

GAME PLAN 2.0



A Return to Hockey Safety Plan

2021-2022 Season

Version 5c – Issued: March 8, 2022

This ***Game Plan*** and the Vaccination Policy contained herein only apply to Organizations, Teams and participants who are Members of, or who are registered to, the Greater Toronto Hockey League (GTHL) or any of its Members. It is not intended to apply to Teams and participants of any Minor Hockey Association outside the GTHL that might be participating in any GTHL sanctioned events (e.g.: tournaments/exhibition games). It is not intended to limit GTHL Teams participating in sanctioned events in any jurisdiction outside the GTHL that has a different vaccination policy.

This document was developed alongside paediatric physicians with a specialization in infectious disease at the Hospital for Sick Children as well as public health guidance and leadership from Toronto Public Health.

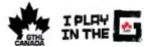


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Disclaimer

The information in this document is not intended or implied to be, a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. All content, including text, graphics and information, are provided for general informational purposes only. The knowledge and circumstances around COVID-19 are changing constantly and, as such, the Greater Toronto Hockey League (GTHL) makes no representation and assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of this information. Further, participants should seek advice from medical professionals and/or public health officials if they have specific questions about return to training and competition.

The information included in this document is current to the time of publishing and is the minimum standard for Return to Hockey within the GTHL's jurisdiction. The document is aligned with the Public Health Guidelines of the Government of Ontario and the Public Health Units of the City of Toronto, the Region of Peel and York Region, as well as Hockey Canada's [Return to Hockey Safety Guidelines](#) and the Ontario Hockey Federation's [Return to Hockey Framework](#). However, recommendations may change depending on local, provincial and national circumstances; local resources should also be consulted for up-to-date information. Where anything within this document conflicts (*i.e.: is less restrictive*) with Public Health requirements, including regulations, members must comply with Public Health requirements and adapt as required.

Return to hockey is not without risks, including potential exposure to COVID-19. While the GTHL has made and is making all reasonable efforts to minimize the risk of exposure to the disease through the development and implementation of this **Game Plan** and Return to Hockey Strategy with guidance from health authorities, the GTHL does not and cannot guarantee that there will be no risk of exposure and transmission to those who participate in on or off-ice activities

As circumstances require, e.g.: changes in government regulations or Public Health requirements, this document will be amended accordingly, and the revisions will be circulated to the GTHL membership in a timely manner.

Should guidelines provided by public health authorities, Hockey Canada, the Ontario Hockey Federation or the GTHL be ignored, or circumvented, such actions could result in potential reinstatement of suspended hockey activities, or other penalties could result along with governmental consequences determined by local authorities.

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Introduction

When the 2019-20 hockey season came to a premature end on March 12, 2020, none of us had any inkling of the devastating impact the COVID-19 pandemic would have on communities, not just in Canada but world-wide, leading to major restrictions being imposed on all sectors of society, including sport.

In August of last year, the GTHL developed its Game Plan 1.0 based on the known factors and regulations at the time to provide a framework for getting hockey in the GTA back up and running. Unfortunately, because of rising infection rates and hospitalizations, our plan never came to fruition as we were forced to first delay, and then finally cancel, its implementation.

A year later, we now have vaccines and the high inoculation rates has enabled the Province to move to Step 3 of its [Roadmap to Reopening](#), which enables us to plan for a resumption of hockey that, while not normal, is much closer to the pre-pandemic game that we all know and love. Nevertheless, many of the best practices from our previous Plan remain in effect. Mask use, regular personal hygiene, guided pathways for entry and exit through facilities, and physical distancing where possible will remain in place until Health Canada declares an end to the pandemic. Until that time, all members of the GTHL are encouraged to exercise good judgement and err on the side of safety in all actions. Additional municipal and community restrictions throughout Ontario may be necessary in specific areas to allow us to return to the sport we love, and it is important that they are followed for the benefit of everyone.

In preparing *Game Plan 2.0*, the GTHL has worked in coordination with Hockey Canada, the Ontario Hockey Federation, and public health authorities to ensure all aspects of the Plan are properly executed with the central focus on players, team officials, game officials, administrators, and volunteers. Part of our commitment includes an ongoing and regular review of the Plan's protocols, which will help to enhance the positive hockey experience under both the Province's and public health authorities' directives.

The GTHL recognizes the important role the game of hockey plays in the lives of all its players. We are eager to resume play, at the same time taking care to ensure that the health and safety of each participant is the main priority. The pandemic situation and Public Health advice on safety measures are both fluid and may change without notice during the implementation of the Plan. Also, the resumption of play may not be linear as increasing restrictions may be required should the numbers of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations increase. As a result, our Plan will remain fluid and flexible to accommodate any changes in restrictions or changes in advice from the Public Health.

Last year, in conjunction with other amateur sports organizations in Ontario, the three Hockey Canada Branches in Ontario lobbied for and helped secure the [Supporting Ontario's Recovery Act](#) and COVID-19 liability protection for their members. The Act provides targeted protection for those who are making an honest effort to follow public health guidelines and laws, including:



- Healthcare workers and institutions;
- Frontline workers who serve the public everywhere from grocery stores to restaurants and retail stores;
- Businesses and their employees;
- Charities, **not-for-profit organizations**; and
- **Coaches, volunteers and minor sports associations.**

Provided that they follow all protocols, workers, volunteers and organizations are protected from any legal action which may arise as a result of the public health situation.

The GTHL would like to thank Hockey Canada, the OHF and Hockey Nova Scotia for giving the GTHL permission to use content from their return to play guidelines. We would also like to thank the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto and their team of Infectious Disease Specialists and the staff at Toronto Public Health. Their time and expertise have been and will continue to be vital to ensuring the safest possible return to hockey for our players and families.

We would like to thank the GTHL Members, Board and Staff for working through this crisis, knowing that when we are on the other side of this, we will all be stronger as a result.

Don West
President

Scott Oakman
Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer

August 25, 2021

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Section 1: Checklist to Success

Definitions:

“**Game Official**” means any referee, linesperson, timekeeper or GTHL arena attendant.

“**Medical Advisory Team**” – means a team of experts from Toronto Public Health and the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.

“**Organization**” means any Club, Division, Division member or Affiliated Group as defined in GTHL Rules and Regulations.

“**Team**” means any group that includes players, Team Officials, on-ice instructors, volunteers, Organization administrators etc. who gather for a *sanctioned hockey activity* on and/or off the ice and “**Team Participant**” means any one of them.

“**Team Official**” means the Team’s coach, assistant coach, manager, trainer or other team official registered with the League.

Review & Follow:

- **Game Plan**
- [Hockey Canada Return to Hockey Safety Guidelines](#)
- [Hockey Canada Safety Protocols FAQ](#)
- [Ontario Hockey Federation Return to Hockey Framework](#)
- Facility Guidelines ([Appendix B](#))
- [Ontario Public Health Measures and Advice](#)

Plan:

1. Assign one or more **Organization Safety Rep(s)** by **September 3**.
2. Assign one or more **Team Safety Rep(s)** as follows:
 - AAA Teams: U12-U18 by September 20; U10-U11 by September 23
 - AA Teams: U12-U18 by September 27; U10-U11 by September 30
 - A Teams: U12-U21 by October 4; U10-U11 by October 7
 - Select/Select Equivalent/
House League: within 7 days from the formation of the Team
3. Organizations should register **Organization and Team Safety Reps** in the HCR as volunteers.
4. **Organization Safety Reps** should obtain the protocols from each facility used by their Organization to ascertain how it will be adhering to the Facility Guidelines (see checklist in [Appendix B](#)). In addition, the facility should be asked to provide a copy of its safety plan as required by Schedule 1, Section 3.3 of the [Reopening Ontario \(A Flexible Response to COVID-19\) Act](#).
5. **Team Safety Reps** (on/off the ice) Protocol:
 - i. Team communications responsibilities specific to COVID-19 Facilities Guidelines
 - a. Liaise with **Organization Safety Rep**
 - b. Explain the role of the **Team Safety Rep** to players and their parents/guardians and to Team Officials



- ii. Collect the self-screening information or, if not available, the Screening Tool Template ([Appendix C](#)) for each Team Participant before each sanctioned activity (on or off-ice) and keep records of the screening results using the Team Screening Tool Registry ([Appendix D](#))
- iii. At the Facility
 - Follow the *Game Plan*
 - Follow the individual facility's specific COVID-19 Facility Guidelines
 - Follow the 2021-2022 Season Structure Guidelines ([Appendix E](#))
 - Practice responsible hygiene

Be safe and have fun!

