




Policy:

Communicable Disease Prevention Policy & Procedure

Board approved: April 2024
Member Ratified:

Reviewed: April 2024



Rationnel for Updates:

- Updates to reference links only

Instructions to Reader:

Additions are marked in **Red Text**

Deletions are marked by ~~Strikeout text~~



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F-4.1 POLICY: Communicable Disease Prevention Policy

A communicable disease is an illness caused by an infectious agent or its toxic product that can be transmitted from one person to another. Examples of communicable diseases are COVID-19, norovirus, seasonal influenza, HIV, Hepatitis.

Speed Skating BC is committed to providing a safe environment for all members, this includes taking precautions to prevent the transmission of illnesses that may be present in the environment. Prevention is the responsibility of all members. The following principles will apply

The Golden Rules of Prevention

- Get Vaccinated
- Follow Guidelines
- Stay home if Sick
- Check before you travel
- Respect Personal Space
- It's always safer outside
- Consider other people's situation
- Clean your hands

1. Speed Skating BC will prepare and update when needed, procedures for use by member clubs and event organizers. These procedures will outline measures and practices to reduce the risk of spread of communicable disease and will be based on the advice of Provincial Health Authorities, viaSport, WorkSafe BC and other reputable sources. The Communicable Disease Plan will be updated as needed.
2. Clubs and Event Organizers must monitor and review communicable disease-related information issued by their regional medical health officer and create a club-specific Communicable Disease Prevention Plan which is aligned with Speed Skating BC Procedures.
3. Each Member Club will appoint a person responsible for Safety who will be responsible for monitoring and reviewing communicable disease-related information issued by their regional medical health officer and other responsibilities as outlined in the Communicable Disease Prevention Procedures.
4. Each Club Board of Directors will be responsible for approving their Communicable Disease Prevention Plan on an annual basis or when directed by Local or Provincial Health Advisories whichever is shortest.
5. No participant may be asked about vaccination status as this is considered Personal Health Information and is private and confidential, unless the PHO stipulates otherwise. Under no circumstances will a participant be denied participation based on vaccine status.

F-4.1 PROCEDURE: Procedures to Prevent Communicable Disease

Preventing communicable disease involves taking ongoing measures to reduce the risk of communicable disease transmission which includes implementing additional measures when advised by Public Health.

Each club must create a Communicable Disease Prevention Plan based on the Template provided by WorkSafeBC which can be found here. The following procedures are based on this template:

Follow Guidelines

1. Appoint a member in each club to act as a Safety Coordinator. It would be the responsibility of this person to:

- a. Monitor and review communicable disease related information issued by the Regional Health officer and any information provided by SSBC, viaSport, WorkSafeBC or other responsible organization.
- b. Know and follow all venue guidelines for communicable disease prevention.
- c. Be the main point of contact with SSBC in regards to Safety related issues.

It's Always Safer Outdoors

- 2. Where possible utilize outdoor spaces for training and social events. For example:
 - a. Use outdoor venues for summer training when possible
 - b. Consider outdoor warm-ups when the weather permits
 - c. Continue to explore unique opportunities for outdoor skating
 - d. Host club social events outdoors when possible

Check Before You Travel

- 3. Not all jurisdictions will be following the same protocols, before traveling be sure to:
 - a. Verify local public health restrictions before travelling out of province
 - b. Verify Canadian federal and local restrictions before travelling out of country
 - c. Check with local public health before hosting out-of-region skaters for camps and competitions
 - d. Communicate local public health guidance to out-of-region skaters

Consider Other People's Situation

- 4. Ensure members have the information they need to make informed decisions about health issues and risk by:
 - a. Communicate early and often with members and event participants
 - b. Support members' varying level of risk tolerance regarding communicable diseases
 - c. Allow members to wear a mask and/or other personal protective equipment if they choose

Get Vaccinated/Personal Protection

- 5. Vaccination status and history is private personal health information. No one will be asked for proof of vaccination to participate in Speed Skating BC activities.
- 6. Masks are recommended indoors off the ice for those aged 12+ who have not received both immunization shots

Stay Home if Sick

- 7. Implement, communicate and enforce and stay-home-when-sick policy for club events
- 8. Request that members and event participants complete a self-health check as part of standard practice.
- 9. Continue to record attendance to allow for contact tracing.
- 10. Modify team selection policies to allow for illness byes

Clean and Wash Hands

- 11. Provide education on hand hygiene standard guidelines
- 12. Request hand hygiene is performed before and after using common equipment such as protective pads, corner belts etc.

- 13. Provide hand sanitizer in shared spaces such as on the timing platform, in the recording room, in the hospitality room where food is served etc.
- 14. Develop regular cleaning procedures for shared equipment
- 15. Ensure first aid kits are appropriately stocked with PPE

Respect Personal Space

- 16. Choose sport event group sizes that allow for adequate spacing; this may require in-out competition formats
- 17. Be aware of capacity for events with seated spectators
- 18. Use good respiratory etiquette, including coughing into your elbow, no spitting on the ice, using electronic whistles etc.
- 19. Implement strategies to keep personal belongings separated, for example skater bins on the ice and assigned spots in the change rooms
- 20. Allow for adequate spacing in shared spaces such as the timing platform or coaches box
- 21. Use technology where appropriate to replace the high number of volunteers required; for example, electronic timing systems
- 22. Consider practice activities that allow for distance and space between participants when feasible and appropriate

References and Resources

These procedures refer to the following sources:

~~viaSport Return to Sport~~ <https://www.viasport.ca/return-sport>

The Recreation & Parks Sector Guideline for Restarting Operations
<https://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/covidguideline/>

WorkSafe BC - communicable Disease Prevention Guide
<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/books-guides/communicable-disease-prevention-guide-employers>

BC Government News ~~BC's Restart~~ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restart>