



IMPORTANT COVID-19 UPDATE – January 14, 2021

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

On January 12, 2021, the Government of Ontario declared an Emergency under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* in response to the growing number of COVID-19 cases.

Effective Thursday, January 14 at 12:01 a.m., the Ontario Government has imposed a **stay-at-home order** under the same statute requiring Ontarians to remain at home, with exceptions for permitted purposes only.

It is anticipated that the stay-at home order will be in place until at least Thursday, February 11, 2021.

All OWHA (Ontario Women’s Hockey Association) in-person activities, both indoors and outdoors, are cancelled immediately.

The only exception is that a very small number of OWHA High Performance athletes are able to participate in some training. The only High Performance athletes within the OWHA are those who are recognized as potential players at the next Olympic or Paralympic Games. There are no other players or leagues recognized.

The Government of Ontario has provided authority to all enforcement and provincial offence officers, including the Ontario Provincial Police, local police forces, bylaw officers, and provincial workplace inspectors to issue tickets to individuals who do not comply with the stay-at-home-order. Those who do not abide by these orders will be subject to set fines and/or prosecution by the Government of Ontario.

We continue to work within the mandate of the Government of Ontario, the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture and to work with others in the sport community. We are reviewing the updated documents issued by the government related to the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020*.

OWHA had prepared an update to the OWHA Return to Hockey protocols and will be doing further revisions on these materials prior to posting, based on updated Government of Ontario rules and regulations. Once we have clarification on the parameters of the requirements, we will finalize our materials and advise our membership.

We remain committed to our players and participants as we work through the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. We thank our Members for their outstanding efforts in managing the programs in a safe and positive manner as we work together in the spirit of sport and life. We wish everyone good health and strength and want you to know that you have the support of the OWHA.

We thank you for your attention to this important information. Please direct any questions or comment to team@owha.on.ca.