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Section 2: Safety and Health Guidelines

These guidelines are meant to support GTHL Organizations, Team Officials, and stakeholders in returning to their hockey-related activities. This includes, but is not limited to, associated on and off-ice activities (including administrative), coaching, and adhering to the Facility Guidelines ([Appendix B](#)) established by facility owners/operators.

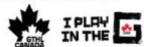
Please note that each facility where hockey-related activities take place will have its own specific guidelines related to people coming into the building, use of dressing rooms, washrooms, showers, requirements for masks, etc. (see [Facilities Section](#)). However, concerning actual hockey-related activities, the following must be demonstrated:

Environment and Expectations

- Arrive at the facility at a designated time for the hockey-related activity. Do not arrive early.
- Leave the facility immediately following the hockey-related activity. Do not stay beyond the designated time.
- Physical distancing of two (2) metres (six feet) will be maintained before, during, and after hockey-related activities, except where otherwise stated in Hockey Canada's [Return to Hockey Safety Guidelines](#) and/or the Ontario Hockey Federation's [Return to Hockey Framework](#).
- Capacity limits will differ from facility to facility to ensure compliance with the limits permitted in the [Ontario Government's Roadmap to Reopening and adherence to physical distancing requirements](#). Accordingly, we recommend only one parent or caregiver accompany a player to a hockey-related activity.
- We encourage hockey-related activities (including parent meetings and administrative procedures like registration) be conducted electronically as much as possible. Any in-person meetings must be conducted in groups not exceeding the number of individuals permitted in the [Ontario Government's Roadmap to Reopening](#) (25 indoors and 100 outdoors). Indoor meetings must adhere to physical distancing requirements and all attendees must wear a non-medical face mask. Where physical distancing is difficult to maintain, meetings should be held outdoors.
- Carpooling is discouraged. If carpooling cannot be avoided, it is strongly recommended that all passengers wear a face mask while in the vehicle.

Spectators

Parents, guardians and other spectators are strongly requested to avoid the dressing room areas of facilities at all times, unless it is necessary to attend to an injured or unwell player when a parent or guardian is required to be in attendance.



Equipment

- Players are strongly encouraged to fill their water bottles at home. Each player should ensure that their water bottle is clearly marked with their name. The sharing of water bottles is prohibited.
- The sharing of hockey equipment is prohibited unless it is goaltender equipment at the house league level which has been properly cleaned and disinfected.
- At the present time, dressing rooms are permitted to be open, provided appropriate cleaning and disinfection protocols are in place and each person respects physical distancing requirements and wears a face mask. Each facility will determine the maximum number of persons that can be in a dressing room. For any parent or caregiver who is concerned about their child mingling with others in a confined space such as a dressing room, we would recommend that the child arrive and depart the facility dressed in their hockey equipment. Likewise, we make the same recommendation for any Team Official with similar concerns.
- While on the ice, players and Team Officials must always leave their helmet and gloves on, with the exception of Trainers who may remove their gloves to deal with an injured player.
- Players, Team Officials and on-ice officials are **NOT** required to wear a face mask while on the ice engaging in physical activity but are required to do so at all other times, including in the dressing room prior to going on the ice. Team Officials **MUST** wear a face mask while on the bench.
- To limit touchpoints during and after hockey-related activities, Team Officials should keep, distribute, and collect each piece of on-ice equipment that belongs to their team (e.g.: coaching whiteboard, cones, pucks). Team Officials' responsibilities include:
 - minimizing gatherings while instructing from the whiteboard, and
 - keeping participants physically distanced as much as possible.

Personal Protective Precautions

- The health screening of [Team Participants](#) is mandatory. A health screening registry must be maintained. This can be done electronically, or in-person if electronic means are not available, prior to every sanctioned (on or off-ice) hockey activity. It should be noted that if multiple activities are being held during the same day, one health screening will suffice.
- Any follow-up action from the screening process must follow the details set out in the [Screening](#) and [Safety Reps & Communications Flow](#) Sections of the **Game Plan**.
- Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette must be adhered to in accordance with the Guidelines issued by the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Health, Toronto Public Health or the local public health agency and Hockey Canada.
- Whenever physical distancing cannot be maintained; the use of a face mask is required. These situations could include entering or leaving a facility, dressing room, spectator area, team stretching, etc.
- Face masks are required in all indoor public spaces, except while performing physical activity.



Proper hygiene and personal protective measures can help reduce the risk of infection or spreading infection to others.

- Keep two metres (six feet) distance from others
- A face mask **MUST** be worn in indoor public spaces and when you can't keep physical distance. Masks can be removed while on the ice during physical activity
- Clean your hands often. Use soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after using the washroom and before and after play
- Use an alcohol-based (70-90 per cent) hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available
- Avoid touching your face, especially your eyes, nose or mouth, with unwashed hands
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or the bend of your arm, not your hand. Immediately throw the tissue in the garbage and wash or sanitize your hands
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home if you are feeling unwell
- Download the COVID Alert app so you can be notified directly if you have been in close contact with someone who was contagious with COVID-19

Communication

- The GTHL will make the **Game Plan** available to stakeholders via:
 - The *GTHL website*.
 - Direct emails to all Organizations and other stakeholders. Communications materials will be distributed through social media, on-site at facility, etc.

Organizations and Teams:

- **MUST** abide by the **Game Plan**.
- We recommend having individual Organization plans that are aligned with the **Game Plan** and the local facility guidelines.
- The **Team Safety Rep** must walk through the details of the **Game Plan** and the COVID-19 guidelines of all the applicable local facilities before the season begins. This meeting is to take place with parents/caregivers, Team Officials, and administrators. The following protective measures to keep everyone safe can help reduce the risk of infection or spreading infection to others.

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Section 3: Face Masks

Effective October 2, 2020, Regulation 364/20 of the Ontario Government made face masks mandatory for entering indoor public spaces, including recreational facilities.

Everyone entering a facility will be required to wear a non-medical face mask in a manner that covers their mouth, nose and chin. However, there are a few exceptions, including:

- A child under the age of 2 does not have to wear a face mask.
- A person who has a medical condition that inhibits their ability to wear a face mask.
- A person who is unable to put on or remove their face mask without the assistance of another person.
- A person who is receiving accommodations according to the [Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005](#) or the [Ontario Human Rights Code \(ORHC\)](#).

Medical documentation is not required to support any of these exceptions.

Players, Team Officials and on-ice officials are **NOT** required to wear a face mask while on the ice engaging in physical activity but are required to do so in all other areas of the facility, including in the dressing room prior to going on the ice. Team Officials **MUST** wear a face mask while on the bench and are reminded that on-ice officials will be enforcing GTHL Rule 9.18, which states:

9.18 Any Team Official who fails to wear their face mask properly, shall be given a warning. This warning applies to all Team Officials of that Team. If any Team Official from that Team fails to wear their face mask properly after that Team has received a warning, they shall be assessed an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty under Hockey Canada Playing Rule 11.1. A Team Official, after receiving an unsportsmanlike conduct minor penalty will receive a Game Misconduct if there is a subsequent violation.

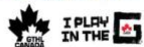
To ensure a safe environment during any sanctioned on-ice activity (games, practices etc.), no unmasked Team Officials, Organization Officials, League Officials or League Staff are permitted on the bench or in the dressing room at any time.

Other than the scheduled on-ice officials, the only other persons permitted to enter the referee dressing room are:

- a referee supervisor on duty
- the game timekeeper
- the GTHL/MHL/NYHL arena personnel on duty
- the following GTHL staff (or their MHL/NYHL equivalents):
 - Executive Director
 - General Manager
 - Coordinator, League Officiating

each of whom must wear a face mask at all times.

Face masks will also be mandatory for all facilitators and participants attending in-person coaching and officiating clinics.



