
MANITOBA JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE RETURN TO PLAY GUIDELINES

VERSION 3.0



March 5 2021

MANITOBA JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE

www.mjhlhockey.ca

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MJHL RETURN TO PLAY GUIDELINES

VERSION 3.0 – March 5 2021

Introduction

The Manitoba Junior Hockey League (MJHL) and its 12 member teams continue to closely monitor the situation in Manitoba as it relates to COVID-19. In early June 2020, Hockey Canada determined that the best approach for a return to hockey in Canada is to allow each member and organization the opportunity to work with health authorities in their respective province to determine when it is safe to return to hockey activities.

With Manitoba easing restrictions and allowing indoor sporting activities, the MJHL has prepared Return to Play (RTP) Guidelines to allow for a safe and responsible return to hockey.

Please Note:

The following guidelines are to allow the MJHL, member teams, facilities and stakeholders the ability to prepare for and concentrate on the necessary planning involved for the upcoming 2021/22 MJHL season.

The following guidelines have been prepared in accordance to the Hockey Canada Return to Hockey Safety Guidelines as they pertain to Junior Hockey.

The following guidelines have been prepared in accordance to the Hockey Manitoba Return to Hockey Safety Guidelines as they pertain to Junior Hockey.

The following guidelines have been prepared in accordance to the recommendations of the necessary provincial health authorities.

The following guidelines are an extension of the MJHL Return to Play – Phase I Guidelines which were successfully approved on June 26 2020.

The following guidelines are an extension of the approved MJHL Return to Play – Phase II Guidelines which were successfully implemented beginning September 18 2020.

The following guidelines framework how the MJHL and twelve member teams plan to return to full hockey for the 2021/22 season.

The following guidelines have been prepared in partnership with each MJHL facility.

The following guidelines framework how members of the public may attend games at each MJHL facility.

The objective of the MJHL Return to Play Guidelines is to demonstrate how the MJHL and its member teams plan to return to play games with spectators in a safe, structured and responsible manner in accordance with necessary health restrictions and facility guidelines.

As a result, the following clearly defined MJHL RTP guidelines have been recommended to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants, staff, stakeholders and fans - The health and safety for everyone involved is our number one priority.

About the Manitoba Junior Hockey League

The Manitoba Junior Hockey League (MJHL) is a Junior 'A' ice hockey league made up of twelve member teams operating exclusively in the province of Manitoba.

The goal of the MJHL is to develop elite players and ultimately have them develop into elite citizens who make a positive contribution to their community. To provide fans, communities and supporters with the best possible hockey product through dedication to improvement in all areas of the game both on and off the ice.

MISSION STATEMENT - To provide each MJHL player with an elite hockey development experience with a strong emphasis on education and positive citizenship. To deliver exciting Junior 'A' hockey action to fans throughout the province and enhance Manitoba communities in the spirit of sports excellence and goodwill.

2020 / 21 Season

The MJHL effectively demonstrated its ability to safely manage and operate while adhering to all Public Health Orders and comprehensive Return To Play Guidelines from July to November 12 2020. During this time, MJHL teams completed 24 Prospect / Training Camps, 500+ On and Off-Ice Training Sessions and 60+ Games safely and responsibly.

MJHL athletes, staff, organizations, facilities and the entire MJHL community are to be commended for their efforts as they meticulously followed and executed the strict and extensive MJHL RTP Guidelines that were put in place to ensure the safety of everyone involved - The MJHL Community were Return To Play leaders throughout the province of Manitoba and beyond.

Legal Disclaimer

The information contained in this document is not intended as a substitute for professional medical prognosis, recommendations, or treatment. The Manitoba Junior Hockey League makes no representation and assumes no responsibility regarding the information concerning COVID – 19 due to the constant updates, and any information on COVID – 19 should be obtained from the Provincial Health Authority.

