



ARENA RESTART PROTOCOLS 2020/21





BROADCAST PROTOCOL

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INTRODUCTION

This Broadcast Protocol sets out the preventative measures applicable to the 2020/21 NHL Season, which are intended to help protect against the contraction and spread of COVID-19. Strict adherence by all participants to preventative measures, diligent hygiene practices and distancing practices in the broadcasting of NHL games during the 2020/21 NHL season will be **crucial** to reducing the likelihood of contraction and spread of infection. While comprehensive, the measures outlined in this Protocol cannot mitigate all risk. A range of clinical scenarios exists for those who contract COVID-19, from very mild to fatal outcomes. COVID-19 generally adversely affects older age groups and those with previously existing medical conditions, more so than younger, and otherwise healthy, individuals, and Broadcast Personnel may have family and household members who may fall into these vulnerable categories.

All individuals involved in broadcasting the NHL's 2020/21 Season are required to comply with this Broadcast Protocol (and related documents, including, without limitation, the 2020/21 NHL Season COVID-19 Protocol), as well as all applicable regulations, including further restrictions (if any) that may be imposed by local, provincial/state, and federal health authorities, including regulations regarding capacity.

The terms of this Protocol may be modified by the NHL and the NHLPA as circumstances require in order to better protect the health and safety of the Players, Club Personnel, Officials, League Personnel, Arena staff, and on-site Broadcast personnel.

PARTICIPANT GROUPS AND ACCESS AREAS

In the 2020/21 NHL Season COVID-19 Protocol, all participants are assigned to "Groups" based on their roles and responsibilities, and their level of access to: (a) Player areas (hereafter "Restricted Areas"), and (b) other areas (hereafter "Non-Restricted Areas"). Pursuant to that Protocol:

Broadcast Personnel are designated as "Group 3" individuals and must avoid contact with Group 1 and 2 individuals at all times. Group 3 consists of personnel whose job function requires them to have access to Non-Restricted Areas, and/or Restricted Areas – but as to Restricted Areas, Group 3 individuals may only access such areas when Group 1 or 2 individuals are not present (except in emergency situations for "Emergency Service" personnel).

Because individuals in Group 3 are restricted from having interactions in Groups 1 and 2 while at the Club Facility, information regarding Groups 1 and 2 is also set forth below:

Group 1 individuals include:

- Players
- Coaches, including Video Coaches
- Athletic Trainers (at least 2)
- Strength and Conditioning Coach(es)
- Equipment Managers (at least 2)
- Massage, chiropractic and other performance personnel
- Club Neuropsychologists (Training Camp and initial/follow-up evaluations only)
- Club's Physicians and dentists
- On-Ice Officials

Group 2A (Club) personnel include:

- General Managers and Assistant General Managers
- Other necessary Hockey Operations Personnel
- Club Public Relations/Communications/Social Media Personnel (limit of 4 individuals at any one time)
- Club Transportation Personnel
- Club Travel Coordinators/Club Services Coordinator
- Club IT Support requiring access to Restricted Areas (e.g., during interviews, etc.)
- X-Ray Technician(s)
- Locker Room Attendants (if different from Club-engaged cleaning crews) (limit of 2 individuals per Club)
- Security assigned to Restricted Areas
- COVID-19 Collection and Testing Personnel
- NHLPA Personnel designated as “Player Contact Representatives”
- Club Video Replay Technicians

Group 2B (League) personnel include:

- Off-Ice Officials and IT support (Arena Technical Managers and Coordinators)
- PESF Collection and Testing Personnel
- Certain Essential League personnel (e.g., League Executives, Events, etc.)
- Officiating Managers

Group 2C (Arena) personnel include:

- Security assigned to Restricted Areas
- Ice maintenance personnel (ice shovellers and ice resurface crew)
- Arena Staff whose essential duties require transient interaction with Group 1 individuals
- Ambulance crew for Players
- Facility Compliance Officer

Group 3 personnel may access Non-Restricted Areas, including:

- Truck compound & Interconnect/infrastructure patch room(s)
- Press level
- Camera platforms
- Media areas
- Ice level handheld camera locations
- Announce positions

In order to set up equipment, Group 3 individuals will be provided access to the following Restricted Areas, but only when Group 1 and 2 individuals are not present:

- Club locker rooms
- Locker room hallway
- Club benches
- Ice surface
- Penalty Boxes

Access to such Restricted Areas will only be provided: (1) prior to the game, when prescribed work must be completed no later than three (3) hours before puck drop; and (2) post-game, following the departure of Group 1 and 2 individuals from the Arena.

