



Connecticut Hockey Conference

GOVERNING BODY FOR USA HOCKEY IN CONNECTICUT
AN AFFILIATE OF USA HOCKEY

September 1, 2021
Revised Nov. 29, 2021

Dear Presidents, CHC Representatives and Player Safety Representatives,

Below are the current COVID Mask Policy, Reporting Guidelines, Contact Tracing and Quarantine Period Guidelines, Return to Play Guidelines, and HIPAA Guidance.

Mask/Facial Covering Policy – Effective November 29, 2021

In consultation with the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) and in conformance with Gov. Ned Lamont’s Executive Order No. 13A, the Connecticut Hockey Conference (CHC) hereby requires, *effective November 29, 2021*, that all individuals and participants inside facilities hosting CHC sanctioned events (including practices, scrimmages, and games) in the State of Connecticut, and inside facilities hosting events of CHC member programs, Pawling and Putnam Youth Hockey, must follow the State DPH Updated Guidance of the Operation of Interscholastic, Youth and other Amateur Sport Activities During the COVID-19 Pandemic, which can be found at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Coronavirus/Community_Resources/Vaccinations/Print-Materials/Fact-Sheets/DPH-Youth-and-Amateur-Sports-COVID19_UPDATED_Winter_2021_2022.pdf, and which accompanies this notice.

“Individuals and participants” include all players, coaches, on-ice officials, off-ice officials (including scorekeepers and timekeepers), and spectators.

Failure to comply with this requirement carries with it may constitute a violation of Executive Order no. 13A and subject the violator to a fine, as provided in the executive order.

Accepted Facial Coverings for Ice Hockey



Cloth Masks
Disposable Masks
Medical-Type Masks



Neck Gaiters



CCM Game On Face Mask
(Player & Goalie versions)



Bauer Concept III Face Shield
(with Bauer Splash Guard applied)

Examples of Masks Improperly Worn



Under the nose



On the chin



Only on the nose



On the forehead



Dangling from ear

Medical Exemptions Executive Order No. 13A includes a medical exemption for a requirement of a “mask or cloth face covering”. However, this CHC policy includes an alternative to a mask or cloth face covering for individuals who are actually on the ice. That alternative is a face shield. It is required that all *unvaccinated* participants on the ice wear either a mask or face-shield. There is no medical exemption available for this requirement because anyone who cannot wear a mask or cloth face covering may wear a face shield on the ice, all as explained above.

When indoors at a CHC-sanctioned event, but not on the ice, the mask or face-covering requirement applies, as explained above and in compliance with Executive Order No. 13A. In that situation, the medical exemption included in Executive Order No. 13A applies:

“Nothing in this order shall require the use of a mask or cloth face covering by anyone for whom doing so would be contrary to his or her health or safety because of a medical condition, behavioral condition, or disability, or anyone under the age of 2 years. Any person who declines to wear a mask or face covering because of a medical condition, behavioral condition, or disability shall be exempt from this order and any requirement to wear masks or face coverings promulgated in or pursuant to any COVID-19 Order, but only if such person provides written documentation that the person is qualified for the exemption from a licensed or certified medical provider, psychologist, marriage and family therapist, professional counselor, social worker, or behavior analyst, the Department of Developmental Services or other state agency that provides or supports services for people with emotional, intellectual or physical disabilities, or a person authorized by any such agency. Such documentation shall not be required to name or describe the condition that qualifies the person for the exemption.”

COVID Reporting Policy – Effective August 24, 2021

In the event that a participant in a CHC hockey program receives a confirmed, positive test result for COVID-19, the Player Safety Representative for the program with which the individual is associated should immediately provide notice of the positive test result to the local health department of the program’s home city or town. The representative should also notify the program staff for any program with which the individual shared the ice for practices, games, or skill sessions, and officials with whom the individual shared the ice or had close contact within 48 hours prior to the onset of the individual’s symptoms or test date (if asymptomatic). (See below for more detail as to the specific people the Player Safety Representative must notify and the proper procedure for providing the required notifications.) All notifications required under this section should be made in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local privacy and confidentiality laws and regulations.