MJHL Return to Play – Update Summary

Section	Change
Preparing MJHL Teams to Return to Team Activities	New Public Health Orders announced March 2, 2021. Effective March 5, 2021 at 12:01 a.m.
Facility Protocols	Limited to 25% total facility capacity.
The Playing Surface - Team Activities – Indoor Facilities	On-ice practices, drills, and scrimmages are permitted indoors for groups of up to 10 players (excluding coaches and instructors). A maximum of two groups of up to 10 players per group on the ice at one time. Each group must take reasonable measures to ensure that there is no interaction between different groups participating at the same time.
Face Masks	Players / Staff / Officials are required to wear face masks at all times including while on the ice and on the bench.
Spectators	Limited to 25% of the usual capacity. Required to wear face masks at all times while inside the facility.
Dressing Rooms	Limited to 50% of usual capacity or at least two metres separation, whichever is less.
Off-Ice Training	Off-ice training is permitted at 25% facility capacity. Face masks must be worn in the facility at all times.

The MJHL has removed certain information from previous version of our Return to Play Guidelines based on relevancy and current Manitoba Public Health Orders.

MJHL Return to Play Guidelines – Return to Team Activities

Players, coaches, managers, training staff, gameday staff, volunteers and medical personnel employed by, affiliated with or invited by a MJHL team or the MJHL may attend facilities for the purposes of off-ice training activity, on-ice training activity, drills and scrimmages.

On Tuesday March 2, 2021, the Manitoba Government announced changes to the Public Health Orders loosening restrictions while ensuring protocols are in place to protect Manitobans from the risks of COVID-19. The orders will take effect Friday March 5, 2021 at 12:01 a.m.

The public health orders include the following changes, with further pandemic safety measures in place:

Indoor sporting facilities including rinks can reopen for practices, drills and scrimmages - No organized team games or tournaments are permitted.

Indoor sporting facilities and fitness centres can reopen at 25 percent capacity.

Any group participating in a sporting activity must not exceed 10 persons excluding coaches.

Dressing rooms are limited to 50% of usual capacity or two metres separation, whichever is less.

MJHL facility operators will be required to implement measures to ensure non-participating members of the public attending the facility maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from other members of the public outside of their household, except for brief exchanges.

All necessary public health authority guidelines and facility COVID-19 safety protocols will be strictly followed.

All travel restrictions and guidelines as outlined by the provincial and federal health authorities will be followed.

FACILITY OPERATIONS GUIDELINES

All MJHL facilities are required to comply fully with all current Public Health Orders as outlined by provincial public health authorities. In addition, the following guidelines are to be implemented by the MJHL:

Seating Capacity

The MJHL objective is to maximize seating capacity for members of the public attending MJHL games while respecting all necessary health and safety guidelines as they relate to COVID-19.

March 5 2020 - Indoor sporting facilities and fitness centres can reopen at 25 percent of the usual capacity.

Members of the public attending games

Members of the same household would not be required to physically distance themselves from each other when attending an MJHL facility.

Occupants in the facility (fans attending the games, etc) will be required to physically distance themselves from members outside of their household, except for brief exchanges.

Facility operators must implement measures to ensure that members of the public attending the facility maintain separation of at least two metres except for brief exchanges from other members of the public.

Members of the public will be reminded to stay home if they are feeling unwell, even if their symptoms are mild.

Members of the public are required to wear face masks at all times while in the facility.

Patrons at higher risk of serious illness will be reminded to consider waiting before returning to these facilities.

Gameday staff will monitor and direct spectator traffic in and out of seating area during games and intermissions.

Gameday staff are required to wear face masks during games.

Spectators should remain in their designated seat for the entire game except for moving directly to a washroom, concession or exit.

Spectators in the facility are required to maintain necessary physical distancing when they enter the facility, during the game, and when they exit the building.

Spectators on the concourse should be moving except when at concessions, washrooms or exiting. Spectators should remain in their seats during intermissions, except for moving directly to a washroom, concession or when exiting the facility.

Facility Safety Precautions

Each facility must establish a plan for how to minimize physical contact and the risk of COVID-19 transmission between members of the public.

Each entry and exit point to be managed to maintain physical distancing and ensure staff are present to control access.

Screening and Tracing measures are required for all spectators attending games (name and number to be recorded) - This can be done manually and/or electronically.

Measures to be established to avoid groups congregating at entry for start/end times.

Congregation will be monitored and discouraged at all times within the facility (bathrooms, concessions, lobbies, concourse, etc).

Contactless forms of payment to be utilized as much as possible.

