

Return to Play – 2021-2022 Safety Plan



The London Ice Dawgs Youth Hockey Club is committed to providing a safe environment that encourages respect, sportsmanship and fair play. This Covid-19 Reopening Plan has been made in accordance with the Provincial Sport Organizations “Return to Play” protocols.

In accordance to the Provincial Sport Organizations “Return to Play” protocols we are implementing the following safety procedures for the 2020/2021 hockey season:

- There is ZERO TOLERANCE for non-compliance!
- Enhanced Personal Protective Equipment will be required by all staff, coaches, volunteers, players and family members on and off the ice
- A 2 tiered tracking/tracing system: attendance verified by both the Ice Dawgs and the Sports Park
- Enhanced attendance and check in procedures: hand sanitizer stations, daily health questionnaire and temperature screening upon arrival
- Upgraded cleaning and sanitation of all equipment and high touch areas
- Eliminate sharing or loaning equipment, jerseys, socks or water bottles.
- Shared goalie equipment used in the Greyhounds division will be clearly labeled by team and disinfected between each use. Teams must use their designated equipment only
- Divisions will have less than 50 players and will only play within their cohort
- Maximum 4 teams/division, 12 players/team
- Player substitutions are not permitted.
- Limit the use of dressing rooms to ensure social distancing measures are being followed. 10 players per dressing room maximum
- No evaluations, players will be placed on teams based on last year’s abilities
- Smaller teams, less players on the ice with the flexibility to add more players as the restrictions are lifted
- Uniforms, helmet stickers, name tags will be distributed via a 1 day ‘drive thru’ pick up day prior to the start of the season
- Schedules will be planned on a weekly/bi-weekly/monthly basis which may or may not include 2 hours of ice per week based on ice allotment and rink restrictions. Flexibility to change our scheduling strategy to meet the rink capacity rules.
- Regular monitoring of this plan with the flexibility to modify as required.

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What is Covid-19

Covid-19 is a strain of virus that has not been previously identified in humans. In some cases, illness caused by novel coronavirus can be mild. In more severe cases, Covid-19 can cause pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome, severe influenza-like illness, kidney failure and even death.

Covid-19 Symptoms

There are many signs and symptoms of Covid-19 to look out for including but not limited to:

- Fever
- Cough or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Difficulty Breathing
- Loss of smell or taste
- Nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain
- Pink eye
- Runny nose or nasal congestion
- Headache

If you have any of these symptoms you will not be permitted to come to hockey!

Health Questionnaire

In the past 14 days:

1. Have you travelled outside of Canada?
2. Have you had any symptoms of Covid-19 including but not limited to respiratory illness, fever, cough, runny nose or nasal congestion?
3. Have you had **close physical contact with a person** who:
 - a. Were sick with symptoms of Covid-19 such as a respiratory illness, new or worsening cough, fever or difficulty breathing?
 - b. Has returned from travel outside of Canada in the past 14 days?

If you answered YES to any of these questions you are not permitted to come to hockey!

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Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- All parents, players, staff, volunteers and fans are required to wear a mask or face covering when in the facility. Masks must be worn properly; over the mouth and nose. Masks must be kept on in common areas of the rink such as the lobby, spectator area, dressing rooms and washrooms. Players may remove their mask when they go on the ice.
- Members of the Ice Dawg staff including volunteers must wear a mask at all times.
- Members of the Ice Dawg staff including volunteers must do the daily health screening and temperature check upon arrival
- Coaches and volunteers will be required to wear a mask while on the ice and the bench.
- Hand sanitizer stations can be found upon entry to the building, at frequent touch areas as well as in every dressing room, time-keepers box and staff room. We encourage regular use and proper hand washing!
- Sanitizer wipes are available upon entry to the building, in every dressing room, time-keepers box and staff room. We encourage regular use and proper hand washing!
- Zero tolerance for non-compliance!

2 Tier Tracking/Tracing Systems

- Everyone who enters the building will be required to use our online Health Screening and show their time stamped, green approval screen at the door. Printed versions are accepted for those without a cell phone.
- Attendance will be taken upon arrival with temperatures recorded for every player. Attendance sheets will be kept on file and will be easily accessible in case of emergency.
- Team lists to be submitted to arena management who will keep a copy on file for their records

Covid-19 Waivers

- Covid-19 Waivers for the London Ice Dawgs **must** be signed by every parent before players will be permitted to participate in the 2021/2022 Ice Dawgs hockey season.

Based on our 2021 ice contracts, waivers may need to be signed by members who are attending sessions at the following facilities:

- Covid-19 Waivers for the London Sports Park may need to be signed by every parent before players will be permitted to participate in the 2021/2022 Ice Dawgs hockey season.
- Covid-19 Waivers for all City of London Arenas may need to be signed by every parent before players will be permitted to participate in the 2021/2022 Ice Dawgs hockey season.
- Covid-19 Waivers for the Western Fair Sports Center may need to be signed by every parent before players will be permitted to participate in the 2021/2022 Ice Dawgs hockey season.