For information about wearing a face mask, refer to [guidelines on wearing non-medical masks, how to make your own](#) and the [Special Advisory Committee](#) recommendations on the [use of non-medical cloth masks or face coverings in community settings](#).

Face masks alone will not prevent the spread of COVID-19. You must consistently and strictly adhere to [good hygiene](#) and [public health measures](#), including frequent [hand washing](#) and [physical \(social\) distancing](#).

Mask Exemptions

If an individual has a mask exception for medical reasons, they will be required to physically distance from any other person by at least 2 metres (6 feet) at all times while inside the facility.

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Section 4: Vaccination Policy

As a condition of participating in any sanctioned hockey activities, the GTHL has established a policy requiring the following persons (“Affected Persons”) to be [fully vaccinated](#) against COVID-19 (i.e.: including the 14-day period after receiving their completed dose):

- (a) Players born in 2009 or earlier; see below for players born in 2010,
- (b) Team Officials (coaches, trainers and managers)
- (c) Organization Officials (Directors and staff of Clubs, Divisions and their members, and House Leagues),
- (d) Volunteers serving in any other capacity,
- (e) Game Officials (referees, linespersons, timekeepers),
- (f) GTHL Arena Personnel (incl. rink attendants, officiating supervisors, Series Chairs),
- (g) GTHL Officials (Directors and staff of the GTHL).

All Affected Persons must present evidence demonstrating that they have been fully vaccinated, to one of the following, as applicable:

Affected Persons falling under (a), (b), (c) or (d):

- a member of their Organization executive, (e.g.: President, General Manager), or
- their Organization Safety Rep, or
- their designated Team Safety Rep

Affected Persons falling under (e), (f) or (g):

- The GTHL League Office

With effect from January 31, 2022, any new Affected Person should provide an [Enhanced Vaccine Certificate with a QR code](#) issued by the Government of Ontario, or by the government of any other Canadian province or territory, as evidence of being fully vaccinated.

The GTHL will comply with the [Ontario Human Rights Code \(OHRC\)](#) and provide accommodation up to the point of undue hardship to any Affected Person who is unable to be vaccinated for substantiated medical reasons and/or on grounds protected under the *OHRC*. Accommodation forms can be accessed [HERE](#).

Any Affected Person who has not been granted an accommodation and who has not been fully vaccinated, or who has not disclosed their vaccination status, will not be eligible to participate in any Sanctioned Activity until such time as they present satisfactory evidence that they are fully vaccinated.

The Government of Ontario’s [Proof of Vaccination Policy](#) requires all persons 12 years and 12 weeks (84 days) of age and over to be fully vaccinated to enter certain settings, including indoor areas of facilities for sports or recreational fitness. [Each Public Health Unit \(Peel Region, City of](#)



Toronto and York Region) has issued a [Letter of Instruction](#) to reflect the Government's policy to the owners/operators of indoor sports and recreation facilities in their jurisdiction.

This requirement will affect any unvaccinated player born in 2010. For example, a player whose 12th birthday occurred on January 2, 2022 will have until March 27, 2022 to become fully vaccinated and submit evidence thereof to their Organization.

While a COVID-19 vaccine has been authorized by Health Canada for administration to eligible children born in the years 2011 through 2017 inclusive, at the present time the GTHL's policy is not being amended to cover players born in any of those years.

Detailed information about [Health Canada approved COVID-19 vaccines](#) can be found on the Government of Canada's website.

The Government of Canada has also prepared a series of videos responding to typical questions that people have about the safety and efficacy of these vaccines. These videos can be accessed [HERE](#).

In addition, the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto has established the "SickKids COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service". This is a by-appointment phone service that provides a safe, judgement-free space to have an open conversation about the COVID-19 vaccine for children and youth. It is available in multiple languages, using over-the-phone language interpretation. This service can be found [HERE](#).

The complete GTHL Vaccination Policy is contained in [Appendix A](#).

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Section 5: Screening

COVID-19 symptoms can vary from person to person and in different age groups. Symptoms may take up to 14 days to appear after exposure. The severity of COVID-19 symptoms can range from mild to severe and can, in some cases, lead to death.

Common symptoms of COVID-19 and which are not related to seasonal allergies or other medical conditions, include:

- Fever (37.8° C or higher) and or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or trouble breathing
- Decreased or loss of taste or smell
- Runny nose or nasal congestion
- Headache
- Extreme fatigue or tiredness
- Sore throat
- Muscle aches or joint pain
- Gastrointestinal symptoms (such as vomiting or diarrhea)

The list of symptoms is updated regularly by the Ontario Ministry of Health - the current list can be found by following this link: <https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/covid-19-what-you-should-do/covid-19-what-to-do-if-you-have-covid-19-symptoms>

Screening consists of a number of questions surrounding symptoms but also other factors such as potential exposure to an infected person, recent travel outside Canada etc.– see [Appendix C](#) for details.

If a [Team Participant](#) has one or more of the symptoms or answers YES to one or more of the screening questions, they should not enter the facility and should go home, self-isolate immediately and get tested.

A Team Participant will NOT be allowed to participate in a sanctioned hockey activity unless cleared to do so by a healthcare provider or Assessment Centre and they are symptom-free for 24 hours (48 hours for gastrointestinal symptoms).

Participant screening and registry:

Prior to attending any sanctioned activity (on or off-ice), every [Team Participant](#), Game Official and GTHL Rink Attendant must self-screen for symptoms of COVID-19 as per the requirements of the Ontario Government. The screening process can be completed electronically on a smartphone or tablet prior to the activity, using any of the following tools:

- 1) the GTHL COVID-19 Assessment Tool, which is available for use by all players and all Team Officials at all levels of play, from House League to AAA, or
- 2) any other third-party electronic tracking platform such as TeamSnap, provided the questions posed are the same as those listed in [Appendix C](#), or



- 3) for children under the age of 18, the Government of Ontario [self-assessment tool for school-aged children](#), or
- 4) For all others, the Government of Ontario [self-assessment tool](#).

The screening result **MUST** be shown to the **Team Safety Rep** and any other person, e.g.: a facility manager/administrator, who is legally permitted to require it. Any screening result obtained via option 4 must be printed off any physically handed to the **Team Safety Rep**.

If an individual is unable to access any electronic screening tools, they should complete a paper version of [Appendix C](#) and distribute as follows:

- to the **Team Safety Rep** in the case of a Team Participant;
- to the GTHL Coordinator, League Officiating in the case of a GTHL Game Official;
- to the Manager, Game Officials in the case of an MHL Game Official;
- to the League Scheduler, in the case of a NYHL Game Official;
- to the **Organization Rep**, in the case of an Organization Game Official; and
- to the GTHL Coordinator, Administration, in the case of a GTHL Rink Attendant.

The result must also be shown to any other person, e.g.: a facility manager/administrator, who is legally permitted to require it.

Facility managers may require parents/guardians and other spectators to provide proof of a screening self-assessment. They may use either of the tools listed in #3 and #4 above for that purpose.

If an individual does not pass the assessment, they should not attend the activity until they do so and do not have any signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

Individuals exhibiting signs and symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should not be present at any facility.

Screening records for [Team Participants](#) are to be maintained by the **Team Safety Rep** for a period of 30 days. Records are confidential as described in the detailed training and must be securely stored (e.g.: a locked drawer) and be disposed of in a secure manner (e.g.: shredding).

It should be noted that each of the Public Health Units that govern workplaces, including arena facilities, operating in the GTHL jurisdiction (Toronto, Peel and York) have issued [Orders under Section 22\(5.0.1\) of the Health Protection and Promotion Act, RSO 1990](#). Violations of these Orders can result in charges being laid and the workplace concerned being closed for a period of time.

If a [Team Participant](#):

(a) has symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive,

or

(b) someone in their household has symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive,

or



(c) if they have been notified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 outside of the household or received a COVID Alert notification,

they should be guided by the direction on page 2 of the Toronto Public Health chart which can be found at this location: <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/994c-Screening-Questionnaire-Child-Care-Day-Camp-School.pdf>

Close Contact:

The highest close contact risk scenario while playing hockey occurs the number of times a person is in close proximity to others, for prolonged periods, without a mask on. As such, a whole team can be considered a close contact when a member of the team tests positive and was contagious while participating. The biggest risk to participants is when they are in the change room and on the bench.