Patrons may be screened for symptoms and exposures and will be reminded to use online screening tool before entering an MJHL facility.

Staff must be present at all entry and exit points to the facility, as well as within the facility, to monitor use and capacity - One entrance and exit point to be used where possible.

All gameday staff and volunteers to be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 or exposures prior to allowing entry into the facility - Staff and volunteers are required to wear face masks.

Signage to be placed at the entrance and throughout the facility to remind patrons, staff, volunteers, officials, etc of physical distancing measures, hand hygiene, and cough etiquette.

Hand sanitizer/hygiene stations to be made available at all entries and exits, washrooms, concessions and

strategically throughout the facility.

Washrooms must have frequent cleaning and sanitization and a regime for business sanitization in place. General guidance on physical distancing and disinfection/cleaning measures after each on-ice session (practice/game) must be followed.

Teams/facility to establish process to monitor capacity and physical distancing.

Arrow decals on the floor to direct spectator movement with one-way traffic movement where feasible.

Regular cleaning must occur in high touch areas (railings, door handles, elevators, counters, etc.)

Facilities must ensure all cleaning and sanitizing guidelines established by health authorities and the MJHL RTP guidelines are implemented – before, during and following each event.

Parking

Players and staff parking to be located as close as possible to the team building entrance.

Visiting Team bus to be parked and unloaded as close as possible to the team building entrance.

Spectator parking to follow necessary physical distancing guidelines.

Suites

Only spectators with tickets for a specific suite will be permitted in a suite.

All suites will be provided with a hand sanitize and / or wipe station.

Food and beverage can be delivered to suites - Buffet style food service will not be permitted.

In-Arena Team Stores

The number of people allowed inside the team store to be limited based on physical distancing guidelines.

Stanchions and/or spacing markers placed both inside and outside of stores if necessary to maintain physical distancing.

Public Address Announcements and Signage

Signage to be located throughout building outlining spectator movement and behavior where necessary.

Public address announcements outlining spectator requirements will occur frequently during the game. Video

Board messaging outlining spectator requirements will occur frequently during every game at each facility.

Promotions

Autograph sessions with players and team personnel will not be permitted. Promotional items should not be tossed into the seating area or presented to fans. Intermission activities to follow physical distancing and safety rules.

Ceremonial puck drops to follow physical distancing and safety rules. Opening ceremony presentations to be limited for physical distancing. Anthem singer to follow physical distancing and safety rules.

In-stand Announcers and game crews to maintain physical distancing.

Media / Broadcasting Areas

Access to the press box will be strictly enforced

Press Box seating will be based on physical distancing guidelines. Plexiglass cubicles may be built to accommodate physical separation

HOCKEY OPERATIONS GUIDELINES

All MJHL Team personnel (players and staff), on-ice and off-ice officials and MJHL facility management are required to comply fully with all Public Health Orders and facility health and safety regulations. In addition, the following hockey operations guidelines are to be implemented by the MJHL:

March 5 2020 - Indoor sporting facilities including rinks can reopen for practices, drills and scrimmages - No organized team games or tournaments are permitted.

On-ice practices, drills, and scrimmages are permitted for groups of up to 10 players (excluding coaches and instructors) - A maximum of two groups of up to 10 players per group on the ice at one time.

Each group must take reasonable measures to ensure that there is no interaction between different groups participating at the same time.

Players / Staff / Officials are required to wear face masks at all times including while on the ice and on the bench.

Dressing rooms are limited to 50% of usual capacity or two metres separation, whichever is less.

Health Precautions

Players and staff must use screening posters or self-screening tool before reporting each day when feeling ill, and should stay home when ill.

Players and staff are not allowed to participate if they are ill with COVID-19 symptoms.

Players and staff displaying any illness symptoms are not allowed to participate.

Players and staff who have been in contact with anyone who is sick or not feeling well should not participate.

Players and staff to be given information regarding best practices for social distancing.

Players and staff will be required to read and understand the MJHL RTP Guidelines before participating in games.

Players and staff to practice social distancing on and off the ice as much as possible.

Practice Protocols

Teams are to continue to offer virtual instruction or training if and when possible.

