

COVID 19 update from Hockey Queensland

HQ recently joined a meeting with the Sport and Recreation department.

Please see the following information regarding the latest COVID 19 developments from that meeting.

- **Current restrictions**

- Both vaccinated and unvaccinated people can still participate in many sport, active recreation, and fitness activities including indoor and outdoor events - state-wide.
- Indoor venues, activities and events are required to operate in accordance with the COVID Safe Checklist for Restricted Businesses and comply with occupant density limits. Indoor events also have to comply with the mask mandate and collect contact details of attendees via the Check In QLD app.
- Organisations are able to self-impose additional restrictions for patrons and can decide to refuse entry to unvaccinated persons. If you are looking to self-impose restrictions relating to vaccination status, we would encourage to seek legal advice. The Fair Work Ombudsman has also released detailed advice for employers around mandating vaccinations.
- Settings in which vaccinations are required to enter include licensed areas forming part of indoor sport centres or club houses. Paid staff and volunteers working in this area are required to be vaccinated. An unvaccinated person is permitted to enter to purchase takeaway and utilise amenities if they are a patron at the facility.
- From 23 January 2022, mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations will be required for all people working or delivering a service at a school or early childhood education and care setting. This includes contractors, volunteers, regulators and auditors.

- **New definition of close contacts**

- You are considered a close contact if you are a household member or a household-like contact of a diagnosed person.
- The definition of a household-like contact is a person who has spent more than four hours with the diagnosed person in a house or other place of accommodation, care facility or similar. The quarantine period is 7 days from the date the diagnosed person took the initial test that returned a positive result.

- **Key messages**

- Organisations should be familiar with current restrictions and potential implications for their activities and be prepared to manage risks.
- It's important to develop communication to members highlighting key messages and practical steps being implemented to keep the community safe during this time. A key message we would like to highlight in communications to your affiliated clubs and members is that a condition of entry is to not have any COVID symptoms.
- Organisations should collect contact details of attendees to be able to inform them of any positive cases. Communicate to attendees that they notify the clubs or association of a positive test result to ensure the facility can be appropriately cleaned.
- It's more important than ever to continue to promote the key COVID Safe measures - promotion of social distancing, wearing of face masks when required, maintaining good hand hygiene, staying home when you are sick, use of the Check In Qld app, vaccinations and boosters when eligible and COVID-19 testing if you have developed symptoms.
- Whilst not imposed through restrictions, it may be beneficial to reconsider some common practices during this time to help slow the spread of COVID-19. For example:
 - Online sign-on/registration or smaller groups numbers of pre-season training
 - Limiting use of change rooms or interaction with parents
 - Delaying school holiday camps or come n try days
 - Implement strategies to reduce time people are present at the facility

- Live streaming of events to limit the number of spectators

State Championships Review:

This is a brief reminder to register your interest for the State Championship Review Working Group. For further information please refer to Alison's CEO Update #26 sent on Dec 14th. To nominate [please click here](#) before 19 January 2022.

HQ Festival of Indoor:

HQ hosted the first part of the HQ Festival of Indoor for age groups U18, U21 and Opens. Unfortunately, the remainder of the event had to be cancelled. Players and Officials have been informed and we will process potential refunds etc. in the coming weeks. You can find more details on the decision [under this link](#).

HQ Office:

Hockey Queensland staff will be working from home until further notice. Please contact the team via email or leave a message on the office phone line if you want to get in contact with us.