

Town of Halton Hills

Hockey and Skating Protocols – COVID-19 Stage 3

Opening Protocols (for September – Stage 3)

- The number of people (occupancy) permitted into the Facility will be limited and monitored to ensure that physical distancing can be maintained and so that proper cleaning/sanitizing can be performed by Town staff. Note: This number will change each stage. In stage 3, the number is 40 (20 on ice and 20 parents in viewing area per rink for minor groups). This will allow a buffer of 10 people (trainers, executive staff, etc.). As 50 is the maximum we are allowed within each rink area a buffer is required.
- Participants will use the entrance that corresponds to the building area their program is scheduled. (I.e. if the program is on TransCanada, patron must use the main east TransCanada entrance (by the CSR desk). If program is on Saputo rink, patron must use the west Saputo entrance.)
- The entrance doors will remain locked until it is the next group's time to get ready (20 minutes prior to rental).
- Parents and players/skaters can line up outside the entrance doors keeping the 6 ft. /2 m distancing. Follow signage and markings.
- A Town Ambassador will unlock the door and allow one person (parent/child) in at a time according to physical distancing markers.
- The Town Ambassador will ask each patron two (2) screening questions upon entry and the tracking sheet will be completed (name & contact information). This is for Health unit tracking in case of further outbreaks.
- Patrons will be asked to use the hand sanitizer provided before entry.
- Face masks are mandatory and must be worn inside our facilities as per approved by-law. Disposable or cloth is accepted. Public and users are expected to have their own masks.
- There will be a divider for IN and OUT at entrance vestibule. Please follow the directions and signage.
- One adult/parent would be allowed into the facility with player/skater. If 2 youth participants from same family, still only one parent allowed. Physical distancing will be enforced throughout building with floor markings and signage. Access to lobby only.
- Change rooms have a maximum limit of 10 people including coach. Showers in change rooms will be closed off with water shut off due to physical distancing. Numbers will be placed on benches and allocated number to change will be provided to skater by Town ambassador.
- The number of people permitted in the public washrooms will need to be controlled to maintain physical distancing – Town staff will be locking every other stall, blocking/bagging off urinals and sinks, etc. so only 2 people maximum at any one time.
- Water fountains will be turned off and patrons will only be able to access the bottle refill to fill their own water bottles.

- Reduced number of people permitted to use the elevator at one time to maintain physical distancing. 2 people maximum.
- Player/skater is directed to rink area while parent will be directed to viewing area in lobby.

Player/Skater/Coach Protocol

- If player/skater/coach or parent feels sick they must stay home and not attend the facility or program.
- Each Association or Club must have its own screening protocols in place and do its part to prevent the spread of this disease. Strong recommendation that each group have a waiver for parent(s) to sign so they understand the risks and that the activity they are participating in has risks with communicable diseases.
- Players, coaches and skaters will only be permitted to arrive 20 minutes prior to their activity time.
- Where possible, players/skaters should arrive dressed and ready minus their skates.
- Coaches and instructors are responsible to supervise their participants and to ensure all protocols are being followed.
- Players/skaters/coaches will use entrance that corresponds to the building area their program is scheduled. (I.e. if the program is on TransCanada, patron must use the main east entrance (by the CSR desk). If program is on Saputo rink, patron must use the west entrance.)
- The entrance doors will remain locked until it is the next group's time to get ready (20 minutes prior).
- A Town Ambassador will unlock the door and allow one person (parent/child) in at a time according to physical distancing markers.
- Patrons will be asked screening questions upon entry and the tracking sheet will be completed (name & contact information). This is for Health unit tracking in case of further outbreaks.
- Patrons will be asked to use the hand sanitizer provided before entry and to put on their face mask.
- Each player/skater will be assigned a change room number and which entrance to use to get on the ice by the Town Ambassador.
- Number of participants on ice/floor will be limited to 20 including coaches (some cases 18 with no coaches). This number may increase in the future with a maximum number. This would include player/coach ratio to maintain physical distancing (e.g. Current maximum is set at 1 coach with 9 players or 2 coaches with 8 skaters per side or 20 total). This allows 4 players on ice, 4 players on bench, 1 goalie and 1 coach per side (20). For skating lessons, 20 is the maximum as well.
- Player boxes are restricted to 4 players only for physical distancing.
- Parents are not permitted in the area where skaters put their skates on unless player/skater is too young and requires assistance to tie skates.

- All on ice participants are strongly recommended to wear full lexan/acrylic face shield (e.g. Bauer full face shield).
- Water bottles are never to be shared between participants. Each participant is to bring their own water bottle.
- No body contact will be permitted on or off the ice (i.e. includes hand shaking, body contact etc.).
- **No spitting, snorting or releasing of any body fluids on the ice or players bench or ice surface. This could result in immediate ejection or removal.**
- Each group will be expected to leave within 20 minutes after their program time has ended. On their way out, they will be asked to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer provided. The Town Ambassador will unlock the door and allow them to leave.
- Staff will clean/sanitize the bench areas and all major touch points between groups.
- Lobby washrooms will be open to parents and spectators (maximum 2 people at a time).

