



Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut *COVID-19 Update following Provincial Announcement*

Date: September 4, 2021

From: Lisa Hardy, Executive Director Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut

Good afternoon, Clubs / Skating Schools, Coaches and Officials:

Additional restrictions announced earlier this week in municipalities and yesterday's Provincial announcement have resulted in several questions as to what requirements clubs and skating schools are currently required to follow.

Effective 8am Saturday September 4th masks are required to be worn in all public spaces and workplaces in the province.

Until specific details or updates are provided mask use pertaining to sports and fitness activities, Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Section will resort back to prior masking requirements for skaters and coaches:

- All individuals must wear a non-medical face mask within the facility when not on the ice. This includes common areas, restrooms, hallways, warm up areas, dressing rooms, etc.
 - Mask use is not required if:
 - The individual is under 2 years of age
 - The individual qualifies for a [medical exemption](#) (a medical exemption letter from an authorized health professional is required)
- Skaters are not required or recommended to wear a face mask while on the ice; they may choose to do so, however Public Health recommends that masks should NOT be worn when conducting intense physical activities
- It is strongly recommended that facemasks are worn by coaches on the ice surface when physical distancing is not feasible or when coaching Pre-CanSkate, CanSkate, and lower level STAR group programs

Please note: Municipalities and individual facilities may have different interpretations of the new mandate. It is the responsibility of the Member organization to consult with the municipality or facility and be aware of any other municipal and/ or facility-specific health and safety mandates.

Isolation & Quarantine

- [Isolation](#) is still a current requirement in Alberta if an individual has tested positive for COVID-19 or is sick with fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell, sore throat* or runny nose* and have not been tested.
 - *Children under 18 are exempt from mandatory isolation for runny nose or sore throat, but should stay home until well.*
- As of July 29, close contacts of positive cases are no longer required to quarantine. For more information, see [close contact or household contact of a confirmed case](#).

Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Section– it is strongly recommended that clubs/skating schools continue to implement 2 metres of physical distancing between participants and enhanced cleaning measures to reduce the risk of transmission with the relaxation of certain quarantine requirements.

International Travel

The Government of Canada has the following measures still in place for those returning to Canada from international travel (which includes travel from the United States). These federal measures apply to Alberta as well.

FULLY VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

- Must wear a well-constructed, well-fitting mask to minimize the risk of introducing or spreading COVID-19, if they are in a public setting for 14 days
Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Section: In this situation, skaters must wear masks at all times including during on-ice training. Consider low-intensity training during the 14 days as Public Health does not recommend mask wearing during high-intensity activity.
- Maintain a list of the names and contact information of each person with whom you came into close contact and the locations visited during that period
- Keep a copy of your COVID-19 pre-arrival and on-arrival test results and proof of vaccine

UNVACCINATED OR PARTIALLY VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

- Must quarantine for at least 14 days
- Quarantine will end after day 14 if they do not have symptoms and do not receive a positive test result from required tests.

OVER 12 YEARS OF AGE WITHOUT SYMPTOMS WHO ARE MEDICALLY EXEMPT FROM RECEIVING A COVID-19 VACCINATION

- Only enter public settings with a well-constructed, well-fitting mask to minimize the risk of introducing or spreading COVID-19 for 14 days.

UNVACCINATED CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS ARRIVING WITHOUT COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AND TRAVELLING WITH FULLY VACCINATED PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- Not allowed to attend school, camp or day care for 14 days
Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Section: skaters that fall under this category should not be participating in club/skating school programming during the time they are not permitted to attend school, camp or day care

Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 upon return to Canada is required isolate themselves from others immediately for a period of 14 days that begins from the time they took the test with positive results (i.e. date/time of specimen collection).



Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Section Mandatory Enhanced Measures

In addition to the Provincial and Federal requirements outlined above, the Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Section continues to require the following enhanced measures outlined in the Phase 3 protocols be followed at a minimum:

- **Compliance with Regulations** - This includes Federal, Provincial, Territorial, Municipal or facility-imposed regulations or protocols as they may exist from time to time
- **Contact Tracing** for all individuals at ice level which includes all skaters, coaches, officials, and volunteers (spectator contact tracing is not a current requirement)
- **Signed Waivers and Risk of Assumption** by all participants – This form must be kept current (annually) or completed prior to the start of participation in club or skating school activities
- **Health Screening** - Confirm that all attendees, including participants, parents, coaches, volunteers have screened themselves using the Alberta Health Daily Checklist for symptoms of COVID-19 before attending the facility or activity
- **Rapid Response Plan** - Club / Skating School continues to have a plan in place which includes a process to safely manage those who become symptomatic for COVID-19 while on-site, as well as procedures for reporting
- **First Aid/Emergencies** – COVID-19 protocols and procedures for First Aid/Emergencies are followed and appropriate PPE is available.

COVID-19 transmission is increasing, and hospital admissions are rising, largely in unvaccinated Albertans so we are encouraging all those that are eligible to get vaccinated. We are also **strongly encouraging clubs / skating schools to refer to and implement the best practices and guidelines provided in the July 1st [Phase 3 Section protocols](#)** to reduce the risk of transmission, as well as the risk of interruptions or cancellations in programming that could occur as a result of an outbreak.

Currently there are no requirements for participants to provide proof of vaccination to engage in club/skating school programming or any competitions, courses, workshops sanctioned or hosted by the Section. The requirement for proof of vaccination or negative testing is starting to appear in other jurisdictions and sectors and we will continue to monitor and communicate any changes or requirements as this matter evolves and we learn more.

Once again, we thank you for your understanding and patience while we worked on getting clarity on the new targeted measures. If you have any questions, please email returntoskating@skateabnwtun.ca.

Sincerely,

Lisa Hardy
Executive Director