

Beginning Monday, Hockey is back at Thornton Park!

Please see the important message below and attached document from Alexandria Nichols, Director of the Recreation Department for the City of Shaker Heights regarding the re-opening of the rink AND important changes to the Rink Guidelines. These guidelines will also be posted on our website for managers to share with their teams and opponents as necessary.

Following the temporary suspension of Shaker Recreation programs, services, and facilities due to an uptick in COVID-19 cases, the City of Shaker Heights will resume Thornton Park Ice Rink operations on December 14 for select user groups. These groups are: City Youth Hockey Program, Shaker Heights Figure Skating Club, and Shaker Heights High School Hockey. All practices, games and competitions will be permitted.

In addition to previously enacted rink protocols (See email attachment) new rules and requirements include:

New Face Mask Requirement:

The American Association for Pediatrics encourages that athletes wear face masks at all times for group training, competition, and on the sidelines. Additionally, Ohio High School Athletics Association requires face coverings for all athletes under the OHSAA Hockey Requirements and Recommendations.

Therefore, face coverings will be required for all people, at all times, both on and off the ice. This includes figure skaters, hockey players, coaches, parents, game officials, and spectators except with written documentation from a doctor. Players and coaches in the City's Youth Hockey Program will be required to wear face masks at all times including at away games at other rinks.

Rink Closure:

The City is agreeing to reopen Thornton Park Ice Rink at this time under the facts as they stand today. The City may cancel or suspend rink operations if the City determines, in its sole discretion, that the current and ongoing health emergency in the State of Ohio due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the public health and safety, requires that the City close the ice rink and/or Thornton Park Arena temporarily.

The City may reduce the hours of or reduce allowable capacity in the ice rink, or take other public health safety measures, all as it deems is necessary, in the City's sole discretion to protect public health and safety.

Any cancelation, suspension, or change in conditions shall take effect immediately upon notice being given, unless otherwise determined by the City.

Rink COVID-19 Exposures

All teams and skaters directly exposed to the virus will be temporarily suspended from practices and games based upon CDC guidelines for quarantine.

If a Thornton Park City Employee tests positive and it is reasonably determined and connected to exposure to a rink user group the rink will be closed for the duration of the CDC quarantine period for all user groups.

Rink Closes at 9:45 pm

The rink will close at 9:45 pm daily in accordance with the Governor's Curfew Order. Even if this restriction is lifted, the rink will continue to close at 9:45 pm for the health and safety of the community and staff.

Spectator Limitations

City Youth Hockey Program: Spectator limits will remain at one per player subject to applicable maximum capacity limits.

High School Hockey Team: The school will be issued a limited number of tickets, which they will distribute at their discretion. Rosters will continue to be required for all games for both away and home players, coaches, spectators, and game officials.

We continue to monitor the COVID-19 data and guidance from the Cuyahoga County Board of Health and Governor DeWine very closely. The City's ability to reopen with new rules is consistent with best practices with regard to youth athletes, which include mandatory mask wearing (with limited exceptions) as outlined above.

The Recreation Department has limited staff due to pandemic layoffs and the continued availability of the rink is subject to change depending on staffing capacity of the department during the public health emergency.

Thank you for your support for our programs and services. We appreciate your understanding during these challenging times.

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