Players and staff should stagger entering and leaving the ice surface from the dressing room.

Players and coaches to observe physical distancing recommendations while on the ice as much as possible.

Only properly registered coaches are permitted on the ice.

Coaches will minimize chalk talk sessions or time at the board where athletes are required to congregate.

Coaches will minimize talking to athletes in close proximity when possible.

Coaches are to utilize station based skill development practice plans and have players/coaches spread out to maintain physical distancing as much as possible.

Avoid drills that require players to stand in line or in groups for a long period of time.

When using the full ice, coaches will utilize flow drills as much as possible that allow for maximum spacing for athletes on the ice.

Avoid the use of contact or battle drills that do not allow for physical distancing except for brief exchanges.

Coaches are recommended to utilize the Hockey Canada COVID - 19 safe drills and practice plans available on the Hockey Canada Network App.

Game Protocols

It will be the responsibility of everyone involved to reduce and discourage extended contact along with the amount of time spent in close proximity to others during games.

Coaches will be required to discourage extended contact on the ice by their players as much as possible. Officials will be mandated to help reduce the amount of time players spend in close proximity by quickly blowing the whistle if the puck is not moving with several players engaged.

Examples include puck battles with multiple players pinned along the boards and rebounds with multiple players battling in front of the net, etc.

As soon as an official blows the whistle, all players will be required to separate and distance themselves immediately.

Players and officials are to remain distanced as much as possible at the top, bottom or to the side of the face-off circle until the referee blows the whistle and then move in to the appropriate positions for the puck drop.

All participants are to avoid handshakes, fist bumps, hugs or physical contact.

All participants are to avoid pre and post-game huddles along with goal celebrations that involve extended physical contact.

The MJHL will conduct meetings with all coaches, players and officials before the start of the regular season to stress the importance of the above points relating to game protocols.

Communications Officer

Positive and open communication will be an important part of returning safely to games this season. It is important to the MJHL to ensure that all involved understand what controls and guidelines are in place. This information will be passed along to administrators, officials, team staff, volunteers, parents, players and MJHL facilities in advance of the season to ensure the return to hockey is enjoyable and safe. The MJHL and each MJHL team will assign a communications officer who will be responsible to communicate and oversee the necessary health and safety protocols.

Responsibilities to include:

Monitoring all relevant Public Health Order updates.

Monitoring all relevant updates from the member teams.

Communicating with local facilities on guidelines and updates.

Ensuring teams, players and staff are following the MJHL Return to Play guidelines and current Public Health Orders to the best of their abilities.

Ensuring any COVID-19 cases are reported immediately once identified by public health.

The MJHL communications officer to be in contact with the member team communications officer on a regular basis to assist in facilitating updates.

Dressing Rooms & Other Areas

Dressing rooms should be cleaned and sanitized (all surfaces and fitness equipment) before after each use.

Equipment must be cleaned frequently - Team / Facility Staff to ensure this is being done properly.

Individuals may not share equipment of any kind (sticks, apparel, water bottles, towels, etc). Individuals may not share clothing, soap, shampoo or other personal items such as razors and towels. Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes to be available as players enter and leave.

Disinfectant spray or wipes to be available for participants to disinfect high contact surfaces before and after use including showers.

Enhanced and frequent cleaning and disinfection of locker rooms to be conducted.

Media interviews should be conducted outside the dressing room in a dedicated area with proper physical-distancing procedures.

Access to the dressing room to be strictly monitored – Only team personnel, on-ice officials, medical staff and essential facility staff should have access.

Teams will be encouraged to limit the use of dressing room area. Signs are to be posted indicating physical distancing guidelines.

Jerseys/socks/clothing will be washed after each training/practice session. Common use items to be removed from locker rooms.

Teams will be encouraged to identify warm up / cool down areas within their home facility for visiting teams players and staff to ensure separation as much as possible.

Home teams will be encouraged to work with their facility to ensure visiting teams are provided with extra dressing room and shower space where possible.

Home teams will be encouraged to work with their facility to ensure visiting teams dressing rooms have had

enhanced cleaning and disinfection conducted at minimum two hours before game time.
Visiting teams should arrive at the facility no earlier than 1.5 hours before game time.

