

March 10, 2020

To: All Member Associations and Leagues**Memo: COVID -19 (Coronavirus) in BC and Canada**

This notice is to all Member Club Associations and Leagues for distribution to your Association membership.

Following recent concerns regarding the Coronavirus or COVID-19 Ringette BC would like to provide our members with some important information detailed in a memo from Natasha Johnston, Executive Director of Ringette Canada.

Information Memo from Ringette Canada

The Public Health Agency of Canada currently assesses the public health risk associated with COVID-19 as low for Canada and for Canadian travelers. Public health risk is continually assessed as new information becomes available. Updates on COVID-19 can be found by [clicking here](#).

The following are recommendations that should be considered at all times during ringette programming:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available. Make soap and/or hand sanitizer available in dressing rooms and hotels.
- Avoid contact with sick people, including avoiding close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections.
- Gloves should be worn by staff handling towels or laundry in the team environment.
- Towels should not be shared on the team bench. Players should not share clothing, bar soap or other personal items such as razors.
- Ringette Canada recommends the following protocol as it relates to the use of water bottles:
 - Good team hygiene includes ensuring all players and staff have their own water bottles to prevent the transmission of viruses and bacteria.
 - Bottles should be labelled and washed after each practice or game.
 - It is further recommended that officials avoid the practice of drinking from the goaltender's water bottle. If officials require water during a game, they should have their own water bottle at the penalty bench.
 - There should not be sharing of water bottles in the penalty box, as well as no sharing of towels.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing. Practice cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, wash hands).
- Advise players to try and not touch their own mouths or nose when in the ringette environment to reduce the chance of them passing an infection on to themselves.
- Monitor illness and injury in all teams. Parents are urged to keep their children away from the ringette environment if they are showing any signs of infectious disease or virus.



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- Team members should be encouraged to self-report if they feel ill.
- **Fist bump with ringette gloves on, instead of shaking hands.**
- Monitor travel restrictions on the Government of Canada Travel Advisory website, which can be found by [clicking here](#).
- Good hygienic practices will help to maintain a healthy team atmosphere and ultimately assist in keeping all participants healthy throughout the rest of the season.

The post-game handshake between coaches, players and officials is an important piece of ringette culture and Ringette BC wishes for that practice to continue. Please take the precaution to keep your gloves on and wash your hands after games and events.

If you wish to read the full Ringette Canada Memo on COVID-19 please [click here](#).

Any questions can be directed to Nicole Robb, Executive Director at Ringette BC.

Sincerely,

Nicole Robb
Executive Director, Ringette BC
executivedirector@bcringette.org



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