



# 2021 USA HOCKEY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS HOST SITE COVID-19 RISK MITIGATION REQUIREMENTS



*Due to the nature of COVID-19 this risk mitigation document will be updated regularly based on current state, county and local health requirements and regulation. This document is as of March 20, 2021 and is subject to change based on local government guidelines and restrictions.*

**PLEASE CHECK BACK FREQUENTLY**

The host site is responsible for executing the following risk mitigation strategies for USA Hockey National Championship Tournament. These regulations must be applied in conjunction with local and state rules/legislation guidelines related to organizing gatherings/sporting events during the COVID-19 pandemic. The local and state rules/legislation shall take precedence if they create a higher restriction/obligation.

Teams and participants in the tournament are expected to adhere to best practices for the safety and health of themselves, their teammates, coaches, and other participants, and to help ensure everyone's opportunity to have a successful tournament. This shall include following risk mitigation strategies prior to the tournament, during travel, at all times in the arena, and at all times in the hotel, restaurants or other places visited throughout the duration of the tournament.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL**

1. Designate a person or group within the host committee to be a COVID-19 Coordinator. Monitor state/local government and health department guidelines for orders, guidelines and restrictions for COVID-19.
2. The COVID-19 Coordinator will coordinate the following:
  - a. Keep an attendance log for contact tracing of all persons entering the tournament.
  - b. Identify local testing sites including, if possible 24-hour turnaround times for test results, and provide this information to participants.
  - c. Provide isolation rooms or mobile isolation units in the arena to handle suspected COVID-19 cases and confirmed COVID-19 cases
  - d. Identify designated medical facilities that manage patients with COVID-19 infections and establish a transportation plan for sick individuals.
  - e. Develop a plan for reporting, isolating, and treating any positive COVID-19 cases and for exposure to an infected individual at any tournament facilities.
  - f. Establish a communication plan for informing all teams, players, coaches, officials, on-site medical team, and spectators of requirements applicable to each group, as well as for communications during the tournament.
  - g. **Resources**
    - **CDC Health Department Search**  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/open-america/hd-search/>
    - **CDC Quarantine Guidelines**  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>
    - **CDC Isolation Guidelines**  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/isolation.html>
    - **CDC When is it safe to be around others?**  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html>
    - **CDC Definition of Close Contact**  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact>

3. The host is responsible for the following facility and safety measures:
  - a. Create cleaning & disinfecting protocols and regular cleaning schedules for entire facility, including required cleaning of these specific areas between all games:
    - i. Benches and locker rooms
    - ii. Penalty benches and scorekeeper area
    - iii. Common areas, restrooms and other high-touch surfaces
  - b. Provide adequate hand sanitizing stations throughout arena.
  - c. Manage physical distancing throughout facility, including apparel shop, and post signage for physical distancing throughout the facility
  - d. Provide separate team entrance and separate team exit points into the arena and onto the ice (or staggered entry times) to eliminate contact between teams. Tournament security or volunteers should restrict entry into participant-only areas.
  - e. Implement team health screening procedures prior to arrival at the rink, including at least symptom and temperature checks for all players, coaches, and team managers. Any participant exhibiting or reporting any symptom will not be allowed in the facility for any reason; no exceptions and this will be strictly enforced.
  - f. Provide each team with a locker room space to allow appropriate physical distancing between players.
  - g. Teams will not be allowed into the facility until 15 minutes prior to game time and must exit the arena within 15 minutes of game ending. Players arrive at arena fully dressed except skates, gloves, and helmet. Players should dress at their hotel and not in the parking lot.
  - h. Host sites will determine their spectator policy based on local guidelines and restrictions for capacity within facilities being used for the tournament. This spectator policy must be communicated to all teams at your site and be updated as needed should local guidelines change.
  - i. If spectators are allowed, provide an entrance and exit for spectators and scouts that is separate from the participant entrance. Arrive no earlier than puck drop; leave building immediately at conclusion of the game.
  - j. If spectators are not allowed, coordinate to allow two SafeSport representatives per team for locker room monitoring and communicating any emergencies with parents not permitted in the building. Consider SafeSport personnel part of the “team staff.”
  - k. People should avoid or not be permitted to congregate or tailgate in parking lots except in a physically distanced manner.
4. Each participating team will have a point of contact for COVID-19 who is responsible for all COVID-19 related matters, including compliance by all team members, and will communicate with the tournament COVID-19 coordinator who oversees compliance with all COVID-19 requirements. Teams are expected to follow all of the rink facility’s safety measures.

