



Wausau RiverWolves Hockey
COVID-19 Safety Plan
2020-21 Season

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General

The Wausau RiverWolves have developed the following safety plan to protect our staff, players, and fans during the 2020-21 Hockey Season.

The RiverWolves are a member of the North American 3 Hockey League (NA3HL), one of two USA Hockey-sanctioned Tier III Junior leagues. USA Hockey in consultation with medical experts including the CDC has developed "Returning to the Rink Guidelines" to help teams develop plans that would allow hockey to be played safely. Additionally, the NA3HL has established a "Return to Play Guidelines" that must be met by all member teams. Requirements from both of these guidelines are incorporated into this plan. The RiverWolves will continue to follow the guidance of national, state, and local agencies, as well as the directives of USA Hockey and the North American 3 Hockey League and modify the plan as needed as circumstances change.

Employee Health and Hygiene

Daily Health Check

- Individuals shall participate in the Daily Check prior to participating in any team function.
 - A. Temperature Checks
 - Surface Temperatures may be used, but can be erroneous especially after exercise, or immediate exposure to outside temperatures. The temperature should be repeated orally or after 10 minutes of an abnormal result in those cases.
 - Players, coaches and staffs with a 100.4 or above temperature will not be able to participate on that day and after confirming Temperature elevation, should immediately Self-Isolate, and use mask protection until assessed.
 - If no other primary Covid-19 symptoms are present, and temperature abates without fever reducing medications, the individual may return to play after 24-72 hours of having no temperature or after clearance by a physician.
 - B. Primary Covid-19 Symptom Verification.
 - Each individual will be asked to verify that they do not have a cough, fever/chills, shortness of breath or change in loss of taste or smell.
 - Individuals should notify the Team Protocol Manager and Self-Isolate if they have primary symptoms of Covid-19 and will not be allowed to participate until CDC Symptom-Based Strategy is met.
 - C. Secondary Covid-19 Symptom Verification (less specific and overlap with other illness):
 - Each individual will be asked to verify that they do not have any sickness related muscle aches, severe fatigue, or other cold/flu like symptoms (runny nose, sore throat)
 - Individuals should notify the Team Protocol Manager and possibly Self-Isolate if they experience secondary illness symptoms (not including cough, fever/chills, shortness of breath, change in taste or smell).

- Individuals that only experience secondary symptoms and do not have any primary symptoms of Covid-19, may return to play after 24-48 hours after their symptoms have resolved and after obtaining written physician approval.

Promoting Healthy Behaviors that Reduce Spread

- All staff/players will be required to either wash their hands or use hand sanitizer upon entering the arena and will be coached on frequent hand washing/use of hand sanitizer throughout their shift. Hand sanitizer will be available at staffed locations in the arena including the RiverWolves offices.
- All staff/players will be required to wear cloth masks when inside the arena. The RiverWolves will provide each staff member and player with 2 re-usable masks. Additionally, staff involved in tasks that require touching items such as merchandise, payments, cleaning, etc. will also wear team provided protective gloves.
- Staff and players will be educated on the importance of washing hands frequently for at least 20 seconds, avoiding touching mouth and nose, avoiding close contact with others, cleaning and disinfecting surfaces, using cough and sneeze etiquette, and staying at home when sick.
- All staff/players will be required to sign a statement indicating their agreement to abide by all team rules regarding COVID-19 safety and prevention. Any staff or player who does not follow the guidelines is subject to dismissal from the team.

RiverWolves Offices

- Only authorized RiverWolves staff will be allowed in either of the RiverWolves offices. Anyone needing to talk to staff or pick-up something will be asked to stay outside the door.
- There will be no more than 2 people in the coach's office and no more than 4 people in the main office at one time. There will be no sharing of desks, office equipment, phones, computers, etc.
- Any shared supplies such as pens or clipboards will be disinfected after each use and will be stored in clearly marked "Clean" and "Used" containers.
- Any frequently touched surfaces in each office will be cleaned with EPA approved disinfectant at a minimum twice daily and more often if there is more than one staff member in the office.

