



## Communicable Disease Plan

*August 27, 2021*

### INTRODUCTION

Sooke Minor Hockey Association (SMHA) is committed to providing safe and healthy environments for all members of our hockey community. In alignment with the [BC Restart plan](#), [ViaSport](#), [BC Hockey](#), [VIAHA](#) and [SEAPARC](#) facility guidelines this communicable disease (CD) plan outlines the ongoing prevention measures that everyone needs to follow as we transition from prescriptive COVID-19 safety measures to general communicable disease prevention measures that are guided by public health.

### SCOPE

This CD plan applies to all SMHA players, parents, guardians, spectators, team staff, and Executive members engaged in any hockey activity including try-outs, practices, games, meetings, dryland training and other related hockey activities.

This CD plan is effective as of August 27, 2021 and replaces all existing SMHA COVID-19 Return to Play plans.

### TRANSITION PERIOD

During the transitional months of July and August the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) and viaSport are recommending sports organizations still maintain some existing safety measures as we gradually and safely ease restrictions in anticipation of the full return to sport activities in the fall. To assist sport organizations with this process, please review the viaSport [Return to Sport Restart 2.0 Chart](#), which is a companion document to the CD plan.

For example, effective August 23, 2021, VIAHA has mandated that all divisions wear masks, regardless of vaccination status, while in the dressing rooms, including parents and team staff. Effective August 25, 2021, the PHO has mandated anyone over 12 years old wear a mask in all public indoor settings. In light of these decisions, SMHA will require all divisions, parents, spectators, and team staff, regardless of vaccination status, wear masks while not on the field of play (e.g. dressing rooms, lobbies, stands), masks are not recommended on the field of play.

In addition to this CD plan, SMHA may still be required to follow applicable activity-specific (e.g. fundraising, indoor dryland training), safety guidelines or ongoing PHO requirements (e.g. gatherings and events). Similarly, those engaged in travel for practices or games (e.g. out of town games, tournaments) will still need to follow local, provincial or federal travel restrictions, local community entry requirements, as well as university requirements for international student travel or field safety plans.



## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION

Communicable disease prevention focuses on basic risk reduction principles to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases. The fundamental components of communicable disease prevention include both ongoing measures to be maintained at all times and additional measures to be implemented as advised by public health during periods of elevated risk. SHMA will regularly monitor and review communicable disease information from public health authorities, and update the campus community of any changes affecting hockey activities, including updating the CD plan as required.

## ONGOING PREVENTION MEASURES

### Encouraging players and parents to stay at home when sick

- All players and parents must continue to do a daily health self-assessment.
- If you are ill or have symptoms of a communicable disease (e.g. fever and/or chills, recent onset of coughing, diarrhea):
  - please stay home
  - notify your coach or team manager of your absence
  - consult the [COVID-19 self-assessment tool](#) to see if you should get tested, and contact 811 if you require medical advice
- Anyone attending a SMHA event that is visibly ill or displaying symptoms of a communicable disease will be sent home immediately. The SMHA Executive will be notified if this should happen and will follow-up to ensure that there is minimal risk to the team(s) and Association.

### Promoting hand-washing and hygiene practices

- Washing your hands regularly, or using hand sanitizers if a washroom or sink is not readily available, is one of the most simple and effective ways to minimize the spread of communicable diseases.
- In addition, covering your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough will also help to reduce the spread of germs.
- All SEAPARC washroom facilities will be re-opened and available for players, parents and the public to facilitate regular handwashing. SEAPARC will also continue to supply hand sanitizer stations at all main entrances, and additional locations in buildings with higher occupancy levels, to promote hand hygiene.
- SMHA Teams will keep a supply of portable hand sanitizer available for use.
- Water bottles are for individual use only, it is recommended they be labelled with a name and washed frequently.
- Hockey equipment should be clean and not shared with anyone else.
- For outdoor or dryland activities, individuals should ensure they bring hand sanitizer if washing facilities are not available (e.g. outdoor events, vehicles, field locations, etc.). SEAPARC has posted signage throughout the facility to remind everyone of these important practices.



## **RESPONDING TO ELEVATED RISK**

- The level of risk of certain communicable diseases, including COVID-19, may elevate from time to time or on a seasonal basis. This may occur at a local or regional level or within a facility.
- In addition to maintaining the ongoing prevention measures, SMHA will monitor public health information and be responsive to any further directives from the local medical health officer or provincial health officer which could include, for example, implementing enhanced cleaning measures, distancing requirements or masking guidance.
- Any changes to prevention measures during periods of elevated risk will be communicated to those affected in our Association.

## **COMMUNICATION AND MONITORING**

- This CD plan will be available on the SMHA website and shared widely on SMHA social media
- Team Staff should ensure that everyone on their teams have reviewed the CD Plan and understand and follow the measures in place.
- The prevention measures will be reinforced through signage, social media and other communication tools on a regular basis.
- The ongoing review and evaluation of the CD plan will involve the SMHA Executive, as part of its annual consultation process on health and safety programs. Monitoring of the ongoing prevention measures is shared responsibility of team staff and Association members.
- Individuals should report any health and safety concerns to their team manager or team safety, who is responsible to follow-up and address any concerns.