Medical Rooms

Physical distancing to be used to determine number of players in the medical room at one time. Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes to be made available as players enter and leave.
Medical rooms/tables will be disinfected between player treatments.

Coaching Staff

Be familiar with applicable current Public Health Orders and adhere to them.
Review the MJHL Return to Play Guidelines and Hockey Canada Return to Hockey Safety Guidelines.
Be familiar with facility guidelines and requirements specific to the prevention of COVID-19.
Host an initial meeting with parents/guardians/participants to review how programming will look and allow them to ask questions (can be done virtually if required).
If there are multiple entrances to the ice surface, split the players into groups and have them space appropriately to meet physical-distancing standards at each entrance.
Encourage participants to minimize their time in or around the facility.
Discourage extended contact on the ice by their players as much as possible.
Remind players and parents to follow physical-distancing guidelines and all public health orders when away from the facility.
Members of the coaching staff must maintain physical distancing with players whenever possible. Team meetings should be held in a controlled environment with physical distancing measures in place.

Players

Always respect and listen to team and facility staff as they create a safe environment. Be familiar with the MJHL RTP Guidelines
Be familiar with facility guidelines and requirements specific to the prevention of COVID-19. Minimize going in and out of doors, including dressing room doors.
Facility doors are considered high- risk touch-points. Use the elbow to open. Refrain from spitting at all times.
Absolutely no sharing of food or drinks.
Assist the coach in establishing required guidelines during hockey activities while on or off the ice.
Immediately separate on the ice anytime the whistle is blown during games.
Avoid contact with anyone who is sick.
Follow the instructions of your public health authority if you are notified that you have been in contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 - Notify the Head Coach and isolate immediately.
Be leaders in the community as it relates to COVID-19 prevention.

Trainers & Equipment Staff

Hands must be washed (gloved or ungloved) and gloves changed between each player contact.

Therapists & Medical Staff

Hands must be washed (gloved or ungloved) and gloves changed between each player contact.

On-Ice Officials

Personal towels only.
Hands to be washed prior to start of each period (officials can carry a small bottle of sanitizer with them on the ice).
To have personal hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes.
Teams to supply hand sanitizer in the penalty box and dressing room for officials to use.
Physical distancing is required in dressing rooms as much as possible.

Teams to work with facility staff to see if more rooms are available, as well marked space/stalls within the dressing rooms.

If the dressing room is small, a rotation system to be considered.

Only game officials should be in the dressing room – no visitors.

It is prohibited for officials to drink from water bottles belonging to skaters or goaltenders.

If officials require water during a game, they will have their own water bottle at the penalty bench. Referees should verbally greet coaches as they generally do, but are not to shake hands.

When reporting penalties, officials are not to speak through the hole in the glass – work from a distance. Are to maintain a two-meter distance from all coaches and off-ice officials.

Reduce the amount of time players spend in close proximity by quickly blowing the whistle if the puck is not moving with multiple players engaged.

Communicate to players to immediately separate once the whistle is blown.

Equipment should be washed (jerseys, pant shells, etc.) after each session, following manufacturer guidelines -

It is important that officials ensure equipment is kept clean.

Teams to work with the facility to ensure the dressing room can be cleaned and sanitized after each use.

Face covering to be worn during games as outlined in MJHL Officials Directive.

Off-Ice Officials

Penalty-box attendants are required to wear a mask inside the building.

Teams/Facility to supply Off-ice officials with hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes to wipe down and disinfect the score clock equipment/penalty bench prior to, during and after each game.

Handles to doors going to the ice are high-touch areas and proper hygiene and cleaning is important. Physical distancing must be practiced, and it is important to work with the facility to plan the best way to incorporate into the space being used.

If there are multiple off-ice officials in the time keepers box, they must be distanced or separated by a barrier unless they are from the same household.

Benches

Teams will work with facility staff to ensure the bench area is wiped down and disinfected before and after each session.

High touch areas should be wiped down and disinfected during each intermission.

For all on-ice activity including practices or games, bench capacity will be monitored to allow for social distancing as much as reasonably possible - Examples include adding another bench, limiting staff, etc.

Players are to have a labeled water bottle and are to use only that water bottle when participating in the activity.

