Letter to Coaches and Parents;

As Ontario continues to reopen various facets of our regular life, we are fortunate that hockey is one of those things.

Hockey Canada, and by extension, Ontario Minor Hockey Association, have safety foremost in mind. All levels of hockey have been engaged in dialog to promote a framework to leagues and clubs, that keeps safety and fun in mind.

To be clear, hockey this year is not going to look like the “normal” hockey that we know. We hope, however, that it will promote skill building and fun.

**What’s new?**

Physical precautions:

1. New screening process in place
   1. Each time that you go to the arena for a practice or game, each player must complete a health checklist. This is provided to us by OWHA/OMHA. A player “passes” this test – by indicating that they are healthy and have not been in situations of possible exposure.
2. Entry/exit process at each facility, determined, outlined, and enforced by the facility.
   1. Information will be posted near the entrance of each facility.
3. Contact tracing information collection at each facility.
   1. Collection forms will collect the name and phone number of each person that comes in to the facility.
4. Limited spectators at games.
   1. In order to keep numbers within the limit of 50 as per regulations set forth by the Provincial/Municipal governments and Public Health, we will limit the number of people who attend games. We ask that 1 person only, come to watch their respective player.
   2. Physical distancing between spectators will be governed by the facility.
5. Fewer people on the ice.
   1. OMHA has capped teams at 10 – generally 9 players, and 1 goalie. This limits exposure by limiting team size.
   2. OMHA has designated only 1 coach and 1 trainer per team for games.
   3. OWHA has not defined a cap on team size yet, but it is expected to be lower than normal. Expectation is that a maximum of 30 people, including staff, will be permitted on the ice at a time.
6. Face masks will be worn:
   1. By all spectators (per Ontario public spaces guidelines)
   2. By coaches and trainers when physical distancing is not possible
   3. By players while they are dressing, and when 1M physical distance is not possible (does not include while playing – though players are permitted to use a mask while playing if they wish)
7. Physical distancing will be enforced on the benches and players will come to the facility wearing as much equipment as is practical, in order to limit their time in the changeroom before practices and games.
8. Only team staff and players will be permitted in the changeroom. Access to the changeroom will be monitored by team staff. Younger players who require assistance will receive assistance from team staff, or representative guardians at the discretion of the team staff.

Hygiene precautions:

1. High-touch surfaces such as changeroom benches, doors, etc… will be disinfected frequently by the facility management.
2. Players will keep masks and alcohol-based sanitizer with them in their bags, and use frequently.
3. Player equipment – including sticks and pucks – should be washed and sanitized after every use.
4. Players are to bring their own water bottle. There will be NO sharing of water bottles under any circumstances.

League rules/definitions:

1. OMHA will enforce “bubbles” of no more than 50 players. Because teams are maximum 10 players, this means that there may be 5 teams in a bubble.
   1. This design limits exposure to only 40 other players for the duration of the season.
   2. There will be no games outside of the bubble – tournaments, exhibition games, etc. are strictly prohibited.
   3. Some centres will have enough players of a given age level within their organization to have a bubble of their own (i.e. close to 5 teams), while other centres will be mated with adjacent small centres to create a bubble.
   4. Bubbles are expected to be defined by WOAA before the beginning of play – in October.
   5. Teams are sometimes referred to as “cohorts.”
2. OWHA will enforce “groups” of no more than 50 players.
   1. OWHA has not defined team size, but it may be defined by the maximum of 30 people including staff, on the ice at once.
   2. There will be no games at the beginning of the hockey season – but OWHA reserves the right to change this at any time. Games are likely to be limited to other teams within the group. Tournaments, exhibition games, etc. are likely to be prohibited.
   3. Groups are likely to be defined if/when play is allowed.

Procedures if someone becomes sick as per OHF regulations:

1. If a player feels ill at the facility:
   1. They will **put on a mask, and leave the practice or game immediately**.
   2. Anyone working with the player will wear a mask, and take sanitary precautions.
   3. Their parent or guardian will take them home where they will isolate until they **contact their physician AND the local health authority**.
   4. An incident report will be filled out by the trainer and filed with the facility.
   5. The participant will require a doctor’s (MD) note in order to return to activity.
2. If a player indicates that they are not feeling well, and will not attend:
   1. Player is advised to **contact their physician**.
   2. If they have suspected or confirmed COVID-19, they should not return to hockey until all medical steps have been taken.
   3. They will require a note from their physician or public health authority in order to return to activity.
3. If a player advises that they have symptoms of COVID-19 and will not be attending:
   1. Player is advised to **contact their physician AND the local health authority**.
   2. If they have suspected or confirmed COVID-19, they should not return to hockey until all medical steps have been taken.
   3. They will require a note from their physician or public health authority in order to return to activity.

Rules of the game:

Appendix F is taken directly from the OHF Return to Hockey Framework found at: <https://www.ohf.on.ca/media/tukpds4s/ohf-return-to-hockey_0731.pdf>