Only Broadcast Personnel who have roles and responsibilities requiring their physical presence in the Arena shall enter the Arena for any prolonged period of time. All others (i.e. truck and compound-based personnel) shall remain in the broadcast compound only; however, they may enter the Arena (leave the compound area) to use the restroom facilities and also to access the designated meal location.

Broadcast personnel may not arrive at the Arena more than thirty minutes prior to their scheduled crew call time and are required to use a designated Arena entry and exit location.

CREDENTIALS //

All Rightsholder Broadcast personnel who are granted admission to any venue will be required to wear a credential around their neck and visible at all times, and shall use designated entrances and exits at each venue for Group 3 personnel, and shall agree to and abide by the terms printed on the credential at all times.

TV PRODUCTION //

A single NHL designated on-site broadcast production known as a “Host Feed”, will be assigned to each game.

To request an additional on-site television broadcast production the following steps must be followed:

- Email NHL Broadcasting at least 14 days prior to the scheduled load-in date for the game (Chris Lawton: [REDACTED])
- Submissions must include the following information:
 - Number of staff required to execute the production;
 - Specification (number and type) of productions facilities (A/B units, Satellite trucks, Production Trailers);
 - Number of days in market;
 - Number of staff sourced locally;
 - Number of staff traveling from another market; and
 - Requests for announcer/reporter position(s) and camera location(s).

- NHL Broadcasting shall consider the following when reviewing the request:
 - Local health protocols on capacity of individuals allowed in the venue.
 - Size of the truck compound and availability of physical space.
 - Whether physical distancing requirements can be maintained with additional staff on site.
- NHL Broadcasting will endeavor to respond to all submissions at least 7 days prior to the game.

RADIO PRODUCTION //

Home Clubs may have their local radio announcers broadcast games from their home Arena (so long as local regulations permit).

Clubs may also submit requests to NHL Broadcasting for permission to allow their radio announcers to travel to away games. All requests must be submitted a minimum of 14 days prior to the date for the event in order to be considered. In order to apply the following steps must be followed:

- Email NHL Broadcasting at least 14 days prior to the scheduled game
(Eric Dwyer: [REDACTED])
- Submissions must include the following information:
 - Number of staff required to put on the production;
 - Number of days in market;
 - Number of staff sourced locally; and
 - Number of staff traveling from another market.
- NHL Broadcasting shall take into account the following considerations when reviewing the requests:
 - Local health protocols on capacity of individuals allowed in the venue;
 - Size of the press box and availability of physical space; and
 - Whether physical distancing requirements can be maintained with additional staff on site.
- NHL Broadcasting will endeavor to respond to all submissions at least 7 days prior to the game.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING, FACE COVERINGS AND OTHER SAFETY MEASURES

FACE COVERINGS //

As Group 3 individuals, all Broadcast Personnel are required to properly wear a face-covering (cloth or surgical type mask) **at all times** while in the Arena and truck compound.

- Acceptable face coverings include medical grade masks or 3-layer cloth coverings (or at least two cloth layers with a filter).
- Gaiters are not permitted to function as face coverings.
- Bandanas are not permitted to function as face coverings.
- Use of a face shield does not eliminate the requirement to wear a face covering underneath.
- Face coverings which have exhalation valves or vents are prohibited.

