

Sooke Minor Hockey Families

Re: COVID-19 Exposure Protocols

Hi Everyone,

As you are all aware the hockey environment and sport safety precautions are continually evolving as we are provided with new information regarding COVID-19 almost daily. As Pandemic Coordinators, Duncan and I are continually reviewing information from the various governing bodies for amateur hockey and public health to ensure we are adapting and providing information accordingly. Part of our responsibility is to ensure our Association continues to play hockey for as long as possible while maintaining a reasonable level of safety for our Members. While we strive to make our protocols simple and straightforward there are, and will be, some elements that require further explanation so everyone can understand and accept why we have made certain decisions.

Within the last 24 hours Duncan and I have reviewed our COVID-19 exposure protocols specifically regarding family members with confirmed COVID-19 exposures. We have spoken with the Vancouver Island Amateur Hockey Association (VIAHA), BC Hockey (BCH), and the Island Health Authority (IHA). After discussing the pros and cons of what VIAHA/BCH/IHA have said, Duncan and I believe that the best course of action is to remove Association members (players/coaches/staff/parents) from the hockey environment for 14 days if they **OR** any member of their household have had a confirmed COVID-19 close contact. We recognize the latter part is not a requirement of Island Health and emphasize this is a decision from the Pandemic Coordinators of Sooke Minor Hockey Association. While removing an Association member from the hockey environment for a family members exposure might seem excessive, the inconvenience of one player or coach for 14 days far exceeds requiring the isolation of an entire team or inter-Association cohort should COVID-19 symptoms develop. If the Association member or family member completes a COVID-19 test and it comes back negative the 14 day requirement will be reviewed and potentially shortened by the Pandemic Coordinators.

Parents and players are required to be continually aware of their personal situation, if at ANY time you answer yes to the COVID-19 screening questions you WILL be prohibited from hockey participation pending a review from the Pandemic Coordinators. If anyone is uncertain or worried about answering the screening questions they should open a dialog with their team manager to resolve all concerns PRIOR to arriving at the arena. Any Association members providing incorrect or misleading answers to the screening questions will be subject to a disciplinary review and potential suspension from the Association.

We recognize that not everything you have been presented with is convenient and it is challenging to continually stay informed but your sustained effort to maintain safety is much appreciated.

Thank you for your support!

Carrie Coleman

Vice-President Administration

COVID-19 Pandemic Coordinator

Duncan Havens

Director of Risk Management

COVID-19 Pandemic Coordinator