



# RICHMOND JETS MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

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*Dear RJMHA Members,*

Happy New Year and welcome to 2022. We wanted to provide you with some information and helpful reminders, as we continue to keep kids playing hockey during these precarious times. As we move into 2022 our highest priority continues to be the safety and health of all members of the Jets organization.

### **Omicron Update:**

Thus far we have received indication from our governing bodies and leagues that we are moving forward with hockey activities (other than Tournaments) as we enter the new year. Therefore, we are currently still able to hold league games, practices and skills as per the safety protocols in place prior to the Christmas break. We know that there will be challenges given the prevalence of COVID-19 in all communities and we will need to be prepared to do things with some modifications for the safety of all participants. We can expect to be dealing with reduced rosters, rescheduled games/practices and extra precautions moving forward.

It is also important to continue to cooperate with city staff, be respectful, keep lobbies and hallways clear, and to use the designated entry points at all facilities and to have your vaccine passports and ID ready for scanning. Entering through side or back doors is not permitted at any time.

We have the following important recommendations to enhance safety as well as be nimble to allow for activity. Please continue to remind all players, parents, volunteers and coaches. Please note that all current safety protocols remain in place and can be found on the [RJMHA Website homepage](#).

### **Health Screening:**

Everyone needs to be responsible to continuously monitor for any sign of illness, even the slightest deviation from normal health should mean staying away from the rink and teammates

**DO NOT COME TO THE RINK IF YOU ARE SICK.** If you are experiencing **any one of the identified [Covid-related symptoms](#)**, please do not come to any scheduled programs or come to the rink as a spectator until they are all fully resolved.

Please let your team manager/safety know if your player is sick and keep them updated as required. For all situations please follow the [BCCDC guidelines](#) on when to get tested, but do not go to the rink when experiencing any symptoms.

- If any player, team volunteer or team staff member tests positive, please let your team manager know as soon as possible and they will work with our Risk Managers on the proper protocols to follow. **Please do not go to the rink.**
- Return to play following a positive test can only occur when both of the following conditions have been satisfied:

1. The required self-isolation period of time following the onset of symptoms has passed. The length of time will be determined based upon the vaccination status of the person impacted and in accordance with the [BCCDC requirements](#); and
2. All symptoms have resolved 100%.

**viaSport** has clarified that:

- Participants fully vaccinated may return to sport after five days isolation if free of symptoms.
- Participants not fully vaccinated must isolate for 10 days before returning to sport if free of symptoms.

**Dressing room and arrival times:** In order to limit interaction and contact with teammates, coaches and volunteers in closed spaces, we are recommending restricting dressing room time to essential needs only. U11 and under should plan to arrive at the rink mostly dressed no more than 15 minutes prior to events. U13 and up should limit arrival time to a maximum 20-30 minutes prior to your ice time. All groups should exit the arena as quickly as possible after activity. Players do have the option to arrive partially or fully dressed to reduce the amount of time in the room ahead of a practice, skill session or games, if they feel more comfortable, with the option to not use a dressing room.

**Affiliate Players:** It is recommended to limit the use of affiliate players to only essential situations to limit the chance of spread across multiple teams.

**Masks: Are required to be worn by all participants, coaches, volunteers and spectators at all times for those 5 years of age and older while in the facilities and especially in the change rooms until the players have helmets on and leave for the ice surface.** Coaches and team staff must wear masks on the benches except when they are on the ice for practices or skills. Coaches can choose to wear a mask on the ice and are encouraged to do so for the safety of themselves and the players and coaches. Masks must be worn properly when speaking - covering mouth and nose area and they are not to be pulled down to be heard more clearly. We ask coaches to have a mask on them during practices in the event they need to assist an injured player or speak in close proximity to any other coach, player, safety person or on-ice helper.

**Carpooling:** it is recommended at this time that you **do not** carpool. If you do have to engage in a carpool situation with members from outside of your immediate household, we ask that you follow every precaution possible including having all those in the vehicle wear a mask at all times and have a window down a bit if possible, to increase air flow throughout the vehicle.

**Spectators:** Only spectators who are **fully vaccinated** are permitted into the facilities. Please refer to [BCCDC Guidelines on vaccinations](#). At this stage we will follow existing policies at all our facilities. However, we recommend limiting gatherings of parents where possible, where you can please wait in the car for your child after practices or games, if players need assistance please send one parent only to help at the rink.

**Affiliate Players:** It is recommended to limit the use of affiliate players to only essential situations to limit the chance of spread across multiple teams.

**Travel:** Those who have recently traveled outside of Canada must follow all travel protocols and isolation mandates as per the **Government of Canada**.

The goal is to be able to carry on with COVID around us, not let a single case derail an entire team and minimize the number of people that will need to be isolated. These simple precautions which we have all dealt with at some point along the line will hopefully help us carry on safely, recognizing that there will be positive cases within the environments that we are participating in. The situation continues to be very fluid and as we receive updates from the PHO, ViaSport/BC Hockey, PCAHA and City of Richmond, protocols can be altered on short notice.

Please be patient and if we all work together and be flexible, we can keep the kids active and healthy and avoid a full shutdown

We thank everyone for your continued support.

**RJMHA Board of Directors**