#### **ADDITIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL RECOMMENDATION**

*It is strongly recommended that each Host have a designated Infectious disease/public health expert who is involved in preparation and management of the Championship, and who is either on-site at the arena for the duration of the tournament or is on-call within a 20-minute report time to the arena for all issues that arise during the Championship related to COVID-19. In absence of on-site Infectious disease/public health expert, tournament medical staff must have experience in triage/handling of suspected COVID-19 cases.*

## SCREENING

1. **STAY HOME** if you are sick or have been exposed to an infected individual.
2. Work with your ice rink operator to set up a screening station at the rink entrance for screening and temperature checks. Can consider using online surveys to avoid wait times to enter facility. If anyone answers “yes” to any of the questions below or has a temperature above 100.4° Fahrenheit, they must not be allowed to participate or enter the facility.
  - a. Have you or anyone in household had a sore throat, cough, chills, body aches, shortness of breath, loss of smell, loss of taste, fever at or greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit in the last 21 days?
  - b. To the best of your knowledge have you been in close proximity to any individual who tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
  - c. Have you or anyone in your household recently tested positive for COVID-19 or have been tested and awaiting results?

## PHYSICAL DISTANCING

1. Spectators, if allowed, should maintain physical distancing within the facility and not congregate in any common areas. Arena should have appropriate signage in spectator areas related to required physical distancing and/or mask wearing requirements.
2. If locker rooms are used, players must maintain physical distancing measures and must always wear a face covering/mask in the locker room.
3. If possible, bench areas should be set up for physical distancing. Follow local requirements for number of coaches allowed on the bench during games.
4. Teams should enter ice at separate times and from separate doors to minimize contact between teams. Locker room assignments for teams should minimize team crossover and contact.
5. During ice resurfacing, spectators must maintain physical distancing measures, and are discouraged from gathering in the lobby. The teams are discouraged from gathering in locker room in between periods.
6. There will be no post game handshakes between teams, coaches, or officials. All players line up on team’s respective blueline and use a stick tap salute for post-game sportsmanship.

## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

1. Coaches, parents, spectators, minor officials, tournament staff, rink staff, and USA Hockey volunteers (i.e everyone except players and officials) must wear face coverings/masks at all times within the facility.
2. Players/Officials should wear a face covering/mask when entering/exiting and within the facility, including locker rooms.
3. It is recommended that players/officials also wear a face covering/mask for game play when feasible, or at all times if required.
4. Players/Officials must wear a face covering/mask for game play if required by the host site local/state government or health department orders, or if required by the ice rink facility.
5. Players, officials, coaches, parents, spectators, tournament staff, rink staff, and USA Hockey volunteers are responsible for providing their own face covering/mask. The host site shall have extra stock of face coverings/masks for those that have forgotten them.

## GENERAL HYGIENE FOR DISEASE RISK MITIGATION

1. Wash hands frequently, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
2. Do **NOT** touch your face.
3. Cough or sneeze into a tissue or the bend of your elbow. Dispose of the tissue and wash/sanitize hands immediately.
4. Do **NOT** share water bottles, towels or other equipment. Each player should have individually clearly-marked water bottles.
5. No spitting anywhere within the facility.
6. Clean/disinfect equipment after each use.

## **PROTOCOLS FOR SICK INDIVIDUALS OR POSITIVE TESTING AND IMPACT ON THE TOURNAMENT**

1. Any team that conducts team activities within 10 days of arriving at the national tournament site and has a known confirmed positive case of COVID-19 with any staff or player will not be allowed to participate in the tournament.
2. In the case of a known positive test from a team member or staff, the infected person will not be allowed to participate for the remainder of the tournament. Contact tracing will be based on requirements from the local health department for anyone considered to be a close contact. The results of this may impact a team's ability to continue in the tournament.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **USA Hockey and the Tournament Host will:**

- Communicate with teams that social gatherings are strongly discouraged and must be in compliance with local regulations.
- Communicate best practices for physical distancing prior to tournament to minimize exposure and contract tracing list.
- Opening meeting will be done virtually.
- All hearings will be done virtually and participants in the hearing will be provided meeting access information.
- Medal/Trophy ceremonies will be done in no-contact manner where awards are placed on a table at center ice and players individually are called to pick them up.

### **USA Hockey and the Tournament Host will consider the following:**

- Schedule games to minimize contact between teams in different pools in preliminary rounds.
- Provide time gaps between games where possible.
- Recommend extra hotel options to minimize multiple teams/contact between teams.
- Provide virtual programming to players/parents in lieu of in-person events.
- Recommend use of online apparel sales.