, teams must comply with the regulations of the Public Health Unit or Municipality they are participating in. Minor Hockey Associations are responsible to inform incoming Teams of the requirements within the facilities the game is being played.</p>						



## FACILITIES

All hockey programming providers that are sanctioned by the Provincial Sport Organizations in Ontario will:

- be listed on the OHF website and will be able to present a Hockey Canada Insurance Certificate and Certificate of Validation.
- be required to complete a tracking document of participation use and an ice surface by ice surface training attendance form; and
- be required to have a COVID-19 Contact Person.

Facilities are directed to utilize the information provided by the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association (ORFA) as an industry standard material: ORFA Reentering and Reopening.

*Ontario Ice Sports Harmonized Ice Sports Facility Procedures*

*Facility Entrance - No Dressing Rooms - Come Dressed – Entrance to Arena is based on facility plan and all sport groups collectively are required to have a meeting with the facility based on the following agenda.*

- *Parking Lot Entrance*
- *Entrance Doors*
- *Entrance Process*
- *Entrance Time*
- *Changing of equipment location process*
- *Dropping off Minor participants – Parents/Attendance – number of attendees permitted*
- *Conduct of Parents in the stands (i.e. food and beverage maintaining facility cleanliness)*
- *Items allowed in the facility (bags, food, and beverage)*

### What does this mean for you?

EGMHA has been working in collaboration with the Town of East Gwillimbury again to create procedures and protocols for how players will physically be allowed into the East Gwillimbury Sports Complex (EGSC).

As we reopen, we would like to share the below information from the town of East Gwillimbury:

- Physical distancing is required at all times.
- Active Screening of all individuals entering the facility is required.
- If Ill, we strongly encourage you to contact your health care provide, York Region Public Health at 1-800-361-5653. Or Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 to find out if you need a COVID-19 test.
- Active screening can be completed by using the QR code on the front doors of the facility prior to entering the facility.
- A maximum of 25 participants on the ice and no more than 1 spectator per participant is allowed.
- On ice activities will adhere to the sports specific governing body and provincial guidelines.

- Liability insurance is required and must be received a minimum of 5 days in advance of the first rental, via email to [leisure1@eastgwillimbury.ca](mailto:leisure1@eastgwillimbury.ca)

### **Arriving at EGSC**

- Please arrive at the facility no more than 30 minutes before your start time.
- Everyone entering the facility must complete the active screening form and check in at the designated desk.
- Skaters may get dressed in the changerooms if one is available to them but no more than 7 people per dressing room.
- A place dedicated for skaters/players, either a chair, bench or dressing room will be made available to put equipment on if a dressing room is not available.
- We recommend participants coming dressed as much as possible.

### **While in EGSC**

- Face masks must be worn at all times while in the facility. This includes the outdoor grounds wherever physical distancing is not possible or may be difficult to maintain.
- Exception: Face masks may be removed temporarily while actively eating or drinking or when participating in on- ice activities.
- Changerooms are open with limited number of occupancy and showers will remain closed at this time.
- Spectators must remain in the stands and not in the lobby or indoor viewing area.
- Spectators must wear masks and social distance themselves from others while in the facility.

### **Exiting EGSC**

- Participants and spectators are asked to exit out the main sliding door area.

If you would like to contact the town please forward any Questions to the Community Engagement and Permitting Coordinator – AJ Gove ([agove@eastgwillimbury.ca](mailto:agove@eastgwillimbury.ca)) or the Director of Operations for EGMAH, Ed Vetere ([directoroperation@egmha.com](mailto:directoroperation@egmha.com))

### **Health Pre-Check and Emergency Protocols**

- The town will be logging all health checks, active screening can be completed by using the QR code on the front doors of the facility prior to entering the facility.
- If your child is exhibiting signs or symptoms of illness, he/she will not be allowed in the EGCS to participate hockey activities. If during a game or practice, a player starts to not feel well or have identified respiratory symptoms, ensure they advise bench staff immediately and put on a face mask. They should immediately be removed from the ice, go home, and follow up with their family physician. We need to work together to stay safe, we are asking that you please keep your sick child at home for the safety of everyone.
- **IMPORTANT** Positive COVID-19 Test: If a sick participant (or their parent/guardian if the participant is a minor) elects to inform a team/hockey association/Member that they have been diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual informed shall seek the sick participant/their parent’s/guardian’s consent to contact public health authorities in order to obtain advice on communication with other potentially impacted participants. The sick participant (or their parent/guardian if the participant is a minor) should be asked to