- Broadcast staff will be permitted to remove their face covering when actively eating or drinking, so long as appropriate physical distancing is maintained at all times, and in accordance with applicable local, provincial/state or federal regulations or as otherwise required under applicable law.
- Broadcaster announcers will be permitted to remove their face coverings while calling the game, so long as all personnel are seated a minimum of 6 feet (2 meters) apart, and plexi-glass (or similar) divider is installed in the front of the booth (if the seating in front of them is occupied) and between the broadcaster announcers. It is the home Club's responsibility to install the plexi-glass (or similar) dividers.

Broadcast Personnel are also strongly advised to wear face coverings in locations outside the Club facilities, including but not limited to, while in their communities, in airports, buses, hotels, car services, etc.

All Broadcast Personnel shall maintain 6 feet (2 meters) physical distance (“physical distancing”) from each other **at all times** while in, and outside of, Club facilities. This includes, but is not limited to:

- All Broadcast Personnel are required to follow diligent hygiene practices **at all times** while in the Arena and truck compound.

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (sing “Happy Birthday” twice), or, if soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, as follows:
 - Wash or disinfect hands before and after eating or drinking.
 - Wash or disinfect hands and face after touching possibly contaminated surfaces (such as high-touch areas like elevator buttons, countertops, door handles, water coolers, etc.).
- Use disinfectant wipes on items that may have been touched by others (such as pieces of luggage, chairs, office equipment, menus, etc.).
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, including adjusting your mask / face covering while wearing it.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick or appear symptomatic.

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands with soap or use alcohol-based sanitizer. If you do not have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow, not your hands, and then wash your hands with soap or use alcohol-based sanitizer.
- Minimize handshakes, high fives and fist bumps.

Hand sanitizer and disinfectant will be readily available throughout the Arena facility.

WIRELESS MICROPHONES //////////////////////////////////////

- In a hygienic manner as outlined herein, the rightsholder will deliver a disinfected microphone package in a sanitized container to a predetermined location near the Club locker room during a preapproved time when there are no Group 1 or 2 members in the environment.
- All microphones will be labeled with a player or coach name.
- All personnel must wash their hands or use an approved alcohol-based disinfectant prior to and following any contact with the wireless microphones or the container that houses the microphones.
- Any adjustments to the microphone on the coach or on a player or his equipment must be made by Club personnel. Under no circumstances are rightsholders to have direct interaction with the player or his equipment or the coach wearing the wireless microphone.
- Following the game, the equipment will be left in a predetermined location and will be picked up by the rightsholder when there are no Group 1 or 2 members in the environment. This equipment must be sanitized and disinfected prior to future use.
- Rightsholders not adhering to these guidelines, as determined by NHL Broadcasting and the Club, and/or the NHLPA, will be denied this enhanced access in the future.

HEALTH SCREENINGS //////////////////////////////////////

Broadcast Personnel shall comply with the health screening processes adopted/employed at each Arena, and shall not enter the venue if they, or their household members and close contacts:

- Are newly experiencing any symptoms associated with COVID-19;
- Have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days; or
- Have been exposed to an individual with COVID-19 in the past 14 days, to their knowledge.

Additionally, if an individual is subject to a local, provincial/state, or federal quarantine, they shall not enter the venue.

VENUE AND SPACE ALLOCATIONS

TRUCK COMPOUNDS //////////////////////////////////////

- The venue must provide space for two (2) production mobiles (53' expando) with no less than 10' between the two (2) units for each broadcast. Any instance where a truck will be displaced must be approved in advance by the NHL Broadcasting Department.

- ## MEAL BREAKS

- ## BROADCAST CAMERA LOCATIONS

For the 2020/21 NHL Season, manned cameras will not be permitted in the following locations:

- Player arrivals
- Pre-game shots (skate sharpening, stick taping etc)

ANNOUNCERS AND POSITIONS

The NHL Broadcasting Department will assign and oversee exact placement of all on-site announce positions within each Arena. Announce positions may not be changed without the written permission of the NHL Broadcasting Department and NHL Broadcast Operations Department (or a designee).

Within all broadcast announce positions, all personnel must be seated a minimum of 6 feet (2 meters) apart. It is the home Club's responsibility to install a plexi-glass (or similar) divider between the two announcers for all broadcasts, and in front of the booth (if seating in front of them is occupied).