Disposable gloves and disinfectant to be made available on benches for players and staff if necessary. Ensure a non-touch garbage can or plastic garbage bag is available on the bench.

It is recommended that the same person for the entire game open/close the gates.

On-Ice/Off-Ice Warm-Ups

Players and staff must have their own personal towel.

Players and staff must use their own water bottles (cleaned after each practice and game).

Additional towels and a laundry basket must be available (towels cleaned and replaced after each use). Players are to warm-up for training / practice sessions / games individually as opposed to in groups.

Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes to be made available.

Cleaning of jerseys, face shields and mouthguards must take place before and after every practice and game.

Spacing in areas where individuals congregate (e.g. line ups, spacing of players sitting on benches, and/or dressing rooms will be monitored and modified where applicable to ensure social distancing.

Team huddles of any kind, handshakes, hugs, high fives, etc to be eliminated.

Team Travel (Practice/Games)

Players and staff will be encouraged to travel separately to all practice sessions and home games when possible.

Players from the same household should drive together to practice sessions and home games. Carpooling is recommended to be kept to two people with each sitting in a different row and on opposite sides of the vehicle where possible.

If individuals choose to carpool together, they should not carpool with different individuals.

The interior of the carpooling vehicle should be disinfected frequently, especially high-touch areas like door handles, interior and exterior, steering wheels, dashboard controls, seat belts, etc.

Buses

The bus should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected professionally prior to each trip.

It is recommended that each team discuss with the bus company what their cleaning procedures are. Teams to discuss with the bus company the importance of following all public health guidelines.

If the team owns the bus, a cleaning log of who cleaned the bus and when to be kept.

Players and staff encouraged to wash their hands prior to boarding the bus.

Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes to be available as players board and disembark.

Players and staff encouraged to clean and disinfect their seat and surface area with provided disinfectant wipes after each stop and prior to each departure.

Players and staff encouraged to wash their hands as they disembark.

Players from the same household should always sit together when social distancing is not possible. Have non-touch waste disposals on the bus to discard used disinfectant wipes.

*Masks are mandatory for all players and staff at all times on the bus.

Teams should request increased air circulation on the bus.

Hotel Accommodations

Hotel stays will be extremely limited for teams for the upcoming season as much as possible.

Maximum of two players per room.

Players from the same household should always stay together when in a hotel.

Masks are mandatory for all players and staff while entering/exiting the hotel.

Teams to ask hotel to remove glasses in rooms and replace with plastic wrapped cups, and/or bring some. When booking hotels teams should ask the hotel what their cleaning rituals are and how they're managing physical distancing.

Teams should also ask the hotel if they're leaving rooms empty for a period of time after each guest has stayed there.

Upon check-in and daily, players/staff recommended to wipe down the following with disinfectant wipes to disinfect all commonly touched surfaces such as doorknobs, light switches, taps, handles, remote controls, and other commonly touched surfaces.

Meals

Players and staff must wash hands before and after each meal. Players to be reminded to disinfect their phones regularly.

To go meals to be provided when possible/applicable.

Restaurant should have a private room and dedicated person to serve meals to players and staff. Buffet-style food services should not be permitted.

Beverages should be single-serve and not jug-style service. Players and staff are not to share food or drink at any time.

Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes to be made available as players enter and leave. Masks are mandatory for players and staff while entering/exiting the restaurant.

Follow all current public health orders regarding restaurants.

PROTOCOL FOR SYPTOMS OF COVID-19

Should any individual who exhibits symptoms such as a cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat, and has a suspected case of COVID-19, the individual must adhere to the following protocol:

Notify the Head Coach or a Team Medical Staff member immediately; The individual will be instructed to be isolated immediately;

The individual must contact the local health authority to determine if a COVID-19 test is required;

If a test is required, the individual must remain in isolation until a negative test result is received and/or a minimum period of 14 days;

If the test result is negative, but symptoms continue, the individual will remain isolated until such time they are symptom-free for 24 hours.

*Anytime an individual is tested, for any reason, that individual is required to self-isolate until a negative result is received and they are symptom-free for 24 hours.

