

**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>Executive Committee - Board</b>
<b>Subject/Policy:</b>	<b>006</b>	<b>Covid 2021 Policy and Procedures V6 approved 01.24.2022</b>

# COVID-19 Policy and Procedures

2021-2022 Season

## Introduction

This document describes policies and procedures to be implemented for the 2021-2022 curling season at the Buffalo Curling Club in response to the ongoing worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. These policies and procedures have been established to control risk to members, visitors, and guests while providing an environment that maximizes the enjoyment of the sport of curling at the Club. The Buffalo Curling Club is also operating in line with the other NYS curling clubs (Rochester, Albany, Schenectady, Finger Lakes, Ardsley, and Long Island) which all have a vaccine mandate. Brooklyn Curling Club does not have a mandate since they curl on an outdoor rink.

The worldwide pandemic of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, continues to significantly impact personal health, safety, and everyday activities. This virus is highly contagious and is primarily spread through the air from person-to-person interactions, especially in indoor spaces. The sport of curling, as well as the social aspects of the sport (e.g., “broomstacking”) are activities that entail significant risk of viral transmission, especially among unvaccinated individuals.

The Buffalo Curling Club is committed to member safety as well as reducing the spread of COVID-19. **These policies and procedures are subject to change as new information becomes available, and as federal, state, and local health authorities issue recommendations or requirements.**

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# Definitions

The following terms used in this document are defined below:

- **Club** : The Buffalo Curling Club
- **First Half**: Begins in October 2021 and concludes potentially **January 2022**
- **Second Half** : Begins in January 2022 and concludes potentially in April 2022
- **Member**: A person who has voluntarily joined the Buffalo Curling Club and has paid the annual membership fee
- **League/Training participants**: Includes individuals who have registered for the beginner league, participate in a league, or the multi-day training sessions. For the purpose of the Covid policy/procedure they will fall under the same heading as a Member.
- **Premises**: The entirety of the indoor spaces in the Buffalo Curling Club
- **Public/Visitors/Guests**: Individuals who are NOT members of the Buffalo Curling Club.
- **Season** : The entirety of curling activities from approximately October 2021 thru May 2022.

## Applicability

The policies and procedures described in this document apply to all members and visitors to the Buffalo Curling Club, with exceptions only as specifically noted herein.

## COVID-19 Policy

### COVID-19 Vaccination Standard

All members and visitors to the Buffalo Curling Club who are 12 years of age and over and medically eligible for vaccination must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Fully vaccinated status is defined as at least 14 days after the **second** dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna), or the one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

All children participating in Youth programs and/or visitors to the Buffalo Curling Club who are ages 5 through 11 and medically eligible for vaccination are required to have at least the first dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine or an FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine.

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We will revisit this vaccination standard as new information comes forward regarding booster shots and second doses of vaccines for children. *The club will address if and when having a booster shot will become a requirement at a later date. Similarly, the club will address if and when having a second dose of the vaccine for those between the ages of 5 and 11 will become a requirement at a later date.*

## Rationale

- Vaccination is the gold standard for minimizing the spread of COVID-19 according to the Centers for Disease Control and medical professionals.
- Vaccination provides a reliably reproducible and efficacious degree of protection against serious disease, hospitalization, and death, and a significant reduction in risk of infection and the ability to spread virus to others.
- Requiring vaccination also reduces the risk of avoiding outbreaks that would necessitate temporary suspension of curling activities.

## Vaccination Documentation

- **All members, participants, and guests of the Buffalo Curling Club who are medically eligible for vaccination must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in order to enter the premises.**
- Each member of the club or visitor must provide proof of vaccination to any individual appointed by the Board prior to entering the club or exercising membership privileges.
- A photograph or image scan of documentation is acceptable and can be emailed to [covid@buffalocurlingclub.org](mailto:covid@buffalocurlingclub.org).
- **Guests and visitors, without exception, should be prepared to provide proof of vaccination prior to entry.**
- Children between the ages of 2 and 5, who are not yet eligible for vaccination, are allowed to enter the premises and must wear a mask at all times.

## Exemptions

- Contractors and other workers performing temporary maintenance, delivery, or other similar services are exempt from the vaccination standard. These individuals must wear a face mask on the premises at all times according to the mask policy described in this document.

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- Individuals who are medically ineligible for vaccination against COVID-19 may seek an exemption to the vaccination standard, subject to the following conditions:
  - Individuals seeking an exemption must provide a Medical Exemption Request Form if they would like to enter the facility and or curl. The required attached form was derived from the same form used by Kaleida Health dated 9/15/21.
  - Exemption requests should be emailed to [covid@buffalocurlingclub.org](mailto:covid@buffalocurlingclub.org).
  - Completed requests for exemptions will be considered by the Buffalo Curling Club Board of Directors for approval.
  - Individuals seeking exemptions may not enter the premises until their exemptions are approved.
  - Exempted individuals must wear a face mask on the premises at all times according to the mask policy described in this document.