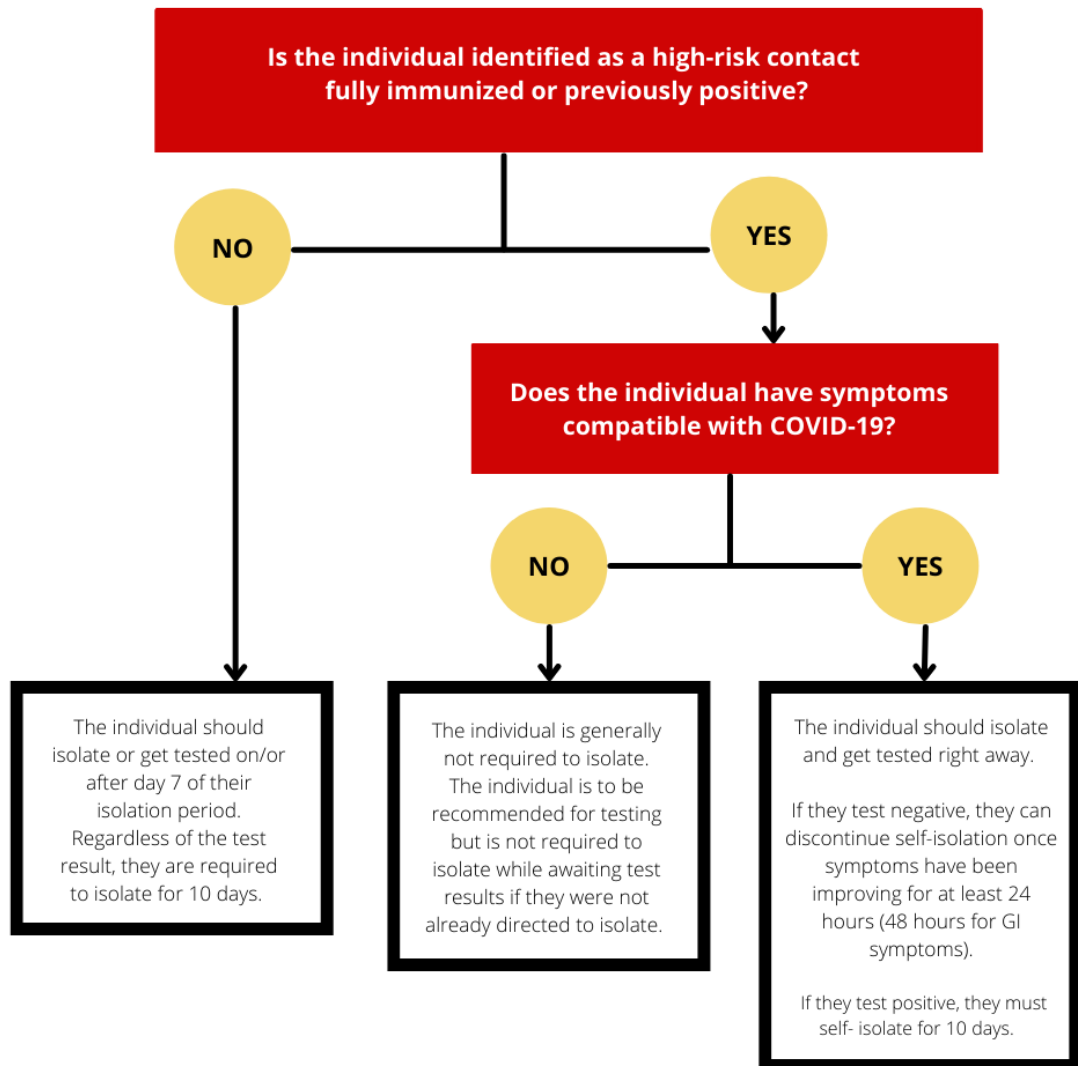




advise Public Health of this consent. Explain the communication that will take place and NEVER disclose the sick person’s name. If you choose, please inform Ed Vetere ([directoroperations@egmha.com](mailto:directoroperations@egmha.com)). Once participant informs Public Health unit, we will follow the outlined process from OMHA:

**Flow Chart 1: Case and Contact Management in Hockey for High-Risk Contact**

Adapted from Appendix 11 [of Management of Cases and Contacts Of COVID-19 in Ontario by the Government of Ontario](#)