With respect to an opposing team, they should be notified that they may have been exposed and to be diligent and screen for symptoms. However, an opposing team is not considered a close contact.

When a team is at a tournament, participants should be alert to off-ice interactions between themselves and members of other teams and/or other persons. Aside from games and practices, the off-ice interactions and socialization during tournaments can constitute “close contact”.

This infographic may be useful in determining what is, and what is not, considered “close contact”: <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/9306-Who-is-a-Close-Contact-in-the-Community-Feb-1-2022.pdf>

More detailed guidance on current provincial COVID-19 Integrated Testing & Case, Contact and Outbreak Management can be found [HERE](#).

Return to Hockey Activities:

Where a Team Participant is unable to attend a hockey activity because of any of the above scenarios, it is the responsibility of the Team to ensure that the individual does not attend future sessions until a written attestation is provided to the **Organization Safety Rep** that the individual is now well and able to return to hockey activities.

Pro-forma attestations can be found as follows:

- [For children under the age of 18](#)
- [For adults](#)

Attestations must be retained by the **Organization Safety Rep** for 30 days.

In all situations involving the personal medical information of a participant, the GTHL’s Privacy Policy is in effect.



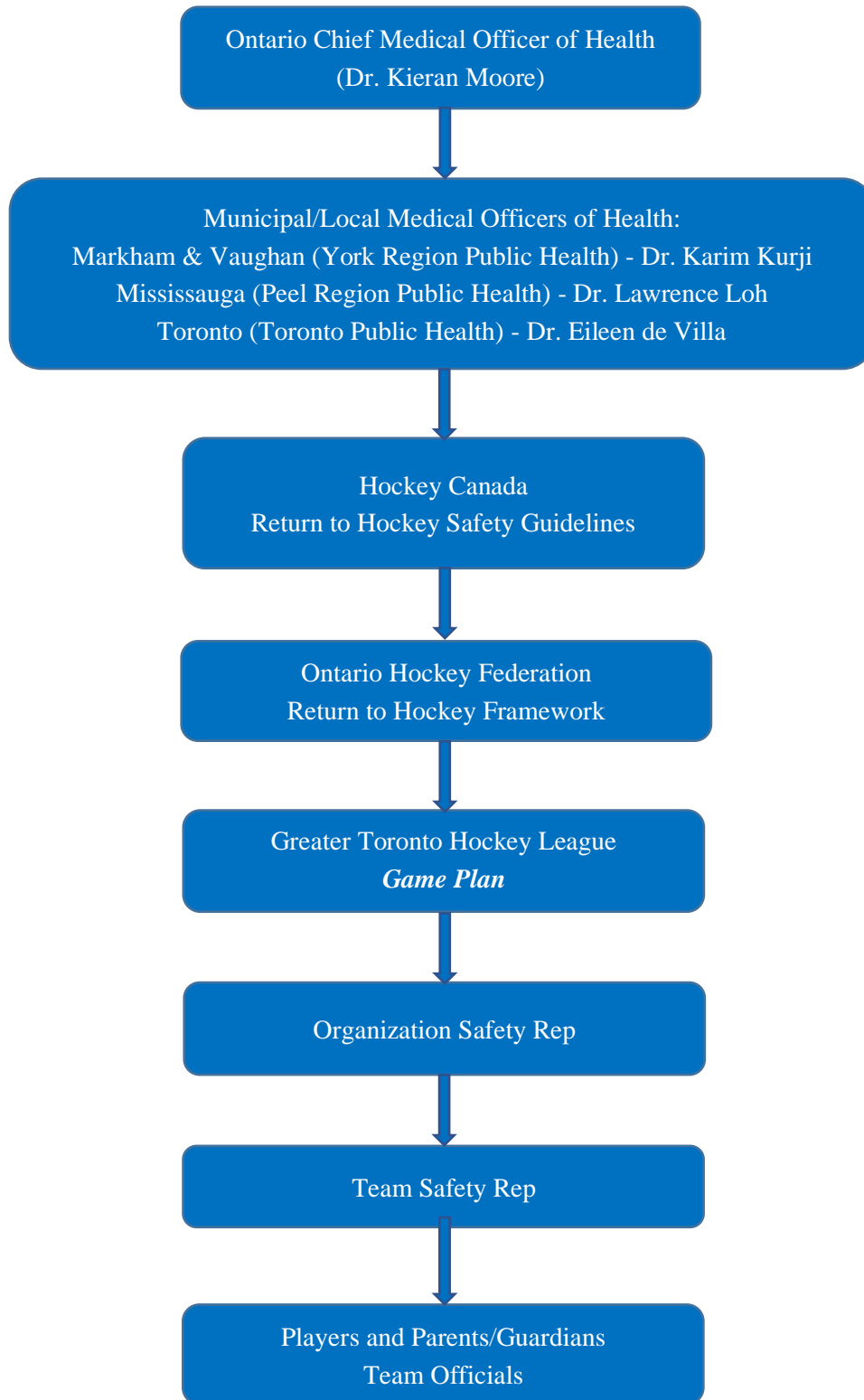
If a player should feel unwell at a hockey activity:

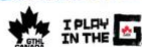
Whenever a player becomes ill during any hockey activity, they should advise a Team Official immediately, get a mask, and isolate in an area away from other participants. The player's parents/guardians should be contacted and advised to take the player home. The player should self-isolate. If testing is available, they should take a RAPID Antigen Test or, [*if eligible*](#), get a PCR test. If the player tests positive, they must follow directions of Public Health and advise their *Team Safety Rep*.

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Section 6: Safety Reps and Communications Flow





Each Organization and Team must assign a person to be the **Safety Rep** responsible for ensuring that all updated and relevant information is passed on to everyone within their Organization or Team (*see diagram on previous page*). This person must be registered in the Hockey Canada Registry as an Off-Ice Volunteer.

Requirements for the **Organization Safety Reps** and the **Team Safety Reps** include:

- Completion of **Safety Rep** training
- Completion of Criminal Record Check (CRC) and Vulnerable Sector Screening (VSS), where required.
- Completing the **Hockey Canada Planning a Safe Return to Hockey** E-Learning module.

We encourage each Organization to list the e-mail addresses of both **Organization and Team Safety Reps** on its website.

Team Safety Rep responsibilities include:

- Meeting with [Team Participants](#) and parents/caregivers before the season begins to walk through the details of the **Game Plan** and the COVID-19 guidelines of all the applicable local facilities that will be used by the Team.
- Receiving updates to health guidelines issued by the Ontario Government and/or local Public Health Units, updates to the **Game Plan** and updates to facility guidelines from the **Organization Safety Rep** and communicating same to Team Participants and parents/caregivers.
- Ensuring that the COVID-19 self-screening is conducted for each Team Participant **before each sanctioned (on or off-ice) activity**, including individual skill sessions, team practices and games and that records are kept of this information. If multiple activities are being held during the same day, one health screening will suffice.
- Completing the health screening registry electronically or in-person.
- Completion of **GTHL safety training**.

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Section 7: Training

The GTHL will be providing mandatory safety training for the **Team Safety Rep** and the **Organization Safety Rep** as well as a COVID-19-specific training session for Team Officials.

The training sessions will be available online and will provide background and information on the **Game Plan**'s safety requirements.

These sessions will cover:

- Review of the **Game Plan** and any pertinent information in Hockey Canada's [Return to Hockey Safety Guidelines](#) or the Ontario Hockey Federation's [Return to Hockey Framework](#)
- Roles and responsibilities of the **Safety Rep** including reporting requirements:
 - Mandatory training requirements
 - The *registry*:
 - Need for the *registry*
 - How to complete the *registry*
 - Storing the *registry* once completed
 - The Screening Tool:
 - Need for the Screening Tool
 - Who must be screened
 - How the screening can be conducted
 - What to do if positive symptoms are reported
 - Facility Guidelines

The COVID-19-specific coach online training session will include:

- A review of the **Game Plan** and any pertinent information in Hockey Canada's [Return to Hockey Safety Guidelines](#) or the Ontario Hockey Federation's [Return to Hockey Framework](#)
- How to communicate with players and families
- Coaching tools and resources that are compliant with the **Game Plan** guidelines

Hockey Canada's Planning a Safe Return to Hockey course

Hockey Canada's **HU - Planning a Safe Return to Hockey** course will be available on the Hockey Canada Registry by the end of August 2021. The program is **free of charge** and only takes 20 minutes to complete. The course content has been revised from the 2020-2021 version and therefore the course must be retaken by all affected parties.