Player and Coach Health and Safety

Arrival and Lodging

- Players will be tested for COVID-19 upon their arrival in Wausau. They will remain isolated until cleared. We will be using a quick response test that will provide results same day.
- Players are housed with individual families (called Billets) within the community. If a player goes home for holiday break a negative COVID test will be required before re-joining their billet family.

- The billet family will review and verify the Compliance Certification provided by the player prior to initial report, move in and when players return from break
- Billet families agree to conduct regular health checks, monitor their family members for symptoms and follow all social distancing and isolation rules.
- Any COVID symptoms or positive COVID-19 tests of a billet family member must be immediately reported to the team so that proper steps can be taken to temporarily move the player if needed.

Locker Room

- The RiverWolves will limit the number of players in our locker room to no more than 9 at a time (every 3rd locker stall). After the player is dressed, they will proceed directly to the ice (for practice) or to a bench spot in the hallway outside our locker room (for games).
- Players will be limited to dressing and undressing only in the locker room. No socializing or hanging out.
- Players will be required to disinfect their equipment after every practice/game using "Clear Gear" cleaner that will be provided by team.
- The locker room bathroom will be sprayed with an EPA approved disinfecting spray daily.
- Deep disinfecting/foaming will be done once a month at a minimum. It will also be done if there is a positive COVID test or confirmed exposure to the virus of any member of the team/organization.

Practice Sessions

- On-ice practice sessions will be conducted following USA Hockey COVID guidelines.
- Players will maintain physical distance for any line drills
- Players to maintain physical distance for any chalk-talk/coach presentations
- Dryland during the training camp (9/21/2020 – 10/2/2020) will be conducted outside if possible. In the event of inclement weather rink #2 (or building in the back of MCP) will be used for dryland. If indoors, players will wear masks and maintain physical distancing during all dryland drills.
- Players will enter and exit practice in staggered groups to maintain locker room limits.
- Coaches will wear cloth masks at all times including during on-ice practice.

Equipment

- Players will be highly encouraged to use a full shield facemask or clear shield cage combination facemask.
- No sharing of equipment; each player is assigned their own equipment including uniforms and will use it for the entire season.
- Equipment will be disinfected after every practice/game using "Clear Gear" cleaner that will be provided by team.
- No shared water bottles: each player will be given their own personal water bottle which will be clearly labeled, and the player will be responsible for filling and re-filling their own bottle.

- Players will be required to wear cloth face mask at all times in the arena except when on the ice (or in the process of entering or exiting the ice).

Traveling

- When traveling the players and coaches will abide by all safety measures developed by our travel partner, Progressive Travel including spacing of players on bus and wearing masks.
 - Prior to boarding the bus, the team will perform a Daily Health Check (see above) and the information will be logged for each passenger.
 - While on the bus, if social distancing cannot be maintained, then masks must be worn.
 - Individuals shall frequently apply hand sanitizer while on the bus.
- If a player or coach develops COVID symptoms or tests positive while traveling the team will immediately isolate the player/coach and make arrangements to ensure that they can be isolated from the rest of the team during the return trip to Wausau.
- Meals
 - Individuals must wash hands before and after each meal.
 - Players and staff are not to share food or drink at any time. Individually packaged food options will be used whenever possible.
 - Seating and tables should be arranged to ensure social distancing.
- The RiverWolves will abide by all rules regarding safety and prevention of our away team partners when in their facility.

Off-ice

- Players will be reminded that social distancing and wearing of masks is also required for time away from the arena. This includes shopping, going to restaurants and any other public place.
- Players will refrain from group gatherings outside of their billet families and approved team gatherings.
- Team gatherings will be allowed only if outdoors or if the indoor space is large enough for proper distancing between players and coaches.

Games

Visiting Teams

- Visiting teams will be required to enter and exit the arena through the side door nearest their locker rooms.
- Visiting teams will be assigned locker rooms (Ministry Health, Aspirus, and Marshfield Clinic) and be instructed that they must divide their team up appropriately to limit the number of players in each locker room in order to maintain physical distance between players.
- Pre-game warm-up - teams will be instructed that pre-game warm ups are restricted to the following areas: outside the building if weather permits; inside rink #2 until the ice is put in as long as masks are worn at all times and distancing

is maintained. In the event of inclement weather after the ice is put in rink #2 the back building can be used with masks and physical distancing.

