



Dear TEAM Pittsburgh Dek Hockey Family,

In preparation of opening for our 2021 Spring In-House and travel seasons, we would like to outline the policies and procedures that were put in place until further notice.

### **Facility**

- Please adhere to all facility signs and markings including new entrance and exit signs & procedures
- Please no congregating before or after games or practices
- Please follow all CDC 6 foot Social Distancing Guidelines on bleachers, around the boards, and throughout the facility
- High touch equipment will be cleaned regularly
- "Sneeze shields" have been installed at all possible locations where there is employee/customer interaction
- Hand sanitizing stations will be made available throughout the facility
- Masks and gloves will be worn by concession workers
- Coaches will be required to wear a cloth facemask while coaching on the bench. Failure to comply will result in removal from the bench
- We will be intensifying cleaning and disinfection within our facility from our administration
- We have purchased numerous new spray bottles and disinfectant solutions. These will be used to disinfect all surfaces and equipment around the rink, including the following:
  - Benches
  - Door handles
  - Counters
  - Bathrooms
  - Hockey Balls
  - Scorekeepers table and equipment

### **Players**

- Athletes are asked to wear face coverings during play unless they meet an exception in Governor Tom Wolf's face covering order. Section 3 of the order states:

The Order provides an exception that allows an individual to remove their mask if wearing a face covering would either cause a medical condition, or exacerbate an existing one, including respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition or a disability. The Order indicates all alternatives to wearing a face covering, including the use of a face shield, should be exhausted before an individual is excepted from this Order.

Using football as an example, wearing a mask in addition to a mouth guard and a helmet would likely create a medical issue for the athlete whether the athlete is a professional or youth player even if a previous medical issue was not present. For example, the CDC says that "wearing a mask with these types of protective equipment is not safe if it makes it hard to breathe."

Therefore, if players are using a mouthguard during play, they will be permitted to remove their face covering, however if a mouthguard is not used, a face covering will be required.

- Come dressed and ready to go out on to the dek
- Only arrive 15 minutes prior to start time and leave the facility no more than 10 minutes after exiting the dek
- If you are sick, please stay at home
- Players will enter the dek at the door by the concession stand and exit the door by the benches.
- Follow social distancing guidelines on team benches and refrain from spitting, hugging, and shaking hands. Players will be reminded to cough and sneeze into elbow
- It is highly recommended that players wash their hands or use hand sanitizer immediately after practice
- Players need to have their own water bottles with their name on them. Water bottles WILL NOT be provided by coaches
- Players will be required to leave gloves and helmets on while on the bench or on the dek
- There will be no handshakes after the game. To maintain our high sportsmanship standards, each team will line up on their respective yellow line and salute the other team with their stick in the air.
- After the salute, the team closest to the exit door will leave first and the other team will follow.
- Players can then choose to proceed directly to their cars or join coaches for post-game conversation
- Coaches will use the bleachers to the right and left of the player benches for post-game conversations. There will be no gathering near the concession stands for these conversations
- Please double check your hockey bags; we will no longer be loaning out equipment if you forget something
- Chipmunk goalie equipment will be limited to the leg pads and chest protector. Kids will be required to wear their own hockey gloves and helmet. Coaches will disinfect the leg pads and chest protector after each game

## **Parents**

- It is recommended that you make any concession or pro shop purchases while your child is playing to limit crowds in this area. If you do purchase after your game, please wait until the teams playing in the next game have entered the dek.
- Adhere to 6 foot social distancing guidelines in the bleachers, around the boards, and throughout the facility
- Per Governor Tom Wolf's latest requirement of wearing masks outdoors when 6 feet social distancing is not consistently possible, all spectators and staff are required to wear masks when being within 6 feet of one another cannot be avoided.
- As a reminder, cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children younger than 2 years of age, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cover without assistance.
- If you are considered vulnerable or living with someone that is, we recommend that you stay at home
- Per CDC guidelines, anyone who is sick or has been in contact with someone who has COVID-19— including players, family members, coaches, staff, and spectators — should not attend practices or games. Be on the lookout for symptoms of COVID-19, which include

fever, cough, or shortness of breath. Call your doctor if you think you or a family member is sick.

- Per CDC guidelines, if someone does get sick during practice or at a game, we have plans in place to isolate and transport that person to their home or healthcare facility

You can also find more information about COVID-19 at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

Thank you,

**Jeff Johnstone**

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#### **Addendum 5/20/21**

##### **Current Policy Handed down by the state of Pennsylvania:**

People who are fully vaccinated are not required to wear a face covering when indicated in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [guidance for fully vaccinated people](#). This would include most outdoor settings except in certain crowded settings and venues.

In response to the new mask policy handed down from the state of Pennsylvania TEAM Pitt has put the following guidelines in place:

1. TEAM Pitt recommends that players (12 years of age and up), coaches, spectators, referees, and staff who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask when social distancing cannot be maintained. Policy is self-regulated.
2. In regard to players 11 and under, TEAM Pitt is following [Section 3 of the PA Masking Order](#), It is recommended that they wear a mask or mouthguard unless if doing so would either cause a medical condition, or exacerbate an existing one.