



Covid Coordinator & Hockey Programs Update

January 2021

By Mike Terwilliger

Covid Coordinator:

In December of 2020, my job duties shifted to focus on being the Minnesota Hockey Covid Coordinator. It's been a busy few months in that role. A list of the highlights:

- Ran a training for all Association Covid Contacts (ACC's) on December 20th
- Communicate weekly with all ACC's on latest updates from Minnesota Hockey, MDH, and on common questions that I'm fielding.
- Communicate daily with ACC's to lend advice on cases in associations, clarify any rule changes to our Phase 4 and Phase 5 Return to Play Guidelines, help ACC's problem-solve, answer general questions from not only ACC's but association leaders, coaches, and families.
- Field and answer questions from the Minnesota Hockey general inbox (the e-mails that people can send to MH via the "contact us" on our website)
- Communicate almost daily with our contacts on the Sports Team at the MDH to seek their guidance, to share what concerns we are heading, advocate our hockey-specific-issues with them.
- Work with Derek to keep our Covid-related documents updated on the website and also out to ACC's
- Building relationships with various people around the state. I'm compiling a list of people to check-in with every few weeks to see how things are going. Some of these are "crabby" people that I'm trying to keep in contact with as I know they won't be afraid to complain but also so they know that we're doing the best we can and are here to help. (that's my theory anyway)

Recap of Time Periods:

- **December up through Dec. 20th** = getting up to speed on Covid processes in place, get to know MDH contacts, and run ACC Training.
- **December 20 – 27th** = working a lot with ACC's, MDH, and Derek to update documents, answer ACC questions and start to prepare for the re-start of hockey on Jan. 4. At this point....we didn't realize that our players would need to be masked.
- **December 28 – January 3rd ish** = State Mask Mandate announced on December 28th. Responding to e-mails and calls on the mask mandate. This period of about a week was dealing with a lot of venom from around the state on the state's mask mandate. Very challenging in respect to keeping up with the e-mail volume, but also in dealing with people that in many cases aren't that kind. I know that the entire staff as well as DD's were also inundated at this time and

had similarly challenging notes. I also spent a lot of time this week reaching out to leaders around the US in states that had hockey being played with masks (Mass, Michigan, Colorado) and also to USA Hockey's Safety Director – Kevin Margarucci. I asked a lot of questions on what they're experiencing, shared our MH concerns, shared our member concerns over the masks....really valuable learning.

- **January 4th – 13th** = Restart of practices. Lots of e-mails and calls on responding to concerns over the masks on the ice and how it's affecting players and coaches. Also responding to concerns over the MN Hockey Rules (locker rooms, bags, spectators etc.).
- **January 14th – 21st** = Restart of games and lots of e-mails and calls wanting clarification on our rules, also lots of communication over compliance and non-compliance. DD's are getting these too.

So I would say that since things started back up, we're still getting a lot of e-mails to the general inbox, but it's more manageable, and getting a very steady diet of ACC's dealing with situations in their associations they need help with, and lots of guiding people to the right information on the MDH site or Phase 5 Guidelines.

The ACC's in place in the associations are incredible! I am so impressed with so many of them and the job they are doing. They're unreal and I'm enjoying working with them and also getting to know them.

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HOCKEY PROGRAMS UPDATE

Spring Clinics:

We are in the process of discussing our Spring Clinics plan. With the season extension and also Covid-19 concerns still lingering, we are determining the next steps.

Little Wild:

We are finalizing our list of lead coaches for each of the sites for the Little Wild this April and May. The NHL and Wild decided to move ahead with Little Wild at many of the same sites we had slated for the Fall. The biggest change for the on-ice portions would be there is a limit of 40 players on the ice, whereas before we had up to 65 players. The 40 players and 10 coaches will allow us to stay within the pod size guidelines put forth for youth sports per the MDH and State of MN.

Association Coaching Clinics Fall Skills Clinics:

We ran clinics this fall but at a slightly reduced rate due to Covid-19 influences. We ran clinics for Girls, Bantam Prep (modified Body Contact Clinics), Defense, and Goalies. Additionally, we ran Bantam Prep Clinics for all District 4 players, ran a D4 clinic for goalies in Luverne, ran a Bantam Prep and Defense Clinic for District 9....and other assorted Association Clinics (Alexandria, Winona-La Crescent, Burnsville-Apple Valley, Kennedy, St. Louis Park, Sauk Rapids, Eden Prairie)

Girls Gold Rush Camp:

Finalizing the 2021 Girls Gold Rush Camp dates with Shakopee soon.

Winter Events Scheduled

Due to Covid-19 concerns and/or the state mandated pause on youth sports, we weren't able to hold the 4 Corners, Ice Bowl Squirt C Tournament, and the Honor The Game Tournament. We will have these events back again next year. Additionally, we will not be involved with the Spotlight Classic B2/C Event this year either.

Our Wild-related events were also not able to happen....Girls Hockey Weekend and the Mite Holiday Jamboree.