

December 17, 2020

Peterborough Hockey Association
266 Charlotte St. Suite 436
Peterborough, ON K9J 2V4

Delivered via e-mail

RE: Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) by trainers, coaches and other individuals providing service within two metres of individuals who are not wearing a mask or face covering

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the Peterborough hockey community. These are challenging times for all of us, but COVID-19 has had significant impacts on the hockey and sports and recreation communities. Your attention to our communications and diligence in educating leagues, players, staff and volunteers is appreciated. Please accept this letter to provide clarity around recent communication from Peterborough Public Health regarding the requirements for the use of personal protective equipment (e.g. medical-grade mask and eye protection) as outlined in [O. Reg. 364/20: Rules for Areas in Stage 3](#) (“the regulation”).

We recently communicated the requirements related to the use of PPE to recreational facilities and user groups in order provide education related to the requirements, and work toward consistent application of the regulation across the geographical area served by Peterborough Public Health (PPH). Requirements in the regulation related to PPE are there to protect those who are particularly at risk of acquiring COVID-19, due to repeatedly being within close proximity to others who are not wearing a mask or face covering as a means of source protection.

Schedule 1, section 2(7) of the regulation states the following:

(7) A person shall wear appropriate personal protective equipment that provides protection of the person’s eyes, nose and mouth if, in the course of providing services, the person,

- (a) is required to come within 2 metres of another person who is not wearing a mask or face covering in a manner that covers that person’s mouth, nose and chin during any period when that person is in an indoor area; and
- (b) is not separated by plexiglass or some other impermeable barrier from a person described in clause (a).

If a coach, trainer or other person (who is “providing service” of coaching or training, etc.) is required to come within two (2) metres of players (who presumably are not masked while playing/on ice), then they are required to wear PPE. There are no exemptions listed for this requirement. If a person who is providing service is unable or refuses to wear PPE, then accommodations should be considered. This could include modifications to the role/duties to ensure that two metres from all others is continually maintained or where it is practical/possible, ensuring that a physical barrier separates the person providing service and those who are not wearing a mask or face covering. If there are no accommodations that can be made, then a person who cannot or will not comply with PPE requirements may need to be reassigned to a different role and relieved of any duties that involve providing service.

It is important to recognize that this section of the regulation puts the onus on the “person” to comply with the requirements for PPE. Public Health Inspectors from Peterborough Public Health along with local by-law enforcement officers, Peterborough Police Service and the Ontario Provincial Police are responsible for the enforcement of the Reopening Ontario Act, 2020 and the associated regulations. A person who refuses to comply may be found guilty of an offence under the Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020 for failing to comply with a continued order and subject to a fine of \$750.00.

Once again, thank you for your diligence in protecting our community from the novel coronavirus and the spread of COVID-19. If we continue to vigilant and work together, we will help reduce transmission and keep our community safe. Please contact me if you have any further questions or concerns. I may be reached by email at: jingram@peterboroughpublichealth.ca or telephone at: (705) 743-1000, ext. 351.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Julie Ingram', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Julie Ingram, BSc, BASc, CPHI(C)
Manager, Environmental Health