

Austin Youth Hockey COVID-19 Preparedness Plan Updated 10/8/2020

Austin Youth Hockey Association (“AYH”) is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all our Members (Players, Parents, Coaches, Referees and Volunteers). To ensure this occurs, we have developed the following Preparedness Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our goal is to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19 in our hockey environment, and that requires full cooperation among all members. Only through this cooperative effort can we establish and maintain the safety and health of our members. These guidelines follow strategies set forth by the Minnesota Department of Health (“MDH”) - Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth Sports, the Center for Disease Control (“CDC”), USA Hockey, Minnesota Hockey, and other local governing bodies. AYH, in concert with the Austin Park and Rec will continue to evaluate its COVID-19 Preparedness Plan as new guidelines are announced.

AYH requires each of its members to follow these guidelines. The information in this Preparedness Plan is not intended to be a substitute for any diagnosis, treatment or other professional medical advice. The information surrounding COVID-19 is constantly changing and AYH makes no representation and assumes no responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of the information contained in this Preparedness Plan. However, AYH will continue to do its best to update this Preparedness Plan and its members as to any changes mandated by the MDH, CDC, Minnesota Hockey, and other governing bodies.

Questions or concerns regarding this plan should be directed to Ryan Vossler, Association COVID-19 contact, at AYHCOVID@gmail.com.

AYH continues to work closely with Austin Park and Rec, which is committed to providing a safe and clean environment for those who enter and use their rinks. Both rinks have instituted similar rules which need to be followed by all AYH members when using their facilities. The rules and guidelines set forth in this AYH Preparedness Plan align with the new COVID-related guidelines enacted by AYH

Minnesota Hockey and District 9 have both indicated that the season will progress as scheduled unless the state mandates youth sports, or specifically youth hockey, be cancelled. THE AYH board reserves the right to pause or cancel based on local circumstances. Minnesota Hockey released their Phase 3 plan stating that this final phase of return-to-play opened on September 1 and follows Minnesota’s Stay Safe Phase III Plan and MDH guidelines. Included within these guidelines are the following:

- Players or coaches with any risk factors or symptoms should not participate
- All participants must be registered with USA hockey for the 2020-2021 season
- Players should follow all posted rink guidelines and the AYH COVID-19 preparedness plan
- AYH will follow Association Guidelines for Managing Confirmed COVID-19 Cases
- Each team will have a designated COVID manager volunteer position who will be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns and will help coordinate with the AYH and local health authorities regarding positive cases
- Dryland and indoor team training is prohibited until further notice as this is not advised during Phase 3. Outdoor dryland training is available with social distancing measures in place

- Out of state tournament travel by the AYH and teams coming into the state to play, AYH requires District 9 approval

AT-HOME PREPARATION BEFORE YOU ARRIVE AT THE RINK:

- Coaches and players with any risk factors or symptoms should not participate in any on-ice or off-ice activity. Any player, coach, parent, or spectator exhibiting any symptoms or signs of an illness should NOT be in the rink or any activity at any time
- Utilize AYH quick check process prior to arrival at rink, this must be completed for each, player, coach or official prior to being allowed in the rink
- If any of the following conditions exist, do not attend your AYH activity:
 - Recent contact with a known infected person(s)
 - Experiencing typical symptoms of the COVID-19 illness
 - If temperature is elevated, and a fever is suspected, do not come to the AYH event.
- All coaches and players must be registered with USA Hockey for the 2020-21 season and complete the USA Hockey waiver before participating in any AYH sanctioned activity.
- Players must be registered with the AYH before any on-ice activity will be allowed.
- It is expected that families will provide the coaches and team COVID managers with accurate contact information with a responsible parent/guardian who:
 - Is always able to be reached during an AYH event in case of an emergency
 - Is available to immediately return to the rink if required
 - Is to be used for any contact tracing

- RINK ARRIVAL:

- Must complete AYH quick check in process prior to arrival
- Temperature will be taken upon arrival
- All players, coaches and spectators must wear a mask when entering and exiting the facility.
- All players arrived dressed with the exception of skates, gloves and helmets.
 - Exceptions are made for goalies who will require additional equipment to be put on at the rink.
 - Participants are allowed to bring their hockey bag (subject to change).

- MASKS:

- ALL players, coaches must wear a mask when entering the facility, while in the facility, while in the locker room, and while exiting the facility.
- ALL spectators must wear a mask at all times when entering, exiting or inside of the facility.
- On the bench, a mask is required to be worn by coaches, door attendants and scorekeepers/clock operators.
- 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.
- Face Covering Specifications:
 - Types of face coverings can include a paper or disposable mask, a cloth mask, a neck gaiter, a scarf, a bandana, or a religious face covering
 - A face covering must cover the nose and mouth completely.
 - The covering should not be tight or restrictive and should feel comfortable to wear.