Should a player or staff member test positive for COVID-19, the individual must adhere to the following protocol:

Individuals identified as having COVID-19 or a close contact of someone with COVID-19 must remain and/or immediately enter into self-isolation (quarantine) until public health officials advise they can end isolation/ self-isolation (quarantine).

Upon notification by public health of a positive test, the individual must notify the Head Coach or a Team Staff member immediately;

The Head Coach or General Manager must notify the MJHL Office immediately of the positive test;

If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, Public Health will be in contact with the individual/team to begin contact tracing and will advise them daily.

Household members or close contacts of a person or persons with COVID-19 must immediately go into mandatory self-isolation (quarantine) for 14 days from the last date of exposure and call Health Links--Info Santé (204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257) if they develop symptoms.

The Individual, Team and the MJHL Office will cooperate fully with public health authorities while they perform case management and contact tracing.

The Individual, Team and MJHL Office will follow any other additional prevention and control measures as required by public health.

The Team and Facility management will ensure all areas of the facility, where the infected individual has been, are disinfected in accordance to the procedures and protocols provided by the health officials.

The individual will remain in isolation for a period of 14 days or as advised by public health.

Additional Safety Measures

Players and staff will be leaders in practicing physical distancing off the ice.

The Head Coach of each member club will have the responsibility of monitoring player and staff compliance while at the facility as outlined in the MJHL RTP Guidelines and current Public Health Orders.

Any violation may result in the player or staff member being subject to team and / or league discipline.

The MJHL League Office will make presentations to all member teams before the start of the MJHL regular season.

Every MJHL team, staff, player and facility will be provided with the MJHL RTP Guidelines for review before September.

Every player will be required to read and sign the MJHL Player Disclosure Form.

Every team will be required to read and sign the MJHL Team Disclosure Form.

Every facility will be required read and sign the MJHL Facility Disclosure Form.

Insurance

Under Hockey Canada's current General Liability policy, the following is the definition for 'bodily injury': "Bodily Injury" means bodily injury, sickness, disease, mental injury, mental anguish or nervous shock sustained by a person, including death resulting from any of these at any time. As it relates to COVID-19, that would fall within the definition – more specifically, under disease.

Liability claims against Hockey Canada always need to be proven by the third party, so continuing to update and enforce risk management guidelines as new risks emerge, such as COVID-19, are imperative.

Understand that Hockey Canada and its Members are actively working on updating risk-management protocols related to Return to Hockey guidelines post-COVID-19. As with all claim scenarios, the insurance company would investigate all claims presented against any Member of Hockey Canada that falls within the 'bodily injury' definition and would confirm coverage based on the framing of the allegations. It will also be important to review new municipal rink/private rink facility contracts post-COVID-19 for all rentals; in all likelihood, they will now contain a new clause which absolves the municipality/private facility owners of any liability related to COVID-19.

New lease agreements will need to be carefully scrutinized given that organizations will potentially have little control over cleaning/sanitizing of rented premises and shouldn't be expected to take on all liability related to COVID-19 in these facilities.

Finally, it should be noted that many insurance companies are implementing Communicable Disease/COVID-19 exclusions on all policies either immediately, or upon renewal. Hockey Canada can advise that AIG, who is Hockey Canada's primary General Liability insurer, has agreed to waive this exclusion in the General Liability policy until Sept. 1, 2023.

New Health Regulations and Directives

The MJHL and member teams will continue to monitor any new orders and directives introduced by Provincial Health Authorities, Hockey Canada and Sport Manitoba and, if applicable, will be incorporated into the MJHL Return to Play Guidelines.

Conclusion

These uncertain times have necessitated specific measures to allow us to return to the sport we love. We fundamentally believe the MJHL RTP guidelines, if adhered to, put the MJHL, its Member Teams and everyone involved in the best position to return to and enjoy hockey in a safe and healthy manner.

As information regarding COVID – 19 virus changes, our RTP Guidelines will remain fluid and flexible to accommodate the necessary response to advice from the Provincial Health Authorities as outlined in current Public Health Orders.

The MJHL recognizes that all Orders under The Public Health Act super cede the MJHL Return to Play Guidelines - All current Public Health Orders will be adhered to.

Together, we can return to this amazing sport and do so in an environment that is as safeguarded as possible.