

**West Seneca Ice Rink Policy High Risk Sports Plan Re: FOLLOWING REVIEW OF NY FORWARD SPORTS AND RECREATION GUIDANCE, ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNOUNCES HIGHER-RISK SPORTS CAN PROCEED**

ERIE COUNTY, NY – The Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) is providing the following information for schools, coaching staff, athletes, parents of student-athletes and youth and adult amateur sports leagues in Erie County.

ECDOH and its Office of Epidemiology reviewed the New York State (NYS) Interim Guidance for Sports and Recreation revisions announced by Governor Cuomo on Friday, January 22, 2021. These revisions allow local health departments to determine if non-professional and non-collegiate sports, such as wrestling, ice hockey, basketball, contact lacrosse, and volleyball, can proceed with individual and group training, and competitions and tournaments. Updates were also made to low- and moderate-risk sports and recreation activities.

After extended internal discussions and consultation with the New York State Association of County Health Officials, ECDOH has determined that it will allow higher-risk and moderate risk sports to proceed, with the following conditions and recommendations:

- For moderate- and higher-risk sports, if an athlete or coach has a positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, all in-person team or group activities (e.g., practices, scrimmages, games, meetings) will be cancelled for a 10-day period. **Each school, group, or organizations responsibility.**
- As with all positive COVID-19 cases in Erie County, contact tracing will be conducted for players and coaching staff, and coaches and teammates identified as close contacts will be placed in quarantine. **Each school, group, or organizations responsibility.**
- Travel for games and competitions outside the Western New York (WNY) and Finger Lakes regions is strongly discouraged. All current NYS Travel Advisory guidance for quarantine will apply to athletes, coaches and family members who choose to travel to non-contiguous states. **Each school, group, or organizations responsibility.**
- ECDOH gives its permission for sports and recreation activities in Erie County's orange "micro cluster" zones to travel for games and activities within the WNY region (Erie, Niagara, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Allegany counties), and to the Finger Lakes region (Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates counties). This permission will be periodically reviewed to consider regional and county-level rates of transmission and other epidemiological data. In addition, teams from other counties with the WNY and Finger Lakes regions may travel into Erie County to participate in games and other activities. **Each school, group, or organizations responsibility.**
- Athletes are required to wear an appropriate cloth face covering/mask when not playing or practicing. For children under the age of 18, at a parent's direction a child may wear a mask when playing or practicing. **Each school, group, or organizations responsibility.**
- The use of locker rooms is strongly discouraged. If locker rooms are used, they must be cleaned/disinfected as per NYSDOH guidance. **B&G responsibility to assign and sanitize locker rooms.**
- Each team is responsible for screening all athletes and coaches for COVID-19 symptoms for every team event, including practice, scrimmage, or tournaments. Individuals who were exposed to a COVID-19 case or diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 10 days are not allowed to participate in the sport or join spectators. **Each school, group, or organizations responsibility.**
- ECDOH is allowing spectators are limited to two per player. In addition, indoor sports facilities are limited to allow 50% of capacity into their facility. However, the Town of West Seneca Ice Rink is limited to one (1) spectator per player (each school, group, or organization will need to enforce this). **B&G responsibility to enforce (maintain 50% capacity  $480/2 = 240$  total people in the building, masks must be worn, spectators**

**must socially distance, control foot traffic. There can be no groups that exceed the areas micro cluster zone color (i.e.: red NONE, orange 10, yellow 25, outside of red/orange/yellow 50).**

- Vaccination status does not alter regulation requirements.
- All other requirements outlined in the January 2021 update to the Interim Guidance for Sports and Recreation must be followed by sports teams, recreation activities, and facilities where games and practices are held.
- League staff, school athletic directors, sports facility directors, coaches and parents are strongly encouraged to review this guidance and take steps to make sure current team and league operations align with this updated guidance. **This plan and the West Seneca COVID-19 Ice Rink Re-Opening Plan must be followed.**
- Showers will be closed. B&G will enforce this.
- No School, group, or organizations will be permitted into the building until 20 minutes before their scheduled ice time.
- All school, group, or organizations will be required to exit the building no later than 20 minutes after their scheduled ice time.

Each school, groups or organization must screen anyone entering the rink (staff, coaches, players, spectators, etc.) and if the person fails the screen the school, group or organization must not allow them into the West Seneca Ice Rink. If asked the school, group or organization must be able to provide proof of the screen to the Town of West Seneca if/when asked. The screening must include but is not limited to: (a) knowingly been in close or proximate contact in the past 14 days with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or who has had symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days; (b) tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days; and/or has experienced symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days. Please refer to CDC guidance on Symptoms of the Coronavirus for the most up to date information on symptoms associated with COVID-19.

B&G will continue to follow all NYSDOH/ECDOH COVID-19 cleaning and sanitizing guidelines.

Coaching staff and recreation officials with questions about this announcement may contact the ECDOH Division of Environmental Health at (716) 961-6800.

- For more information:
  - **Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH), COVID-19:** [www.erie.gov/covid19](http://www.erie.gov/covid19)
  - **ECDOH, COVID-19 Information Line:** (716) 858-2929 – foreign language interpretation available
  - **ECDOH, COVID-19 & Schools:** [www.erie.gov/covid19/schools](http://www.erie.gov/covid19/schools)
  - **NY Forward: Interim Guidance for Sports and Recreation during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency** (Jan. 22, 2021): [SportsAndRecreationMasterGuidance.pdf \(ny.gov\)](https://www.nysed.gov/interim-guidance-for-sports-and-recreation-during-the-covid-19-public-health-emergency)
  - **Town of West Seneca Ice Rink COVID-19 Re-opening plan:**  
[https://westsenecany.myrec.com/documents/final\\_west\\_seneca\\_ice\\_rink\\_covid19\\_policy\\_1\\_2\\_2\\_2020.pdf](https://westsenecany.myrec.com/documents/final_west_seneca_ice_rink_covid19_policy_1_2_2_2020.pdf)

This plan is in addition to the Town of West Seneca Ice Rink COVID-19 re-opening plan. This plan must be followed by all school, groups or organizations using the West Seneca Ice Rink in addition to the Town of West Seneca Ice Rink COVID-19 re-opening plan.

This plan was based off ECDOH guidance, NYSDOH guidance and a meeting with ECDOH on 1/26/2021 that BA, SH, SA and LM attended via zoom. Also, in attendance ECDOH (Delaney/Nicholas), Amherst, Cheektowaga, North Buffalo, NYS Youth Hockey Members, Hamburg, Depew, Tonawanda, Nicholas School, Hasiak's Hero's, and Caz and a meeting held on 1/27/2021 with B&G (TW, SH, SA), REC (LM), WSCSD (MD) and WSYHA (DC).

**Any school, group or organization found to not be following these policies could have their rights to use the West Seneca Ice Rink revoked.**

Inter Office Notes:

Rink capacity: 480

25% (120 people) capacity

30 skaters on the ice

1 parent per skater (30)

Totaling 60 for the team on the ice

An additional team in the locker room adds up to 60 individuals for a total of 120 in the building.

50% (240 people) capacity

60 personal on the ice service- up to 20 players per team (40 total) 5 staff per team (10 total) on/off ice officials and workers (up to 10)

1 parent per skater (up to 60)

Totaling 120 for team on the ice.

An additional team in the locker room adds up to 120 individuals for a total of 240 in the building.