



MEMORANDUM

May 28, 2021

TO: NHL CLUB PRESIDENTS
NHL CLUB GENERAL MANAGERS
NHL CLUB COACHES
NHL CLUB PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTORS
NHL CLUB MEDICAL DIRECTORS
NHL CLUB HEAD ATHLETIC TRAINERS
NHL CLUB COMPLIANCE OFFICERS
NHL CLUB FACILITY COMPLIANCE OFFICERS
NHL PLAYERS

FROM: BILL DALY
JULIE GRAND
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RE: **COVID-19 PROTOCOL UPDATE EFFECTIVE FOR ROUND 2
OF THE STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS: FACE COVERINGS FOR
SPECTATORS AND REINSTALLATION OF SHIELDING IN
SECTIONS BEHIND PENALTY BOXES AND TEAM BENCHES
FOR FULLY-VACCINATED CLUBS**

1. OVERVIEW

This memorandum sets forth updates that will be effective beginning with Round 2 of the Stanley Cup Playoffs regarding: (1) face coverings for spectators and; (2) reinstallation of plexiglass shielding behind both the home and visitor teams' penalty boxes, as well as behind team benches for Fully-Vaccinated Clubs.

Notwithstanding these updates, all individuals and Clubs involved in the NHL's 2021 Stanley Cup Playoffs are required to comply with all applicable regulations, including additional restrictions (if any) that may be imposed by local, provincial/state and federal authorities, including but not limited to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). If the applicable local, provincial/state or

federal regulations impose less stringent standards than are set forth in this memorandum, the standards set forth herein will govern, unless expressly stated otherwise. Each Club/Arena shall consult with Club counsel to ensure compliance with applicable regulations and relevant authority requirements.

Please be advised that all other provisions of the COVID-19 Protocol and related Protocols remain applicable and effective, unless expressly modified herein or otherwise. The medical experts at the NHL and NHLPA will continue to review emerging data and guidance issued by the CDC and the PHAC, and may make further modifications (either more relaxed, or more cautious), as deemed appropriate and necessary by prevailing circumstances.

In this regard, please note that, upon agreement with the NHLPA, these modifications to the COVID-19 Protocol are subject to being withdrawn altogether for various reasons, including based on team testing results or in the case of a team outbreak. Further, also subject to the NHLPA's agreement, these modifications may be amended to the extent necessary to facilitate any cross-border travel that may be necessary and permitted during the course of the Playoffs.

2. SPECTATOR FACE COVERINGS

In the League's May 14, 2021, memorandum to Clubs, we advised that the CDC had issued updates relaxing certain requirements applicable to vaccinated individuals, and said that we would continue to monitor these new measures to determine if further revisions to the NHL Protocols (including the Guest Experience Protocol) were appropriate and warranted in the future. As a result of such review, and following consultation with the NHL's and the NHLPA's medical experts, please be advised that effective for Round 2 of the Stanley Cup Playoffs, there will no longer be a requirement in the Guest Experience Protocol that Guests over the age of two (2) wear a face covering while in the arena. Instead, each Club is free to establish its own face covering policy for its spectators, which policy will be subject to applicable rules and regulations in its local jurisdiction that govern whether vaccinated individuals and unvaccinated individuals are required to wear a face covering while indoors at an NHL Game.

Please be advised that this update is limited to *spectators attending NHL Games*. This update does not affect or change the applicable provisions in the COVID-19 Protocol(s) governing face covering requirements for Club Personnel (Club employees or Players), League Personnel, vendors, or any personnel involved in the production of the Game (e.g., broadcast personnel, photographers), all of whom remain required to wear face coverings in all NHL arenas in accordance with the existing provisions of the COVID-19 Protocol.

3. REINSTALLATION OF PLEXIGLASS SHIELDING – IN SECTIONS BEHIND PENALTY BOXES AND TEAM BENCHES FOR FULLY-VACCINATED CLUBS (U.S. CLUBS ONLY)

As an update to the memoranda distributed on February 3 and 11, 2021, effective with the start of the Round 2 of the Stanley Cup Playoffs:

- a. The plexiglass shielding behind both the home team's and the visiting team's penalty box areas *shall* be reinstalled;
 - A buffer zone around each of the home team and visiting team penalty box areas shall be maintained, which buffer zone will be a minimum of two (2) rows or six (6) feet, whichever is greater, with no spectators seated directly behind or beside the shielding;
 - Tarping shall be used to cover all seats in such buffer zone; and
 - The reinstallation of plexiglass behind the penalty box areas shall occur in the home arenas of the remaining U.S.-based Clubs only (as there are higher rates of Fully-Vaccinated individuals than in Canada). Reinstallation of plexiglass shielding in the home arenas of the Canadian Clubs will be reassessed at a later date as vaccination rates increase.

- b. The plexiglass shielding behind the team benches of Fully-Vaccinated Clubs *can* be reinstalled, at the home Club's option, subject to the following:
 - Clubs can only reinstall the plexiglass shielding if both teams participating in a series are Fully-Vaccinated;
 - A buffer zone around the home and visiting team bench (as specified below) shall be maintained;
 - Team physicians who are part of Group 1-2A are permitted to sit directly behind/beside the glass in the buffer zone, provided they are fully vaccinated and masked at all times;
 - If Team Physicians sit in the buffer zone, there shall be at least one (1) empty row behind them, which shall be covered with tarping, and spectators are permitted to occupy the third row from the shielding;
 - If Team Physicians do not occupy the row directly behind the glass, there shall be a minimum of two (2) rows (or minimum six (6) feet, whichever is greater) with no spectators seated directly behind or beside the shielding;
 - Tarping shall be used to cover all seats in such buffer zone; and
 - Home Clubs that do not re-install plexiglass shielding behind both teams' benches are required to maintain the same buffer zone and

security standards as are currently required in the existing COVID-19 Protocol; and

- *Please be reminded, a Club will be considered Fully-Vaccinated once 85% of the individuals in the Club Travelling Party are at least 14 days past receiving the second dose (or only dose in the case of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine) of an approved COVID-19 vaccine.*

Approval process: Clubs that wish to reinstall the plexiglass shielding behind the Player benches shall:

1. Notify the League and the NHLPA at least 24 hours prior to when your arena personnel would need to reinstall the plexiglass to prepare for the first home game in the Series;
2. Send a revised ticketing manifest (submitted to Reece Fischer) which indicates the number of seats added for sale and the new required buffer area seating tarp positioning; and
3. Clubs whose revised ticketing manifests will result in an increase of 500 or more spectator seats will be asked to have their Arena building operators resubmit to the League additional information (as described in Mechanical/HVAC Section of the League's March 25, 2021 memorandum), certifying that the required outside airflow rate of fifteen (15) CFM per person is satisfied, and before such capacity may be increased, the Club must be in receipt of written consent from the League.

Following receipt of the Club notification, the League will approve or reject the home Club's request to reinstall the plexiglass shielding behind both Clubs' benches. The plexiglass shielding behind the benches may not be reinstalled, and buffer zones behind the benches may not be adopted which vary from the existing COVID-19 Protocol, unless and until approval is provided by the NHL. As per the above, the League will also further advise if consent is provided to increased capacity, and whether any supplemental measures are required to be adopted in that regard.

Please contact any of us if you have any questions regarding any of the foregoing.

cc: NHL Club Governors
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