- Visiting teams will be instructed that they can fill their water bottles using the water dispenser outside their locker rooms.
- Visiting teams will be required to bring and wear their own masks when not on the ice.
- All coaches will also wear masks while on the bench during the game.

Penalty Box

- There will be no penalty box personnel. The game announcer will monitor the penalty box to ensure a player does not leave the box early.

Broadcasting Booth

- Only 2 people will be allowed in Broadcasting area ("nest") at one time.
- Camera operator will wear a mask and gloves and sit at least 6 ft away from broadcaster.
- Broadcaster will wear a shield while broadcasting over headset.
- Broadcast equipment will be cleaned with electronic safe cleaner at the start and end of each shift.

PA/Scoreboard

- Only 3 people will be allowed in the space at one time spaced at least 6 ft apart from one another.
- The scoreboard operator and stats person will wear a mask and gloves at all times.
- PA Microphone – a disposable, thin plastic cover will be used over the microphone head. The rest of the microphone and any cords will be disinfected with EPA approved electronic cleaner before and after each use.

Injured Player

- Only medical personnel will be allowed near player if there is an injury
- Medical personnel will use appropriate PPE per CDC guidelines

Isolation Room

- A spare locker room in rink #2 or another area selected by MCP will be designated as the Self-Isolation area for individuals that display Covid-19 symptoms during a game.

Miscellaneous

- Game officials will wear cloth masks except when on the ice.
- Game officials will be assigned a locker room that is larger enough to accommodate 3 officials while maintaining at least a 6-foot distance between them.
- There will be no handshake at pre-game puck drop
- There will be no high fives, fist bumps or hugs by players
- Hand sanitizer will be available in the scorer's box for game official use
- Game pucks will be sanitized in bleach every 5 minutes during the game

- In-between period promotions will be limited to those that can be done safely with social distance and sanitizing measures

Customer Health and Safety

General

- The RiverWolves will limit fan attendance based on building capacity and current safety guidelines as established by local and state authorities. Current limit is estimated to be 300 attendees.
- Once the fan limit is reached the RiverWolves will restrict any additional fans from entering the arena.
- All fans will be required to wear face masks when inside the arena including the restrooms and lobby area. Fans are expected to bring their own masks.

Tickets and Game Entry

- We will highly encourage online advance ticket purchases to speed the entry process and minimize ticket purchase lines at the game.
- There will be no physical tickets given at the game.
- Wristbands will be used to identify ticketed fans instead of hand stamps.
- Cashless transactions will be encouraged whenever possible.
- Plexiglass sneeze guard will be used to provide a barrier between staff and fans at the ticket sales counter. Ticket sales staff will also wear protective gloves and masks.

Spectator Seating and Viewing

- The RiverWolves will work with Marathon County Parks department to mark bleacher seating to provide appropriate distancing between household groups.
- During the game RiverWolves staff will monitor any fan violation of the guidelines including mask wearing and seating/distance requirements.
- Fans will be encouraged to notify a RiverWolves staff member if they have a concern with any other fan's behavior.
- Fans who do not abide by the arena or team rules will be asked to leave the game and may be restricted from future game entry.

Merchandise

- The merchandise will be consolidated into fewer display areas. Staff will be able to access additional sizes/inventory if needed.
- Typically, we do not allow apparel to be tried on – however if necessary, the item will be put away for at least 72 hours before returning to the shelf.
- All materials for transfer between fans and employees will be placed on countertops to avoid direct contact.
- Cashless transactions will be encouraged whenever possible.
- Plexiglass sneeze guard will be used to provide a barrier between staff and fans. Merchandise sales staff will also wear protective gloves and masks.
- No returns or exchanges. All sales are final.

Bar

- Plexiglass sneeze guard will be used to provide a barrier between staff and fans. Bar staff will also wear protective gloves and masks.
- All beverages served are cans/plastic bottles and staff will not be allowed to open containers before presenting to customer.
- Cashless transactions will be encouraged whenever possible.
- Bar counter space will be wiped down frequently with EPA approved disinfectant cleaner.
- Signage will be provided by the RiverWolves to guide fans in maintaining physical distance while in line at the bar.