Planning a Safe Return to Hockey looks at some of the important health and safety protocols that our membership will need to be aware of as we continue our safe return to the ice. The course looks at public health authority guidelines and restrictions, as well as the new Hockey Canada Safety Guidelines.

Hockey Canada and its members have worked diligently on a Return to Hockey plan based on direction from governments and public health authorities. As provinces and territories begin to reopen in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Hockey Canada has developed this online course



to ensure support and inform administrators, players, parents, coaches, safety people/trainers, officials and volunteers on how to navigate the challenges presented by COVID-19.

This training is **mandatory** for all Team Officials, Safety Reps, and on-ice officials, but all are encouraged to take advantage of this resource.

You can access and register for this free online course at: <https://register.hockeycanada.ca/clinics>.

Training must be completed by **October 1, 2021** for representative Teams (“A”, “AA” and “AAA”) and by **December 1, 2021** for all other Teams.

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Section 8: Compliance

Despite the easing of restrictions, those in the sport of hockey like other congregate sporting activities, must remain vigilant when it comes to the health and safety concerns posed by COVID-19.

Therefore, the resumption of hockey in Ontario and in the GTHL will require significant changes. In an effort to ensure the health and safety of our members and our communities. Accordingly, the GTHL Rules and Policy Committee reviewed all GTHL rules and regulations that could be impacted by COVID-19 restrictions and prepared a set of [temporary rule modifications](#) which were approved at the GTHL's Annual General Meeting held on July 15, 2021.

Further amendments or policies may be required from time to time to address interim issues or local concerns. Such actions may be made by the President and Executive Director/Chief Operating Officer of the GTHL, in consultation with the GTHL Medical Advisory Team.

The ***Game Plan*** is a framework and critical path for us to return to the ice. Ensuring that our hockey programs can commence and continue will depend upon several factors. The most important factor will be our collective compliance with the health and safety guidelines detailed in this plan. The safety of everyone depends upon strict adherence to those guidelines.

Any non-compliance with the ***Game Plan*** will be considered *conduct bringing the League and/or Organization and/or Team into disrepute* and will be dealt with under the GTHL Regulations and Policies. It should also be noted that the *Game Plan* is aligned with [Ontario's Roadmap to Reopen](#). Breaches of the requirements of the *COVID-19 Return to Sport Guidelines* could also be considered breaches of the Provincial emergency orders made under the [Roadmap to Reopen - Rules for Step 3 and Roadmap Exit Step](#), or municipal by-laws, and dealt with by local by-law enforcement officers or provincial authorities.

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Section 9: Insurance

The GTHL is relying largely on advice from Hockey Canada and the Ontario Hockey Federation in respect of return to play insurance and risk management matters, and the information contained in this “*Game Plan*”, and in this section in particular, is reproduced from Hockey Canada’s *Return to Hockey Safety Guidelines*, and *Seasonal Structure document*.

Hockey Canada has advised as follows:

- Under Hockey Canada’s current General Liability policy which has been renewed for the 2021-22 season, the following is the definition for a ‘**bodily injury**’ which is insured:
“Bodily Injury” means bodily injury, sickness, disease, mental injury, mental anguish or nervous shock sustained by a person, including death resulting from any of these at any time.
- COVID-19 would fall within the definition – more specifically, under ‘**disease**’.
- Liability claims against Hockey Canada always need to be proven by the third party, so continuing to update and enforce risk-management guidelines as new risks emerge, such as COVID-19, are imperative.
- As with all claim scenarios, the insurance company would investigate all claims presented against any Member of Hockey Canada that falls within the ‘bodily injury’ definition and would confirm coverage based on the framing of the allegations.

It will also be important to review new municipal rink/private rink facility contracts post-COVID-19 for all rentals; in all likelihood, they will now contain a new clause which absolves the municipality/private facility owners of any liability related to COVID-19.

Facility waivers in new lease agreements should be carefully scrutinized given that Organizations will potentially have little control over cleaning/sanitizing of rented premises and shouldn’t be expected to take on all liability related to COVID-19 pertaining to the use of these facilities.

Finally, it should be noted that many insurance companies are implementing Communicable Disease/COVID-19 exclusions on all policies either immediately, or upon renewal. Hockey Canada has advised that AIG, which is Hockey Canada’s primary General Liability insurer, has agreed to waive this exclusion in the General Liability policy until Sept. 1, 2023.

Remember that insurance is only one part of the risk-management process. It is important that we all pay special attention to preventing COVID-19 in the hockey environment.

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Section 10: Facilities

During all phases of the *Game Plan* and re-opening of facilities, a spirit of ongoing patience and flexibility will need to be communicated between the user(s) and the facility owner(s) (and their representatives). At all times, the [directions of the Ontario government](#) and local Public Health Units will supersede any general recommendations of the GTHL, OHF and Hockey Canada, except where such directions are less restrictive.

Positive and open communication will be an important part of returning safely to the facility. The guidelines for each facility will be different as they vary in size and services offered. The guidelines may be stricter at some facilities compared to others, openings could be delayed, and operating hours may vary.

As information becomes available, the GTHL will be updating facilities' COVID-19 protocols on its website. This information can be found [HERE](#)

Before starting hockey activities, it is highly recommended that the **Organization Safety Rep** reach out to a facility representative as part of the facility rental agreement for clarification of the following:

- **Physical Distancing:** Facility guidelines and requirements specific to physical distancing will be provided within the facility and user agreement.
- **Number of People:** The number of people allowed in a public space have been identified by the Provincial emergency orders made under Schedule 2, Section 16 of the [Reopening Ontario \(A Flexible Response to COVID-19\) Act](#).
- **Signage:** Facilities will have clear markings well placed around the facility on entry and exit areas. Masks will be required by everyone entering a facility.
- **Restricted Areas:** There will be some restricted areas closed off for use. These could include showers and main lobbies while the usage of other spaces could be modified. Lobbies will likely not be available for social gatherings but used as a thoroughfare only. Snack bars may be closed although skate sharpening facilities may be available, but with restricted hours.
- **Dressing Rooms:** In some facilities dressing rooms will be usable, but with fewer participants than usual in order to adhere to the required physical distancing protocols. Some facilities may set up temporary dressing areas with temporary seating. Getting dressed at home is strongly recommended based on age division level. Players will be encouraged to arrive at the facility dressed and ready for the ice session with the exception of skates.
- **Temporary/Alternative Dressing Rooms:** Facilities may establish spaces marked as temporary dressing room areas should the dressing rooms be unavailable or fill to capacity. These spaces will be marked according to public health guidelines or municipal requirements.
- **Cleaning & Disinfection:** Facilities should have plans implemented before and after all rental times. Facilities will be responsible for enhanced cleaning and disinfection, including high-touch surfaces (i.e.: washrooms, chairs, door handles, and vending machines) and fixed structures.



- **User Behaviour:** There will be zero tolerance with breaching contract agreements as far as players or Team Officials respecting the facility's COVID-19 guidelines. Violations of these guidelines will be dealt with by the individual's Organization as they see fit. Organization violations will be dealt with by the GTHL.
- **Building Access:** Areas will be marked for entry point, traffic flow and exit procedures.
- **Communication:** Facilities should have increased communication regarding their COVID-19 guidelines such as in-rink signage, website and social media.
- **Hygiene:** The Ontario Government, regional governments and municipalities have established regulations or By-laws requiring masks be worn in all indoor public spaces at all times. Masks can only be removed during physical activity by players, Team Officials or Game Officials.
- **Tournaments and Exhibition Games:** Organizations are responsible to ensure that incoming teams from outside of the Toronto, Peel Region or York Region Public Health Units or the municipalities of Toronto, Markham, Mississauga and Vaughan are provided and aware of the internal requirements they must follow for participation in their facilities. This may include but is not limited to this **Game Plan** and any safety plans and regulations of the relevant PHU, municipality or facility.