## Mask Policy

- Masks may be worn by individuals on the premises of the club at their own discretion at any time without bias or presumption of COVID-19 vaccination status.
- All individuals exempt from the COVID-19 vaccination standard must wear a face mask at all times within the premises.
- Face coverings must cover both the nose and mouth completely and must fit appropriately. Face coverings with vents are not permitted.

## Membership Fees

- Individuals who register and pay for an event or league, should they then choose not to participate due to this policy, will have refunds addressed in accordance with the refund policy of the Club.
- Any League play or other event that is cancelled by the Club due to a COVID-19 related event will be made up if possible.

# Health Monitoring and Reporting

## Member Responsibilities

- A member who has been exposed to someone with COVID-19:
  1. Should follow the latest CDC Guidance for Quarantine for vaccinated people.
  2. Should wear a mask inside of the Club for the CDC recommended time period following the exposure and/or quarantine.

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- A member who tests positive for COVID-19 or has symptoms of COVID-19 (but chooses not to get tested or is waiting for test results) or tests positive for COVID-19 but is asymptomatic:
  1. Should contact their teammates, opponent, and any close contact that occurred at the club.
  2. Should contact BCC Board Member Kathy Youngs to discuss the situation.
  3. Should follow the latest CDC Guidance for Isolation, and not enter the Club until they have completed the recommended period of isolation.
  4. Should wear a mask inside of the Club for the CDC recommended time period following isolation.

## Club Responsibilities

- The Club will notify the affected membership regarding the existence and timing of any reported positive case, as necessary.
- The Club will cooperate and provide all requested information to local, state, and federal health authorities as required by law.
- In the event of multiple, confirmed cases, the Board of Directors will consider additional actions as necessary to assure the safety of the membership.

## Club Procedures

### General

- All individuals entering the club must complete either the general or league log in sheet and confirm that they are abiding by our covid policy.
- During league play door monitors will help enforce this policy and protocol.
- Any individual who has entered the club without meeting the requirements of this policy will be asked to leave immediately.

### Curling Activities

- Curling activities shall use the normal rules of play without alteration.
- League play starting at the same time on adjacent sheets will start at alternate ends of the ice.
- Participants should minimize potential for viral transmission by substituting broom taps or other gestures for handshakes at the start and conclusion of games.
- Participants should consider using personally owned curling equipment instead of shared equipment (e.g., brooms, stabilizers, grippers).

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- Participants should wipe down shared equipment (including rock handles) prior to and after use.
- Participants should use hand sanitizer and/or wash hands with soap and water upon entering the facilities, and before and after games.

## Broomstacking

- All participants are encouraged to minimize congestion around tables and should refrain from socializing or drinking in locker areas.
- Consumption of food in the club is allowed, however all participants are encouraged to minimize sharing of food and drink and should recognize they do so at their own risk.

## Event Procedures

- **All participants in bonspiels, ice rentals, or member recruitment events will be subject to the COVID-19 vaccination standard as described herein.**
- The only exception to this policy will be for previously scheduled Youth Events which were scheduled prior to this policy taking effect. This includes two rental events for BCC Members (Goldman & Witul) and future grant-related Youth Curling events. Youth ages 5 through 11 who are unvaccinated will be allowed to enter the Club, and they must wear a mask. At these events, each and every person in the Club will also be required to wear a mask, except for those under the age of 2.
- The group coordinator will make the COVID-19 policy available to all participants in advance to ensure compliance.
- Each participant will be required to provide proof of vaccination.
- Committee Heads and Event coordinators are responsible for implementing these procedures.

## Policy Enforcement

- Buffalo Curling Club members are required to adhere to these policies until explicitly suspended or discontinued.
- Club, League, Event chairs, and members of the Board of Directors are authorized to remove any participant from play who does not comply with these policies.
- Unintentional violations of this policy by members may occur. Such violations should be treated with a courteous reminder to follow the established policies.
- Repeated violation of this policy by members should be reported to a member of the Board of Directors, who will relay this information to the Governance Committee for documentation.

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- In the case of two or more reported violations of this policy by a member, the Board of Directors may issue penalties that include, but are not limited to, written reprimand or suspension for a specified period of time.
- Intentional or repeated violation of these policies may result in suspension of membership.

End of Policy

Policy Approved by BOD on 10.11.2021, revised 11.18.2021, revised 01.24.2022.

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