Concessions

- The RiverWolves will work with Marathon County and the health department to provide food and beverage options that follow all guidelines for safe serving.
- Fans will be encouraged to visit the concession stand during the game rather than waiting until period breaks to minimize lines.

Facility

- Restrooms doors will be propped open during RiverWolves games and fans will be encouraged to use restrooms throughout the game vs. waiting for the intermission to minimize lines.
- The RiverWolves will work with Marathon County to provide additional signage as needed for games to remind fans about maintaining physical distance.
- Marathon County will mark exits and entrances establishing one way in and one way out. The RiverWolves will make sure that their game day set-up is designed to maintain that flow.
- RiverWolves staff will assist in frequent cleaning of high touch areas during games such as door handles and railings.

Fan Interaction and Community Appearances

- No player autographs allowed – players will not be allowed to gather and greet family and friends in the lobby post game.
- There will be no throwing of giveaway items into bleachers.
- No photos or contact (e.g. hugs) with team mascot Howler.
- No player or team mascot community appearances.

Communications Plan and Training

- The RiverWolves will work with Marathon County Parks on physical signage re: distancing for lobby and bleachers.
- We will make our COVID plan available to the public via our website.
- We will clearly communicate in all of our promotional materials, website and social media posts that masks are required to attend a game and that social distancing rules will be followed.
- During each game, the public announcer will remind fans of safety requirements aimed at reducing the spread of COVID-19 including the wearing of masks, social distancing, and frequent handwashing.

COVID Exposure Guidelines

Testing Strategy

- The team will use both a testing-based and symptom-based strategy as recommended by the CDC.
- Testing will be done on all players pre-arrival and upon return from any holiday breaks.
- Symptom based strategy will be used to determine return to play/team for any positive tests and for any individuals developing COVID-19 symptoms even if they are not tested.

Team Protocol Manager

- Teri Woodhull is the Team Protocol Manager and will be the primary point of contact for any COVID related policies, procedures and/or reporting requirements.

Symptom Based Return Strategy

- Individuals with confirmed Covid-19 infection, or individuals with suspected Covid-19 infection (e.g., developed symptoms of Covid-19) but were never tested for Covid-19
 - A. Individuals with mild to moderate illness with Covid-19 primary symptoms may return to play if:
 - At least 14 days have passed since their symptoms first appeared and
 - At least 72 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
 - Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) are not present.
 - B. Individuals with severe illness with Covid-19 primary symptoms or who are severely immunocompromised (as determined by physician) shall not be eligible to return without written physician approval.
 - C. Covid-19 Negative Test
 - If an individual has a test, and the test result is negative, but non-Covid-19 flu like symptoms continue, the individual will remain in Self-Isolation until 24-48 hours after their symptoms have resolved and/or after obtaining written approval by a physician to return to play.

Covid-19 Positive Tests

- If an individual is tested and tests positive for Covid-19, even if they are asymptomatic, they must adhere to the following protocol:
 - A. Upon receiving a positive Covid-19 test result the individual must notify the Team Protocol Manager immediately.
 - B. The Team Protocol Manager will notify the NA3HL Office immediately.
 - C. Anyone that would be considered "Close Contact" by the CDC shall be notified immediately. **Close Contact Definition:** Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic individuals, 2 days prior to specimen collection) until the time the individual is isolated.

- D. Any employee or player that is determined to be a Close Contact shall Self-Isolate and follow the CDC Symptom-Based Strategy before returning to work or play.
- E. The individual that tested positive must Self-Isolate and follow Symptom-Based Strategy before returning.
- F. The Team will cooperate with health authorities and follow CDC Close Contact Protocol (for individuals who have been in close contact with the infected in the 48 hours prior to when the symptoms started).
- G. The Team will follow any other additional prevention and control measures as required by the local health authority.
- H. The Team and Facility will ensure all areas of the facility, where the infected individual has been, are disinfected in accordance with the procedures and protocols provided CDC.