Renting Ice Protocols

- Only coaches currently registered (would be from 2019/20 season) with an association (minor hockey which includes Halton Hills Minor Hockey, North Halton Girls-Twisters, Halton Hurricanes, and Georgetown Raiders) or individuals who have completed the Hockey Canada (OHF) validation certification program will be permitted to book ice. This program is approved by the Government for instructors and coaches. This is the only way they will be covered under Hockey Canada insurance (Hockey Canada general liability insurance coverage includes communicable diseases). The hockey group/organization must provide to the Town a Return to Play Protocol document.
- Coaches must have ice booked through their association unless they can provide a copy of the HC/OHF validation certificate and a copy of HC insurance.
- Hockey Canada and Ontario Hockey Federation will have a database/website where any coaches or instructors who have this validation will be listed.
- When booking ice, the user will be asked for copies of both certificates before any ice will be permitted to the user. They must provide this to the Town. For Associations, they must provide this certificate and copy of insurance as well as a list of approved registered coaches.
- If a regular seasons user or instructional company (hockey skills or skating skills) want to rent ice, when they sign the permit they are acknowledging and understanding the conditions and risks in which they and their participants will occur, the risk of contracting COVID-19 by participating, and the fact they have no participant insurance covering COVID-19 or any other infectious or communicable diseases. They must have their participants (every participant/parent) sign a waiver so they acknowledge the risks they are undertaking by participating. The permit holder must also provide a Return to Play Protocol document which would include waivers being signed by participant/parent being part of this.

- If a private individual wants to rent ice, when they sign the permit they are acknowledging and understanding the conditions and risks in which they and their participants will occur, the risk of contracting COVID-19 by participating, and the fact they have no participant insurance covering COVID-19 or any other infectious or communicable diseases.
- For Skating Clubs, all ice must be booked through skating club (Acton or Georgetown). Skating club is responsible to ensure they have the appropriate insurance and that all members are registered and have signed Skate Canada waivers.
- Skating Coaches who wish to rent ice must be registered with Acton or Georgetown Skate Club. Both Clubs will need to provide a list of registered coaches to the Town. Waivers must be acknowledged and signed.

Closure of Programs/Items/Equipment until further notice

- Showers will remain closed and off limits
- No Figure skating pick-up ice
- No pick up shinny
- No parent & tot programs
- No skate or helmet rentals
- No discount ice
- No off ice warm-ups within the building
- Rink dividers are off limits and not to be used.
- Skate harness is off limits and not to be used.
- Only nets placed on ice by Town staff to be used.
- Concessions will remain closed.
- All vending machines will be closed and roped off.

Cleaning Protocols

- Town staff will maintain cleaning and sanitization in all high use areas (washrooms, lobbies, entrances, benches).
- Start times between rentals will be staggered so that a thorough cleaning of player benches and benches where players get ready can be completed.
- All lobby tables and chairs will be put into storage to reduce touch points.
- Town staff will have PPE so don't be alarmed if you see some staff wearing face masks, gloves, protective gowns, etc.
- We have installed acrylic security screens at various staff locations for staff safety as well as your own safety.

September (to Stage 3)

- At this time, the only difference we see between Stage 2 and Stage 3 for ice rinks is the permitted use of change rooms but with physical distancing in place, more participants on ice but occupancy to match available change room space (maximum 10) and player bench space (maximum 4). Possibly some spectator seating but again with physical distancing in place.
- Occupancy numbers to building, rental areas and spaces will still be limited (maximum numbers will be assigned by the Town).
- Physical distancing will still be in place.
- Stage 3 may permit modified game play such as non-contact scrimmages in a 3 on 3 or 4 on 4 set up. (This may occur in September). Absolutely no body contact or touching.
- In all spectating areas, the number of people entering and sitting will be reduced so that Physical Distancing can be maintained. (E.g. seats being roped or bagged off for occupancy, control markings on the floor).
- If change rooms are open, there will be a limit of 10 people maximum (for TransCanada, Saputo and McKnight) depending on the size of the change room (Townsley and Fernbrook less). There will be assigned spots for each player to maintain Physical Distancing. Change room showers will be closed and water shut off due to physical distancing. Change room doors will remain open at all times. Ratio of 2 coaches, 8 players if room space allows for supervision. These numbers will determine the number of participants permitted on the ice surface.
- Rentals will be one hour with a half hour in between to allow time for people to leave building, staff to clean and disinfect and the next renter to enter facility. (E.g. Rental at 9 am to 10 am. Coaches and players can arrive at 8:45 am. Rental ends at 10 am group has until 10:15 to vacate building. Next group enters building at 10:15 am. Staff clean and resurfaces ice. Rental goes on ice at 10:30 am. This schedule continues.
- As more change rooms will be required to allow for physical distancing, this will have an impact with time spacing required between rentals for safety and disinfecting purposes.