If an individual with a CHC hockey program receives a confirmed, positive test result for COVID-19, the Player Safety Representative for that program must notify the following people via email with the required information:

- the Program President
- the local Health Department
- the parents of all team members on the affected team
- the team coaches
- the management staff of any hockey facility in which the infected individual was in attendance during the 14 days prior to the positive test result or the first onset of symptoms, whichever is sooner (call or email is acceptable)
- Amy Landino, Player Safety Coordinator – CT, playersafetycoordinatorCT@gmail.com
- Chuck Wilkerson, CHC President, chctournamentdirector@outlook.com
- Art Blakeslee, CHC Vice President, art.blakeslee4@gmail.com
- Mike Federico, CHC Treasurer, Michaelfederico@Cox.net
- Dawn Bryson, CHC Secretary, dawnbryson@chchockey.org.

If the infected individual participated in a game, practice, or skill session with another team during the 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms or test date (if asymptomatic), the Player Safety Representative for the infected individual's program shall immediately provide notice to the Player Safety Representative for the opposing team's program via email and then immediately follow up with a call the Player Safety Representative to ensure he/she received the email.

In a situation such as the above, where the infected individual did not play for the home team, **the Player Safety Representative for the home team shall immediately provide notice to the local health department.** This is in addition to the notification to the local health department for the infected individual's program, which is to be provided by the individual's Player Safety Representative, as set forth above.

If there were officials present for the relevant game(s), practice(s), or skill session(s), the Player Safety Representative for the infected individual's program shall immediately provide notice to Connecticut Referee-in-Chief, Kevin Redding, via email to: ctric@chchockey.org, so that he can notify the affected officials.

Player Safety Representatives are reminded that it is their responsibility to inform their program's teams, coaches, and parents of the relevant association, local, and state guidelines and policies.

All program Presidents and Player Safety Representatives should check their email and the CHC website regularly for updates to state guidelines.

Contact Tracing and Quarantine Period – Effective November 29, 2021

A person is considered fully vaccinated 14 days after their second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or 14 days after the single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Quarantine and Other Actions after Exposure

CDC has recently published **new guidance** for individuals who have been identified as a **close contact of a known COVID-19 case**:

- If **fully vaccinated** (i.e., 14 days after their final vaccine dose), or fully recovered from COVID-19 in the prior 90 days, and **remain free from symptoms** of COVID-19:
- - **do not need to quarantine** away from athletics or other activities

- - **get tested** 5-7 days after last contact (*note: testing is not recommended for individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 within the prior 90 days, as a positive test result may be residual and not reflective of current infection*)
- - **wear a mask** when indoors (including during active game play) around other people until a negative test result is received (or for 14 days if no test is performed)
- • If **fully vaccinated** (i.e., 14 days after their final vaccine dose), or fully recovered from COVID-19 in the prior 90 days, and **experiencing symptoms** of COVID-19:
 - - **get evaluated by a healthcare provider** as soon as possible
 - - **quarantine** away from athletics and other activities **for a full 14 days**, or 10 days (i.e., return on day 11) with a negative test on day 8 or later, **unless a healthcare provider rules out COVID-19** as the source of symptoms (which will usually include a negative test result)
 - - **wear a mask** when indoors (including during active game play) around other people **until a negative test result** is received (or for 14 days if no test is performed), or **until COVID-19 is ruled out** by a healthcare provider
- If **not fully vaccinated**, or have not had COVID-19 in the prior 90 days:
 - - **quarantine** away from athletic activities for a **full 14 days**; or at least 10 days (i.e., return on day 11) with a negative test at day 8 or later
 - - **continue to wear a mask** around other people for a **full 14 days**, regardless of when release from quarantine occurs

Return-to-Play after COVID-19 Infection

Although the symptoms and disease course of COVID-19 in younger people appear on average to be somewhat milder than those of older individuals, there is the potential, and documented cases, of **severe disease complications** in people of all ages. In addition, it is not known whether the currently circulating Delta variant, or other SARS-CoV-2 variants will affect children differently than what has been the experience to date. Furthermore, the long-term health effects and impacts on organ systems function resulting from even mild or asymptomatic COVID-19 disease is still unknown, although there have been some studies implicating **blood clotting and cardiac effects** as potentially under-recognized longer-term sequelae. As such, DPH recommends that all youth athletes receive health screening and clearance from a healthcare provider prior to resuming athletic activities after recovering from COVID-19.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

To the extent anyone raises the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act in connection with any of the above requirements, please be aware that CHC is not acting in a manner that would deem it to be defined as a “covered entity” under HIPAA.

Please direct your questions to: CHC Player Safety Coordinator Amy Landino.
Email: playersafetycoordinatorCT@gmail.com

Thank You,
The CHC Executive Board