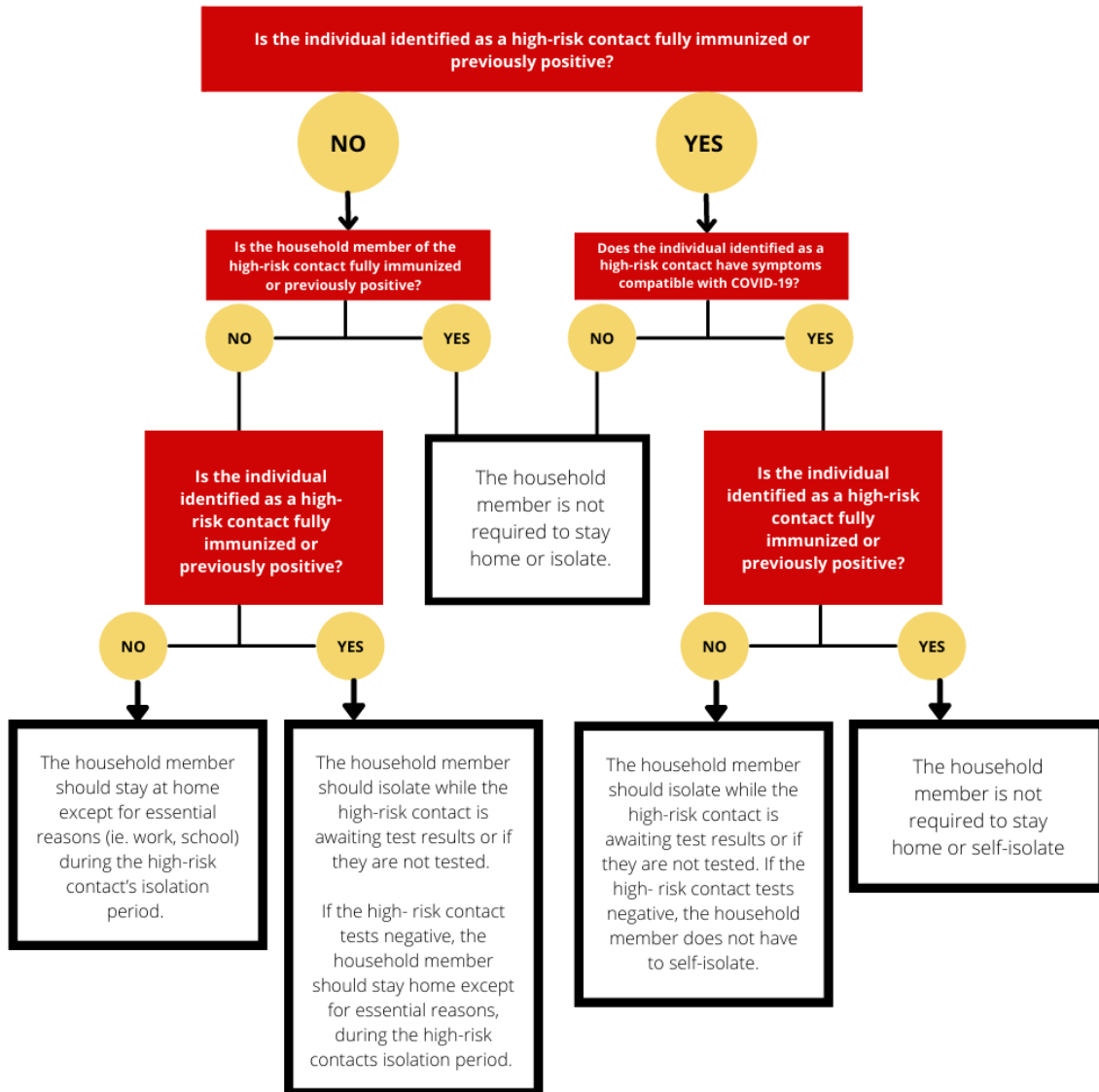


- Parent should ensure that equipment that is able to be washed (e.g., jerseys, pant shells, socks) is done after each training session following manufacturer guidelines. It is important that equipment is kept clean.



## Flow Chart 2: Case and Contact Management in Hockey for Household Members of High-Risk Contacts

Adapted from Appendix 11 of [Management of Cases and Contacts Of COVID-19 in Ontario by the Government of Ontario](#)



## **Covid-19 incident reporting**

The following processes have been identified for incident reporting in the case that a participant has tested positive for COVID-19.

If a participant tests positive, Public Health will automatically be notified by the entity that conducted the testing. Public Health will be in contact with the individual to facilitate contact tracing, at this time Public Health will inform teammates and coaches through the contact tracing process.

It is recommended that the participant or the participant's guardian informs their coaches and teammates, however, they cannot be compelled to do so.

### Participant Tests Positive and is Willing to Disclose Information:

If the participant chooses to advise their coach, the coach should ask the participant to contact Public Health and give Public Health permission to discuss the matter with the coach. If the participant agrees to do that, the coach can then seek guidance directly from Public Health.

### Participant Tests Positive and is Unwilling to Disclose Information:

If the coach becomes aware of a positive test among their players, but does not know the identity of the player, or if the player does not give the coach permission to discuss the matter with Public Health, the coach can still contact Public Health to try to obtain general advice.

The coach should also discuss the matter with the relevant hockey association or Member (not revealing the participant's name if they are aware of who has tested positive) to decide on a course of action with regard to future team activities.

# STAKEHOLDERS REQUIREMENTS

The following chart outlines the requirements that individuals in different leadership positions must have in order to train, support and/or coach registered hockey players in the OHF.

	Coach	Trainer	Team Manager	On-Ice Volunteer	Skills Instructor	On-Ice Official
CAC Training/ Certification	✓					
OHF Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Development Program					✓	
Trainers Program		✓				
HCOP						✓
Rowan's Law	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gender Identity and Expression	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
VSS/CRC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Respect in Sport – Activity Leader	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hockey Canada COVID- 19 Safety Program (only Individuals who have not taken)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



## GAME PLAY RULES

**Return to Hockey – Normal Games Rules U10 to U18 Divisions will apply, we will make modification if necessary to align with Hockey Canada, OHF and OMHA.**

**Return to Hockey - Normal Games Rules (Pathways) U7 to U9 Division will apply, we will make modification if necessary to align with Hockey Canada, OHF and OMHA.**

# HOCKEY CANADA SAFETY GUIDELINES

- [Hygiene - Safety Protocols](#)
- [Positive Covid-19 Test in Hockey Environment](#)
- [Return to Hockey Procedures](#)

