

NHL Learn to Play COVID-19 Protocols – Requirements/Recommendations

August 1, 2020

General Considerations

The purpose of this document is to provide Protocols and Procedures for rink facilities that host NHL-branded Learn to Play (LTP) programs. The health of attendees (program guest/participants/parents), coaching personnel and facility employees is a top priority for the League, and these Protocols set the various preventative measures and mitigations that will hopefully serve to protect against the contraction of COVID-19.

State, local, and health authorities and ordinances must always be adhered to in all rink venues that host LTP programs. The site will ultimately be responsible for complying with these mandates, as well as ensuring diligence in updating their protocols due to revised guidance from State, Local and Health authorities.

The following areas must be considered when starting/restarting LTP programs branded by the NHL:

FACE PROTECTION:

- All Facility Employees must wear face masks/shields while working and/or in the building.
- Strongly recommended (if not mandated by State or Local Governments) that everyone entering the facility wear a face mask/shield.
 - All Players must wear face masks before and after their on-ice sessions.
 - Coaches should wear face masks/shields before and after their on-ice sessions and while on the ice when possible.

FACILITY STANDARDS:

- Adherence to CDC cleaning recommendations; EPA cleaning and disinfectant guidelines at a minimum baseline
- Additional suggestions on specialty technologies products and services like:
 - Electrostatic sprayers
 - Fogging/sanitizing machines
 - Drone sanitization technology
 - Portable UV-C lightboxes for room-sized applications

Ice Schedule Adjustments to allow cleaning procedures in between scheduled programs/ice rentals
Participants, Parents/Guardians, Coaches should be allowed into the facility 15mins before their session and must vacate the facility within 15mins after their session.

Hand Sanitization Stations around the facility where necessary and possible.

CDC approved health & hygiene signage reminders throughout the facility

All Employees should receive Covid-19 training and must follow cleaning procedures and wear masks/gloves when working.

Queuing: Any area where guests and/or employees should line up or move should be marked on the flooring where possible and adjust for appropriate physical distancing.

TEMPERATURE MONITORING:

- A recommendation to have a staff member monitor the temperature of every person that enters the facility.
 - Anyone with a temperature higher than CDC determined 100.4 degrees may not enter the facility.

DRESSING ROOM GUIDELINES:

- A strong recommendation is to have all LTP participants dress in their hockey gear before entering the facility.
- If Dressing Rooms need to be utilized:
 - Restricted numbers must be adhered to
 - Social distancing strongly encouraged
 - Sanitization procedures enforced before and after each room usage

POPULATION CONTROL:

- Only one parent/guardian should enter the facility with each participant
- The facility should be vacated before and after every on-ice session/ice rental to allow proper cleaning procedures

ON-ICE GUIDELINES:

- LTP participants on the ice should not exceed State and/or Local guidelines
 - If no guidelines, it is strongly recommended to have no more than six stations with a maximum of 6 players per station and 1-2 coaches

Stations should not rotate if possible and coach should change drills/games according to LTP practice plan

- If specific accessories are needed, groups can rotate stations and coaches rotate with their specified group

The curriculum should minimize contact between players and coaches during drills/games

Entering and leaving the ice surface should be done in a manner that minimizes player and coach contact when possible.

All shared equipment used during an LTP session should be adequately cleaned after each usage.

BENCH CONTROL:

- Use of the benches should be kept to a minimum
 - No parent/guardian allowed in the bench area unless requested to assist their child
 - If a bench is being utilized for any purpose, social distancing must be adhered to
 - Water bottles should not be left on the bench and stay with the parent/guardian
 - Rotate water breaks by each station group at a time, facilitated by their specified coach

LTP CURRICULUM:

- LTP curriculum should be adjusted according to standards set by State/Local governments as well as USAH.
- Drills and games should execute with minimal contact between players and coaches.

FOOD & BEVERAGE/CONCESSION AREAS:

- In facilities where applicable – Subject to State & Local health department mandates and guidelines

COMMUNICATION PROCESS:

- Every facility hosting NHL branded LTP programs should provide a detailed document with their protocols and procedures which must be approved by the NHL Club
- No LTP programs will start/restart without League approval and then approval by the Club
- Every facility manager and/or hockey director should communicate with the NHL Club staff if anyone employed by the facility or participating in the LTP program contract Covid-19.
 - Procedures at this point should adhere to CDC standards and State/Local guidelines

Center for Disease Control (CDC)

- Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/DIY-cloth-face-covering-instructions.pdf> Social Distancing, Quarantine and Isolation Guidelines <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>
- Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>
- Cleaning and Disinfecting your Facility <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

- Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19 <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>
- OSHA-NIOSH — Protecting Workers Who Use Cleaning Chemicals <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3512.pdf>
- OSHA — Protect Yourself: Cleaning Chemicals and Your Health https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA_3569.pdf

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- Frequent Questions about Disinfectants and Coronavirus (COVID-19) <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/frequent-questions-about-disinfectants-and-coronavirus-covid-19>