

Halifax Hawks' Return to Practice Protocol (January 3, 2022)

Dear Halifax Hawks' members and families:

The Halifax Hawks' COVID-19 Safety Committee has met and developed the following protocol for a return to practice.

As a result of current experienced with the spread of COVID-19 in the Hawks, our feeder schools and in broader society, we have entered a phase as described by Nova Scotia Public Health as learning to live with COVID-19. Despite that, the Hawks will continue to place a significant emphasis on reducing the spread of COVID-19 within our hockey activities. The health and safety of our players and members remains a top priority. That being said, the chances of one of teams experiencing a COVID-19 positive case is no longer a "possibility" it is now "likely".

For any Halifax Hawks team seeking to return to practice effective January 4, 2022, they must commit to adhere the principles set out in the protocol.

- **Attendance Is Your Choice:** It is entirely acceptable for any Hawks member or family who chooses not to participate at this time. Please notify the coach, manager, or coordinator if you do not plan to attend so that they can plan accordingly.
- **Symptom Screening:** If your player is feeling unwell or exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19, please do not send them to hockey. We have already seen how quick things can spread and we do not want to have to shut down again.
- **Arena and Facility Rules:** It is the responsibility of the team safety representative to familiarize and communicate arena/facility rules to the team;
- **Spectators:** During this time, regardless of Arena rules, the Hawks will not be permitting spectators or live-streaming of practices;
- **Dressing & Undressing:** Players are to be dropped off at the rink fully dressed with their equipment and are to leave the rink with their equipment. Should your child be unable to tie their own skates, they should come to the rink with their skates tied (with skate guards);
- **Coaches & Team Staff:** Coaches are only permitted to coach one single team and there will be no movement between teams. Specific responsibilities for Coaches and Team Staff are:
 - Coaches: Remain with your designated group (either Group A or Group B) within that groups designated side of the ice and dressing room;
 - Managers: Remain at the arena for the duration of the ice time. Assist with supervision of the dressing room; however, do not enter the dressing room if there are already 10 people in the dressing room;
 - Safety Reps: Remain at arena for the duration of the ice time. Keep track of the players and coaches assigned to Group A and Group B at each ice time. Assist with

dressing room supervision and notify covid.lead@halifaxhawks.ca and/or admin@halifaxhawks.ca of any positive COVID-19 cases on your team.

- **Masking:** All team roster members (i.e. coaches and players) must mask whenever not on the ice. Coaches, Managers and Safety Reps must remind players of importance of masking. Hawks Board members will be 'spot checking' for full compliance with mask wearing (i.e. coaches, managers and players);
- **Practicing Only:** On Ice practice will proceed with the team being divided into groups (Group A and Group B):
 - To align with public health rules, we are permitted 10 people in each half of the ice, including coaches;
 - Each group of 10 will be decided by the coach of each team.
 - The groups of 10 are not to switch or come together during their ice time. This means that coaches must remain with their designated group on their designated side of the ice;
 - Each group of 10 will be assigned separate dressing rooms;
 - Inter-squad full-ice games are not permitted;
- **U7:** Because this program is structured differently than other age cohorts, we are still working out the details. For example, this program is not grouped into teams that can readily be split into two groups of 10 on either side of the ice. The Hawks will await further guidance from Hockey Nova Scotia and Public Health prior to the deadline for the current restrictions of January 12, 2022.
- **Close Contacts:** Anyone notified that they are a close contact must refrain from attending practice until such time as they are cleared to cease self-isolating as per public health rules;
- **COVID-19 Positive Cases:** Any team group (either Group A or Group B) that experiences a COVID-19 positive case shall be removed from practice for a period of seven (7) days following the last date when the COVID-19 positive team roster member was in contact with that team grouping. This period of time may need to be extended based upon advice from public health, HNS or the Hawks' COVID-19 Safety Committee. Once this period has expired, the team may return to practice. Please notify covid.lead@halifaxhawks.ca and/or admin@halifaxhawks.ca of any positive COVID-19 cases on your team
- **Compliance and Enforcement:** Members of Arena and/or the Hawks Board will be conducting period 'spot checks' to monitor compliance and enforcement with these Guidelines.
- **Deviation & Exception:** Exception and/or deviation from these Guidelines may only be permitted by the Hawks' COVID-19 Safety Committee;