



Dear Vipers Families,

As previously communicated, the Vipers organization has been in regular communication with each of our leagues (NIHL, CSDHL, CUHL), our governing body (AHA I), as well as the State Health Departments regarding the possibility of a fall hockey season. After hours of discussion, preparation, and review, we are enthusiastic to report that AHA I, all three leagues, and the Vipers organization are committed to participating in the 2020 Fall Hockey Season!

In preparation for tryouts and the pre-season kick-off, this communication includes preliminary information about the COVID-19 safety precautions that will be required this season, as well as information regarding the club's refund policy should the season end abruptly. While we are hopeful that this season will proceed without interruption, we want to offer our Vipers families as much information as we can in advance.

Since the future of the coronavirus pandemic - and its impact on society and the hockey community - is unpredictable at this time, the guidelines and precautions the Vipers organization is implementing may change as new information becomes available. Specifically, as future data regarding the progression of the COVID-19 outbreak emerges, and safety recommendations and requirements from the hockey and health organizations evolve, these safety precautions may be updated. Lastly, once AHA I releases their final preseason guidance, more details will follow.

At this time, the initial guidelines and safety procedures for the upcoming fall season are as follows:

- It is essential for players to adhere to the basic principles of personal hygiene, social distancing, proper sanitation of hockey equipment, and maintaining a clean environment. Players are encouraged to participate in frequent hand washing, to wear a mask when entering and exiting the rink, to avoid contact with their eyes, nose, or mouth, and are required to utilize personal water bottles and towels.
- Before practices/games, please take your player's temperature. Per CDC guidelines, if your player has a fever equal to or higher than 100.4F, please keep your player home.
- If your player is experiencing any symptoms associated with COVID-19, please keep your player home.
- If your player is under evaluation for COVID-19 (for example, waiting for the results of a viral test to confirm infection), your player is prohibited from participating in hockey related activities.
- If your player has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and not yet cleared to discontinue isolation, your player is prohibited from participating in hockey related activities.
- Players will be required to enter the rink pre-dressed for practice/games. There will be designated areas for players to tie skates.

- Locker room occupancy will be limited to allow for social distancing, but additional accommodations (use of multiple locker rooms, player chairs outside of locker rooms, etc.) will be made available.
- Wearing face masks is required for individuals entering or exiting the rink. (You can even buy your very own Vipers mask at vipershockeyclub.itemorder.com).
- There will be ***no loitering allowed*** in the RecPlex or Rinkside lobbies:
 - Players should plan to arrive twenty minutes before a scheduled game/practice.
 - Spectators should plan to enter five minutes before a scheduled event and must leave immediately following the game/practice.
- Fall 2020 hockey tryouts will be closed to the public, meaning parents and spectators will not be allowed to attend.
- Any and all "coaches' huddles" will allow for social distancing.
- Currently, our home rinks plan to allow ***two spectators per player*** during practices and games; however, each facility has its own policy which may change at the facility's discretion. LiveBarn streaming will continue to be available at participating rinks.
- Please click [HERE](#) for the additional facility guidelines from the RecPlex facility.

The organization is currently finalizing the "Immediate Communication Action Plan" which is the protocol that will be applied when there is confirmation of a COVID exposure or diagnosis. If your player becomes exposed to someone who has COVID, or has been diagnosed with the virus, please contact your Team Manager and Head Coach *immediately*. The Team Manager will notify the team with information regarding the exposure or diagnosis, which will include the CDC-recommended steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. (Please note, Managers are prohibited from identifying the exposed or infected player.)

Please be aware that the 2020 Fall Hockey schedule may experience deviations – possibly even cancellations - due to COVID-19. The Vipers organization is developing policies to address foreseeable issues and is committed to handling unforeseen challenges in the safest manner possible. If necessary, some of the season's modifications *may* include limited travel, regionalized games, and extension of the season. If the fall season is unexpectedly cancelled, there will be alternative plans for providing a fall hockey experience (if possible). As this is an ever-evolving situation, you can expect updates as they become available.

In the event we face ending the season prematurely, members will not be responsible for full season payments. Members who elect to pay "in full" at the beginning of the season will receive a prorated refund, based on the actual length of the season.

The Vipers Hockey Club's goal is to provide a premier hockey experience for all our players, and we look forward to helping our players maximize their potential - both on and off the ice. This fall, we are committed to reaching this goal, while also providing the structure to maintain the safest environment as reasonably possible. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation as we navigate these uncertain times.

Vipers Hockey Association