Television and radio rightsholder talent shall refer to the Media Access Policy for guidelines related to Club practices, off-day availabilities and any other non-game related access requests.

REPORTER TALENT AND HOST POSITIONS

The NHL Broadcasting Department together with NHL Hockey Operations are the only parties who can approve "in bowl" reporter positions. These locations must be approved prior to use and may need to be modified at a cost to the rightsholder in order to accommodate all necessary health and safety protocols. Requests shall be submitted to Nicole Buckley (██████████). These modifications may include, but are not restricted to, plexi-glass surrounding locations, a distance of at least 6' away from approved ingress and egress routes for other personnel.

PREGAME AND POSTGAME HOST POSITIONS //////////////////////////////////////

The NHL Broadcasting Department and each home Club Arena must pre-approve any proposed television host position for the 2020/21 NHL Season. Positions in Restricted Areas are prohibited. An alternate location must be agreed upon between the RSN and the venue with approval from NHL Broadcasting.

BETWEEN THE BENCH POSITION //////////////////////////////////////

Upon request and approval by the NHL Broadcast Department and NHL Hockey Operations, a single talent for national broadcasts may provide commentary from a pre-determined position located between or near the Player benches, only on the following conditions:

- The location must be completely protected from the Club benches;
- The path to and from the position must be from the stands and not the Club benches or dressing room corridors.
- No cameras are permitted between the benches.
- No more than one person can occupy the position.
- All 3 sides facing the ice and benches must be enclosed.
 - All enclosures must be approved by NHL Hockey Operations prior to installation.
- In the case of both NBC Sports and Rogers Sportsnet being on site, NBC Sports will have priority in the US and Rogers Sportsnet will have priority in Canada.

INTERVIEW PROCESS AND PLANNING //////////////////////////////////////

The Host Feed production is responsible for producing interviews for all TV and Radio Production rightsholders who are broadcasting the game remotely. They will execute the following interviews:

- Arrival interview with a Player from the home Club.
- Arrival interview with a Player from the visiting Club.
- 1st Intermission Interview with a Player from the home Club.*
- 2nd Intermission Interview with a Player from the visiting Club.*
- Post-Game Interview with a Player from the winning Club.

*subject to change if the goal margin is three or more

HOST FEED INTERVIEWS //////////////////////////////////////

- All communication for Host Feed interview requests should include the relevant PR director and both the home and visiting producer.
- Rightsholder producers should submit electronically the specific Player requests for an arrival interview to their respective Club PR Directors. They should also remind the PR Directors of any intermission or post game interviews that will be requested during the game. These requests should be made prior to 10 am local on game day. All specific Player requests for intermission and post-game walk off interviews should be submitted with no less than three minutes (3:00) remaining in the period.
- NHL Host Feed rightsholders will be responsible to place a sanitized headset in the bench area in a predetermined and Club-approved area. Each Club will be provided with their own headset.
- The setup of the headset and supporting cabling necessary must be completed no later than three hours prior to game time, and cannot be performed while any member of the Club is present in the Restricted Area.
- In Arenas where Players must cross the ice to go from the locker room to their Club bench, the headset will be placed at the door the Club uses to enter the ice.
- The Club PR Director will direct the selected Player to the location of the headset and instruct the Player to look up at the identified camera for the interview.
- At the conclusion of each interview, the PR Director will put the headset back in its resting place.
- A building Arena Technical Coordinator will be responsible for sanitizing the headset after each use.
- At the conclusion of the Game, once all Players, on-ice support staff and ice crew have vacated the rink area, the rightsholder is permitted to break down the headsets. Cabling may only be removed once Players and Club personnel have vacated the area in which the cable is located.
- The headsets must be sanitized at the completion of every night.

UNILATERAL INTERVIEWS //////////////////////////////////////

- Unilateral Rightsholder interviews can be conducted via digital integration (i.e., Zoom, FaceTime, Skype) at the discretion of each Club's PR Director. The availability, location and timing of these interviews will be determined by each Club's PR Director.