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The Facilities

- Respect the facility! No spitting, swearing or littering
- Masks must be worn at all times. No mask, no entry, no arguments!
- Social distancing must be maintained at all times while in the building
- Have very strict arrival policies in place! Entrance to the building allowed 15 minutes before ice time only. Players who are late will not be permitted in the building as this will create conflicts for another league's entry times.
- Everyone must vacate the building within 15 minutes of the completion of their ice time.
- Limited number of players allowed in the dressing rooms as per social distancing protocol and arena policies. Flexibility to adjust based on location.
- Dressing rooms and frequent touch areas will be cleaned after each hour by the facility staff
- Hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes will be available in every dressing room, staff room and time-keeper box.
- Dressing rooms will be kept clean and free of clutter. Parents must ensure all items such as coats, boots and clothing has been placed inside their hockey bag and properly zipped up.

Registration, Teams and Evaluations

- Allow flexible registration policies including refunds before the season begins
- Allow for a flexible schedule in the event of a government shut-down to ensure the season can be completed even if extended throughout the spring/summer.
- Flexibility to allow for additional registrations as the season progresses and the restrictions are lifted
- Smaller group sizes with the flexibility to increase the numbers as the restrictions are lifted
- No evaluations for the 2021/2022 season. Players will be placed on teams based on the previous year's abilities.

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Enhanced Attendance and Check-in Procedures

- Strict arrival time protocol. Players will be allowed into the building 15 minutes before ice time and must vacate the building no later than 15 minutes upon completion of ice time. Flexibility to change as restrictions are lifted
- Everyone entering the building must have a mask or face covering. No mask, no entry, no arguments!
- Temperatures will be taken upon entry into the facility.
- Everyone who enters the building will be required to use our online Health Screening and show their time stamped, green approval screen at the door. Printed versions are accepted for those without a cell phone.
- Social distancing must be maintained at all times while in the building
- A touch-less hand sanitizer station will be available inside the front doors. Everyone must use it before approaching the attendance table
- 1 family at a time at the attendance table
- **1 parent per family** will be permitted in the building (when #'s permit) with flexibility to adjust as restrictions are lifted. Siblings and fans will not be permitted in the building until restrictions are lifted
- Loitering in the lobby, hallways, dressing rooms will not be permitted for any reason.

Covid-19 Screening

- Everyone attending our sessions will be required to do the online Covid-19 screening and temperature test upon arrival at the arena. This includes all players, parents (guardians), coaches, volunteers and staff members.
- In a case where a person does not pass the Covid-19 screening and/or has a fever; they will not be permitted at the arena and will be asked to self-monitor for a minimum of 14 days. If symptoms worsen or persist go to the nearest testing center.
- Anyone who is sent home due to potential symptoms will not be permitted to return for a minimum of 14 days and must show a negative Covid-19 test result upon return. No exceptions!
- If a confirmed case of Covid-19 has been brought to our attention we will immediately contact the facility and all members who may have come in contact with the confirmed case. These members will be asked to self-isolate and will be required to produce a negative Covid-19 test before returning to any scheduled program.

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Games and Practices

- Smaller practice groups may be based on ability or team provided all players are in the same division.
- Schedules will be planned weekly/bi-weekly/monthly basis which may or may not include 2 hours of ice per week. Ability to change our scheduling strategy to match the rink capacity rules.
- Eliminate player substitutions. When a team is short players, the game or practice will be adjusted accordingly. Goaltenders are exempt from this rule and may be substituted as required provided all check in procedures have been followed for each ice time and the arena has been made aware of the change.
- Eliminate all sharing or loaning of equipment, jerseys, socks or water bottles.
- Goalie equipment used in the Greyhounds division will be disinfected between each use. For tracking purposes each team must use their designated bag of equipment only.
- Every player in the MD division must have a proper sports bottle (filled with water only) with their name clearly marked for easy identification purposes. Gatorade and water bottles will not be accepted. Sharing bottles is not permitted
- Players are to enter the arena **fully dressed** where possible to limit the use of the dressing rooms
- Graduated game play while maintaining social distancing requirements; begin the season with games of “3 on 3” or “4 on 4” with the flexibility to change to “5 on 5” regular game play as the restrictions are lifted and more players are permitted on the ice.
- Utilize all rink gates to ensure social distancing can be met during games. (4 players on bench, 5 on ice including goalie, 3 players behind bench)
- Installed additional rubber matting at all gate entrances and along the spectator benches

Miscellaneous

- Lollipops have been suspended until further notice
- Hardest Working Dawgs recognition program has been altered for the 2021/2022 season
- Lost and Found items will be posted on Facebook then bagged and kept no longer than 2 weeks
- We reserve the right to modify this reopening plan as required.

Resources

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/reopening-ontario>

<https://www.healthunit.com/>