Please respect the personal space of others and other user groups. Above all else, respect the facility and all those who work within it.

If a complaint arises regarding a facility's compliance with the **Facility Guidelines** ([Appendix B](#)), please direct your concern to the facility owner/operator or the local municipal by-law office.

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Section 11: Non-Sanctioned Hockey Programs

The GTHL is strongly encouraging non-sanctioned hockey programs (private camps, private summer programs, non-HC power skating groups, etc.) to follow the recommendations laid out in this *Game Plan*.

The [*Ontario Hockey Federation Non-Sanctioned League Policy*](#) stipulates that “Any individual who Participates in a Non-Sanctioned League after the Cut-Off Date (September 10) will lose all privileges with the Ontario Hockey Federation for the remainder of that season.....”

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Appendices

Appendix A: Vaccination Policy

Purpose:

To continue to protect the health the health and safety of all GTHL Participants by requiring that certain individuals be fully vaccinated as a condition of participating in GTHL activities in accordance with defined timelines.

Definitions:

“Authorized COVID-19 vaccine” means a COVID-19 vaccine that has been authorized for use by Health Canada.

“Affected Persons” means Vaccine-Eligible Players, Game Officials, GTHL Arena Personnel, GTHL Officials, Instructors, Organization Officials, Team Officials and Volunteers.

“Fully Vaccinated” in Ontario means a person has received one of the following:

- the full series of an Authorized COVID-19 vaccine, or any combination of such vaccines, or
- one or two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine not authorized by Health Canada, followed by one dose of COVID-19 mRNA vaccine authorized by Health Canada, or
- three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine not authorized by Health Canada,

and they received their final dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days ago.

At this time, third doses are not mandatory and not required for purposes of this Policy.

“Game Official” means a referee, linesperson, timekeeper, or any other person designated by the GTHL as a Game Official.

“GTHL Arena Personnel” means rink attendants, officiating supervisors, Series Chairs, or any other person or persons designated by the League as GTHL Arena Personnel.

“GTHL Official” means a member of the Board of Directors or a member of the staff, including interns, of the League.

“Instructor” means any person engaged by an Organization or a Team to provide specialized instruction to players (e.g.: power skating, goaltender coaching) who is not registered to the League or to any Organization.

“League” means the Greater Toronto Hockey League.

“Organization” means a Club, Division, Division member or Affiliated Group as defined in GTHL Rules and Regulations.

“Organization Official” means a member of the Board of Directors or a member of the staff, including interns, of an Organization.

“Participant” or “participant” means any person registered to the Greater Toronto Hockey League through any Club, Division or Affiliated Group, including the parents or legal guardians of any minor aged participant.



“*PHUs*” means the Public Health Units operating in the Region of Peel, the City of Toronto and York Region and “*PHU*” means any one of them.

“*Sanctioned Activity*” means any game, on-ice practice, off-ice training, or any other activity involving players and Team Officials that is approved by the League or any of its Organizations, the Ontario Hockey Federation or any of its Members, or Hockey Canada or any of its Members.

“*Team*” means any group of individuals who gather for a Sanctioned Activity, including but not limited to players, Team Officials, on-ice instructors, volunteers, or Organization Officials.

“*Team Official*” means a coach, assistant coach, manager, trainer, or other team official registered with the League.

“*Vaccine-Eligible Player*” means any player born in 2009 or earlier. For players born in 2010, see Section 9 below.

“*Volunteer*” means any person registered by the League or an Organization as a volunteer.

1. Policy Statement

All Affected Persons are required to be [Fully Vaccinated](#) against COVID-19 in accordance with this policy as a condition of participating in any Sanctioned Activities. At the present time, this policy does not apply to players born in 2011 or later.

Spectators are not covered by this policy as they are subject to the Government of Ontario’s [Proof of Vaccination Policy](#) (see Section 8 below) and/or the [proof of vaccination requirements of the PHUs](#) and/or local municipalities.

Sanctioned Activities, as well as this policy, will continue to be subject to federal, provincial, and local public health regulations related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Public health guidance on measures for fully vaccinated, partially vaccinated, and unvaccinated individuals continue to evolve and could affect this policy.

This policy is effective immediately, with due regard for the availability of COVID-19 vaccines.

2. Reasons for this Policy

The health and safety of all Participants is the top priority of the GTHL. The purpose of this policy is to protect the health and safety of all Participants by reducing the risk of exposure to and transmission of COVID-19, an infectious communicable disease, among all persons involved in the GTHL, and to promote the health and safety of all members of the GTHL community, through vaccinations against COVID-19.

This policy is necessary to prevent, respond to, and alleviate any outbreak of COVID-19 in the GTHL because of the significant risk factors for COVID-19 infection that are present while participating in an organized hockey setting as a player and non-player, both on and off the ice. These risk factors include close contact in predominantly indoor closed-space environments (e.g.: arenas, dressing rooms, etc.).



The close contact nature of organized hockey makes compliance with social distancing impossible in certain circumstances and reduces the effectiveness of other infectious disease transmission protocols such as masking.

3. Vaccination Requirement and Records

All Affected Persons are required to be [Fully Vaccinated](#) (i.e.: including the 14-day period after receiving their completed dose) and must present to the League or their Organization, as applicable, evidence demonstrating that they have been Fully Vaccinated.

4. Acceptable Documentation

With effect from January 31, 2022, any new Affected Person should provide an [Enhanced Vaccine Certificate with a QR code](#) issued by the Government of Ontario, or the government of any other Canadian province or territory, as evidence of being Fully Vaccinated.

5. Accommodation

The GTHL will comply with the [Ontario Human Rights Code \(OHRC\)](#) and provide accommodation up to the point of undue hardship to any Affected Person who is unable to be vaccinated for substantiated medical reasons and/or on grounds protected under the *OHRC*.

If an Affected Person cannot provide the League or their Organization with satisfactory evidence of vaccination, the following will be taken into consideration by the GTHL:

- The Affected Person's reason for not being vaccinated; and
- Documentation to substantiate a medical or protected ground reason for not being vaccinated. In the case of a medical exemption, effective January 31, 2022 the only acceptable evidence will be an [Enhanced Vaccine Certificate with a QR code processed by an Ontario Public Health Unit](#).

Any Affected Person requiring accommodation must provide the GTHL with documentation to substantiate their reason for not being vaccinated. Where accommodation is not possible without undue hardship, the Affected Person will not be permitted to be involved in any Sanctioned Activity for the duration of the pandemic or until such time that COVID-19 no longer poses a significant public health risk.

The GTHL reserves the right to have accommodation medical documentation reviewed by applicable medical specialists and to make appropriate inquiries to verify the authenticity of a creed/religion-based claim.

Any Affected Person who is granted accommodation must undergo regular COVID-19 testing and must provide evidence of a negative test taken not more than 72 hours prior to each Sanctioned Activity to one of the following, as applicable:



Game Officials, GTHL Arena Personnel and GTHL Officials:

- The GTHL League Office

All others:

- a member of their Organization executive, (e.g.: President, General Manager), or
- their Organization Safety Rep, or
- their designated Team Safety Rep

For the accommodation request forms, please visit these links:

- [medical accommodation](#)
- [creed/religion accommodation](#)

6. Reporting and Record Keeping

All documentary records about COVID-19 vaccinations and accommodations for Affected Persons will only be collected, used, retained, or disclosed by the GTHL or any of its Organizations as may be necessary for legitimate operational purposes or as directed or requested by governmental authorities or as may be required for legal purposes.

Until no longer required, records must be held in a secure location (e.g.: a locked file cabinet). Once an Affected Person's vaccination status has been verified and it is determined that there is no further need for retention of such records, they must be immediately destroyed in a secure manner (e.g.: shredding).