- WATER BOTTLES, RESTROOMS and LOCKER ROOMS:

- Players should be bringing their own rehydration liquids to the rink in clearly marked or labeled containers with the player's identity. The container should be re-sealable. Players should NOT plan on refilling their containers at the rink.
 - There is to be no spitting or water bottle squirting anywhere within a rink facility.
 - Players should use the restroom at home prior to practice and games to limit the use of restrooms at the rinks.
 - At this time, no locker rooms are available All players arrived dressed with the exception of skates, gloves and helmets. (subject to change)
- OFF-ICE DRYLAND and PRE-GAME WARMUPS:
 - There is no dryland inside arenas
 - Conduct meetings team meetings VIA zoom or similar platform
 - Any off-ice dryland or pre-game warmups need to be executed outside, utilizing social distancing.
- ON-ICE ACTIVITIES:
 - Activity on the ice is limited to 2 groups of 25 which includes players and coaches
 - Within the program, create consistent pods of the same staff, volunteers and participants with a maximum number of 25 people in each pod. Ice rinks will be allowed to have two (2) pods of 25 people or less at a time.
 - Players need to maintain as much separation as possible during practices. Whenever possible, coaches should be promoting social distancing on the ice, while recognizing that there may be times of close contact by players
 - Avoid using player benches during practices
 - Coaches should be keeping players active and engaged at all times. Players should not leave the ice during a practice unless absolutely necessary
 - Reduce contact between players as much as possible
 - Coaches should avoid talking face-to-face with players, as well as avoid contact with players whenever possible. Physical contact may be necessary when assisting a young player or a player with a disability (helping up or adjusting equipment), but whenever possible, coaches should provide assistance without physical contact, or ask the player's parent/guardian to assist
 - Prior to the completion of the ice time, players should be excused from the rink one by one and through different exit points of the rink
 - Do not ask players to participate in picking up pucks or other equipment from the ice.
 - There should be no spitting by any player or coach at any time inside the arena, including on the ice surface
 - 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
 - Bench coaches determine by level
- EXITING AFTER ICE TIME:
 - All players must be out of the building no later than 15 minutes after their ice time has ended

- Once a player removes his or her helmet, the player must wear a mask until outside of the facility
- For players aged 10 and under, each parent/guardian must exit the facility with their player immediately after practice
- Avoid players lingering around the facility waiting for a ride
- GAMES AND SCRIMMAGES:
 - In the score/announcer box, one assigned adult is responsible for the clock and scoresheet with no one else allowed in the area
 - Masks must be worn in the score/announcer box
 - Coaches must wear a mask
 - Pre-game and post-game handshakes are not allowed. Minnesota Hockey suggests teams honor each other after the game with a “stick salute”
- SPECTATORS:
 - Spectator guidelines will be determined by each rink facility and are subject to change.
 - Riverside Arena can have a maximum of 250 people, not including players, coaches or officials.
 - Packer Arena can have a maximum of 50 people, not including players, coaches or officials.
 - It will be up to the COVID team manager, and parents to understand and follow the guidelines in place
 - In order to maintain appropriate social distance, and minimize over-crowding, siblings should remain with their parents/guardians and must remain seated with spectators and will not be allowed to roam the rink.

EMERGENCY PLAN FOR POTENTIAL SICK PLAYERS:

- All AYH Rostered teams will be required to name a COVID manager. The COVID manager can either be a parent, coach or team manager. This individual will need to complete the safe sport and background check requirements as defined by USA Hockey. The role of the COVID manager will include the following activities:
 - Maintain up-to-date contact information for all players, parents and coaches
 - Be responsible for COVID-19 check in process
 - Be the point of contact to Ryan Vossler or designated board member – COVID – The Austin Youth Hockey COVID Manager for any positive or potential positive COVID case
 - Update the team on any changes in rink or facility COVID specific plan changes or requirements
 - Upon a positive test to a player or coach on their team, notify any opponents or teams that practiced or played with the infected player over the previous 14 days
 - In the event a player arrives at a facility and has an elevated temperature of 100.0 degrees or higher, or in the event a player falls ill during an on-ice activity, the player will be removed from the ice and placed in a designated area with a supervising adult following both Safe Sport and social distancing practices
 - The player’s parent/guardian in the emergency contact listing will be contacted immediately to pick up the player

- 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 tests positive for COVID, the family must report the positive result immediately to AYH, AYH will report the case to MDH and local health officials
 - AYH will then identify and contact those who had been in contact with the player and will follow up immediately with those identified on the contact list
 - Team activities will be paused until local health officials and/or MDH is consulted.
 - If a positive case is revealed on the team of an opponent, it is expected that the team monitor the health and temperatures of all involved very closely for 14 days
 - Prior to the start of the season, all coaches and team managers will be trained on how to handle COVID-related emergencies per Minnesota Hockey guidelines
 - Teams should not be penalized for forfeiting games due to COVID-19 concerns

FAMILY AND HOUSE MEMBERS:

- Inform your team and/or association COVID-19 contact of a player testing positive, someone in their household testing positive or have 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

CHANGES TO PARENT AND PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT:

- All COVID rules must be followed if not, you may be banned from AYH activities including games, practices and the rinks.
- Note persons without masks in the rinks will be asked to leave and may be banned from future entrance.

REFUND POLICY:

- AYH Registration Fee:
 - At the end of season, the amount of ice hours held will be evaluated and compared to what the total hours of a normal season are. If a full season of hours were not able to be held before the season ends then a prorated refund will be calculated.
- Raffle Tickets:
 - Raffle fundraiser will be held as scheduled.

COMMUNICATION and PROTOCOL

- AYH will continue to update its members as to any changes to the COVID-19 Preparedness Plan. As information and guidelines from MDH, the CDC, and Minnesota Hockey continue to change,

AYH will do its best to promptly update its Preparedness Plan and notify its members accordingly as soon as possible

- This plan supplements existing AYH policies, rules, procedures and regulations. All current policies, rules, procedures and regulations remain in full effect, except for instances where this plan directly contradicts another current policy, rule, procedure or regulation. Therefore, users are encouraged to review all other such policies, rules, procedures and regulations in conjunction with this plan. In the event a member has any questions related to the Preparedness Plan, please contact Ryan Vossler AYHCOVID@gmail.com
- The AYH's Preparedness Plan was communicated to all members as of 10/8/20 Additional communication and training will be ongoing as the COVID-19 effects continue to evolve. The information on 10/08/20