7. Unvaccinated Affected Persons

Any Affected Person who has not been Fully Vaccinated, or who has not disclosed their vaccination status, will not be eligible to participate in any Sanctioned Activity until such time as they present satisfactory evidence that they are Fully Vaccinated.

This Section does not apply any individual who has been granted an accommodation in accordance with Section 5.

8. Spectators

Spectators are subject to the Government of Ontario's [Proof of Vaccination Policy](#). This policy requires all persons 12 years and 12 weeks (84 days) of age and over to be Fully Vaccinated to enter certain settings, including indoor areas of facilities for sports or recreational fitness.

[Each PHU's proof of vaccination requirements](#) reflect the Government's policy, specifying that individuals born in 2010 who are not already Fully Vaccinated shall be given a grace period of 12 weeks (84 days) from their 12th. birthday after which they must provide proof of being fully



vaccinated. This grace period will allow a reasonable opportunity for each affected person to be fully vaccinated.

9. Players born in 2010

The PHU requirements referred to in Section 8 will affect any unvaccinated player born in 2010. For example, a player whose 12th. birthday occurred on January 2, 2022 will have until March 27, 2022 to be Fully Vaccinated and submit evidence thereof to their Organization, in accordance with Sections 3 and 4 above.

10. Players born in 2011 and later

While a COVID-19 vaccine has been authorized by Health Canada for administration to eligible children born in the years 2011 through 2017 inclusive, at the present time the definition of Vaccine Eligible Player is not being amended to cover players born in any of those years

11. Facilities

It should be noted that vaccination requirements for spectators and Participants, which could be stronger than the Provincial Government regulations or the GTHL Vaccination Policy, may be imposed at any time by any of the PHUs within which the GTHL operates and/or by the owners/operators of any facility used by the League or any of its Organizations or their Teams.

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Appendix B: Facility Guidelines

These questions are designed to assist Organization Safety Reps when they are enquiring about the COVID-19 safety protocols that will be in use at each facility used by the Organization. This is a non-exhaustive list and Organizations are free to add any additional question(s) they consider necessary.

Facility Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Environment

- How will physical distancing be maintained at the facility, in accordance with [physical distancing guidelines](#)?
- How will physical distancing be maintained before, during, and after activities?
- How will the number of people within a facility be limited?
- How will the congregation of people in shared areas (i.e.: common space where participants are checked-in and out of, washrooms, changing rooms, equipment rooms, etc.) be limited?

Equipment

- How will the use of shared equipment be limited?
- How will equipment be managed and cleaned with appropriate disinfecting cleaner before and after each use?
- How will equipment storage be handled?

Personal Protective Precautions

- How will enhanced cleaning be managed, including high touch surfaces (e.g.: benches, washrooms, chairs, doorknobs, vending machines, etc.)?
- How will users be encouraged to practice good hygiene?
- How will users be educated to ensure those who are unwell and symptomatic do not enter the facility or participate in any activity?

Communication

- How will users be informed of the safety precautions that they must follow?
- How will the facility's protocols be communicated to all users?
- If contact tracing is required by the governing Public Health Unit, how will the facility be maintaining a user registry, (names, dates, time, and contact info) to facilitate this?

As information becomes available, the GTHL will be updating facilities' COVID-19 protocols on its website. This information can be found [HERE](#)

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Appendix C: Screening Tool

Team Participants should use the screening tool on page 1 of the Toronto Public Health chart which can be found at this location: <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/994c-Screening-Questionnaire-Child-Care-Day-Camp-School.pdf>

The screening must be done before **each GTHL-sanctioned activity including individual skills sessions, practices, and games.**

If any of the answers to these screening questions change during the day, the screening result is no longer valid and you may need to screen again, wherever necessary.

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Appendix D: Screening Tool Registry

Date:		Facility Name (location):		
Start Time of Session:		End Time of Session:		
Safety Rep:		Phone #:		
#	Player/Coach Name (first, last)	Team/Group	Contact Number	Answered "No" to all screening questions
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				
16.				
17.				
18.				
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21.				
22.				
23.				
24.				
25.				
26.				
27.				
28.				

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Appendix E: 2021-22 Hockey Structure

As we prepare for the 2021-2022 season, it is important to ensure that we remain flexible so that we can adapt to [Ontario's Roadmap to Reopen](#) and local public health guidelines as they may change from time to time and at short notice. We will need to ensure that our Organizations are equipped with the proper communication tools and given appropriate time to adjust. While there are going to be challenges along the way, this is an opportunity for increased collaboration and innovation for hockey in the province.

All steps below have been designed to follow Ontario's Roadmap to Reopen and public health guidelines.

STEP 1

- No hockey is permitted

STEP 2

- No hockey is permitted

STEP 3

Games

- Full team 5-vs-5 hockey permitted.
- Players and on-ice officials do not need face masks while on the ice.
- Face masks must be worn by Team Officials and spectators.
- Cheering or yelling by spectators is strongly discouraged.

Contact:

- Intentional contact permitted.
- Bodychecking permitted at appropriate age and skill levels (U14-U18 – AAA & AA only).

Competition:

- Normal league and inter-squad competition permitted at all skill levels – representative, select and house league.

Practices:

- Players and Team Officials do not need face masks while on the ice.
- Face masks must be worn by spectators.



Spectators:

- Must wear a face mask at all times.
- Spectator numbers will be limited in each facility in accordance with the Ontario Government's Roadmap to Reopen Step 3 capacity limits or by capacity limits set by local Public Health Units and/or local municipalities and/or facility owners/operators, whichever are the most restrictive.

Tournaments:

- Teams may participate in tournaments anywhere in Canada.
- Teams consisting of players born in 2009 or earlier may also participate in tournaments in the United States of America. However, all individuals associated with a Team participating in a US tournament must fully familiarize themselves with all border entry and exit requirements of both the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States. Failure to do so could result in an individual being refused entry and being subject to criminal charges and penalties.

These are some websites that provide information about travel between Canada and the United States and any necessary COVID-19 testing requirements:

[Government of Canada Travel Advice for the United States](#)
[Government of Canada announces adjustments to Canada's border measures](#)
[US Embassies and Consulates in Canada](#)

These websites, and others, should be checked on a regular basis as the information contained therein is subject to change, without notice.

- Teams cannot participate in any tournaments outside Canada and the United States.

Exhibition Games:

- Teams may participate in exhibition games anywhere in Canada.

NOTE:

Teams crossing Public Health Unit boundaries or municipal boundaries to play in tournament or exhibition games must comply with the regulations of the Public Health Unit or Municipality in which they are participating. Minor Hockey Associations are responsible to inform incoming Teams of the requirements within the facilities the game is being played.

POST-STEP 3

- To be determined

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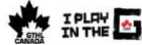
Appendix F: Coaching Requirements

The GTHL will be following Hockey Canada and Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF) requirements for coaches entering the 2021-22 season. The league will operate all portions of our clinics virtually and coaches will receive full credit for participation in virtual training. There will be no requirement to attend in person and virtual clinics will be operated until the league can operate in-class and on-ice portions for large groups.

The outlined requirements will be for all coaches (house league, select, A, AA, & AAA) who wish to be rostered to a team. Previously trained coaches may have attained many of the requirements.

- Head Coaches taking a clinic for the first time will not be required to have a certified status.
- All Head Coaches who require a Development 1 – Certified status but do not have one, can be approved to a roster and considered “in-progress” if they have submitted the 3 certification steps for an in-season evaluation. For information click [HERE](#).
- Coaches with an expiring or expired certified status are required to participate in professional development to maintain their certified status. For more information on certification maintenance click [HERE](#).
- A Head Coach can be conditionally approved if they are enrolled in a GTHL Development 1 clinic or a Development 1 clinic within the Ontario Hockey Federation before December 31st.
- Trainer Level 2 will not be a requirement.

Details on coaching requirements for 2021-22 can be found on the [GTHL Bench Staff Requirements page](#).



COACHING REQUIREMENTS

	HEAD COACH			TRAINER	ASSISTANT COACH	MANAGER
	HL + Select	A + AA	AAA	HL/SL/A/AA/AAA	A/AA/AAA	A/AA/AAA
U9 & Below	Coach 1 Level	-	-	HTCP Level 1	-	-
U10 / U11	Coach 2 Level	Development 1 Trained [^]	Development 1 Trained [^]	HTCP Level 1	Speak Out or Respect in Sport	Speak Out or Respect in Sport
U12 / U13	Coach 2 Level	Development 1 Certified ^{*^}	Development 1 Certified ^{*^}	HTCP Level 1	Speak Out or Respect in Sport	Speak Out or Respect in Sport
U14 / U15	Coach 2 Level	Development 1 Certified ^{*^}	High Performance 1 Certified ^{*^}	HTCP Level 1	Speak Out or Respect in Sport	Speak Out or Respect in Sport
U16 / U18	Coach 2 Level	Development 1 Certified ^{*^}	High Performance 1 Certified ^{*^}	HTCP Level 1	Speak Out or Respect in Sport	Speak Out or Respect in Sport
U21	Coach 2 Level	Development 1 Certified ^{*^}	Development 1 Certified ^{*^}	HTCP Level 1	Speak Out or Respect in Sport	Speak Out or Respect in Sport

All Bench Staff require Speak-Out or Respect in Sport – Activity Leader, OHF Gender Identity & Expression Training, Hockey University: Return to Hockey Safety Guidelines & Rowan’s Law Resource Review & Acknowledgement

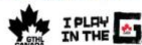
All A,AA,AAA Head Coaches and one Trainer from a team require GTHL Concussion Education (Branch Concussion Training)

Hockey Canada Network Training and Body Checking certification is included in the GTHL Development 1

*A D1 Trained Head Coach can be approved in the season immediately following the date in which they completed the D1 clinic. eg. Participated in D1 clinic in May 2019, registered as Head Coach in 2019-2020 season. Also, a D1 trained head coach who requires a certified status but does not yet have one can be approved to a roster before they are certified if they have submitted the 3 certification steps so that we can evaluate them during the season. The coach would be considered “in-progress”.

[^]The Head Coach can be conditionally approved if they are enrolled in a GTHL Development 1 clinic or a Development 1 clinic within the Ontario Hockey Federation before December 31st of that registration season.

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Appendix G: Resources

Hockey Canada

[*Return to Hockey Safety Guidelines*](#)
[*Return to Hockey Safety Guidelines FAQ*](#)
[*Return to Hockey Seasonal Structure*](#)
[*Return to Hockey Coach Training Guideline*](#)
[*Return to Hockey Officiating Guidelines*](#)

Ontario Hockey Federation

[*Return to Hockey Framework*](#)
[*Non-Sanctioned League Policy*](#)

Government of Canada

[*Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Symptoms and treatment*](#)
[*Hand Hygiene*](#)
[*How to safely use a non-medical face mask*](#)
[*Approved COVID-19 Vaccines*](#)

Government of Ontario

[*Roadmap to Reopen*](#)
[*Roadmap to Reopen – Rules for Step 3 and Roadmap Exit Step*](#)
[*COVID-19: Stop the Spread*](#)
[*School and Child Care Screening*](#)
[*COVID-19 Self-Assessment*](#)
[*Proof of Vaccination Policy*](#)

Public Health Ontario

[*Coronavirus Disease Resources*](#)

City of Toronto

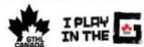
[*Reducing Virus Spread*](#)
[*Have COVID-19 Symptoms or Been Exposed*](#)
[*COVID-19 Guidance for Indoor & Outdoor Recreational Fitness Facilities*](#)

Proof of Vaccination Letters of Instruction issued by Public Health Units

[*City of Toronto*](#)
[*Peel Region*](#)
[*York Region*](#)

Section 22 Orders issued by Public Health Units

[*City of Toronto*](#)
[*Peel Region*](#)
[*York Region*](#)



Canadian Mental Health Association

[COVID-19 and Mental Health](#)
[Coping with Stress and Anxiety](#)

GTHL

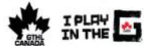
[COVID-Related Rule Modifications for the 2021-2022 Season](#)

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Revisions / Updates

Version	Date	Section / Appendix	Details
1	August 25, 2021		
2	September 27, 2021	Cover	Amend “This Game Plan only applies to Organizations.....” to “This Game Plan and the Vaccination Policy contained herein only apply to Organizations.....”
		Section 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under Plan Item 3, delete: “, unless they are already registered in another capacity (e.g.: Director, Team Manager)” New Item 5 outlining responsibilities for Rep and Select Tryouts, House League Evaluations and Prep Skates
		Disclaimer, Sections 1, 2, 7, 9 & Appendix H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> URL links to Hockey Canada’s “Return to Hockey Safety Guidelines” have been updated to link to the revised document dated August 1, 2021 URL links to the OHF’s “Return to Hockey Framework” have been updated to link to the revised document dated August 27, 2021.
		Section 3	Clarified that the referee dressing room protocols also apply to the Mississauga Hockey League and the North York Hockey League
		Section 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added clarification on recipients of vaccination evidence Added link to accommodation request forms Added links to vaccine information on the Government of Canada website
		Section 5	Added Government of Ontario chart explaining the steps to be taken if a Participant has been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19
		Section 10 & Appendix B	Added link to facility COVID-19 protocols on the GTHL website

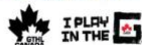


		Section 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Tournaments and Exhibition Games section covering incoming teams • Various non-substantive edits
		Appendix A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 4: Added “Vaccine passport, certificate, card or digital vaccine receipt issued by the Government of Ontario” under “Acceptable Documentation” • Part 5, paragraph 5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - testing window has been amended from “not more than 24 hours.....” to “not more than 72 hours.....” - The requirement for an educational session has been removed - Clarification added on recipients of test results • Part 5, last paragraph: Added links to accommodation request forms • Part 9 has been updated to reflect the new Government of Ontario Proof of Vaccination Policy • Final paragraph of previous Part 9 has been amended and moved to a new Part 10 entitled “Facilities”
		Appendix B	Added additional question to pose to facility operators about equipment storage
		Appendix E	Removed the word “only” under “Exhibition Games”
		Appendix F (new)	Guidelines for Rep and Select Tryouts, House League Evaluations and Prep Skates
		Appendix H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added link to COVID-19 vaccine information on Government of Canada website • Added link to Ontario Government’s Proof of Vaccination Policy • Removed City of Mississauga COVID-19 Arena Protocols link as it is contained under available facility protocols on GTHL website (see Section 9 and Appendix B)



3	October 6, 2021	Section 5 and Appendix C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of symptoms (Section 5), and List of symptoms and questions (Appendix C) <p>have been updated to reflect current Ontario Government guidance</p>
4	October 29, 2021	Section 4	Added link to new “SickKids COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service” launched by the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto
		Section 5	Updated final graphic box on each of pages 17 and 18, and “Return to Hockey Activities” section on page 20, based on advice from Toronto Public Health
		Section 7	Deadline for completion of HU-Planning a Safe Return to Hockey course extended to December 1, 2021, for non-competitive teams
		Appendix C	Question 9 updated based on advice from Toronto Public Health
		Appendix E	Tournament and exhibition game travel restrictions relaxed to permit participation anywhere in Canada. Out of country travel is still not permitted.
5	January 31, 2022	Section 3	Added reminder to Team Officials that on-ice officials will be enforcing GTHL Rule 9.18 with respect to the wearing of face masks while on the bench.
		Section 4 and Appendix A	Updates to reflect current Government/PHU regulations.
		Section 5 and Appendix C	Updates to reflect current Government/PHU guidance.
		Appendix E	Tournament travel restrictions relaxed to allow participation in the USA for Teams consisting of players born in 2009 or earlier.
		Appendix F	Tryouts/evaluations/prep skates guidelines removed - no longer required

RETURN TO PLAY



5a	February 1, 2022	Disclaimer, Introduction, Sections 1, 2, 7 & Appendix G	URL links to the OHF's "Return to Hockey Framework" have been updated to link to the revised document dated January 28, 2022.
5b	February 7, 2022	Section 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Added information on Close Contacts• Clarification on how long attestations must be retained by organization Safety Reps
		Appendix B	Clarification around contact tracing by facilities.
5c	March 8, 2022	Section 5 and Appendix C	Updates to reflect current Toronto PHU guidance.

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