

**Town of Gander
Dept. of Recreation & Community Services**

STEELE COMMUNITY CENTRE

**COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN & GUIDELINES
FOR RESTARTING OPERATIONS**



Updated: March 29, 2021

Table of Contents

Introduction 3

Resources..... 3

Steele Community Centre Ice Arena Facility General Guidelines 4

 General Arena Guidelines:..... 4

 Arena Rental User Groups Guidelines: 6

 Public Skating Sessions Guidelines: 7

 Rapid Response Guidelines: 7

Cleaning and Disinfecting..... 8

Staff Safety & Training 8

Conclusion..... 8

User Group Declaration 9

Introduction

This SCC Safety Plan for operations was created to inform patrons and arena user groups about the guidelines and procedures in place to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and to maintain a safe and healthy environment for all participants, and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Currently, the Steele Community Centre is only open to those participating in the ice rental. No spectators are allowed unless a child needs assistance.

Resources

NL Public Health Guidance for all Alert Levels

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/alert-system/public-health-guidance-for-all-alert-levels/>

NL Alert Level 2 Arena Guidelines:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/information-sheets-for-businesses-and-workplaces/arena-operations-guidance/>

NL Public Health Arena Sport Guidance:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/information-sheets-for-businesses-and-workplaces/sport-guidance/>

NL Indoor Recreation Guidelines:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/information-sheets-for-businesses-and-workplaces/guidance-for-indoor-recreation/>

NL Public Health Use of Non-medical Masks in Public:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/non-medical-masks-use-in-public/>

NL Public Health COVID 19 Symptoms & Treatments

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/covid-19-symptoms-treatment/>

Steele Community Centre Ice Arena Facility General Guidelines

General Arena Guidelines:

- All access to the arena will be done by reservation by phone (709-651-5927) or email (recreation@gandercanada.com) to minimize contact with employees.
- Patron screening must be done by the user group prior to entry into the facility. Patrons are to be asked to remain home or leave the facility if they answer yes to questions regarding the presence of symptoms related to COVID-19, exposure to others with symptoms or having traveled outside the Atlantic Provinces in the last 14 days.
- Effective August 24, 2020, wearing a non-medical mask that covers the nose and mouth is mandatory for people 5 years of age or older in public buildings. Masks may be removed when engaging in a physical activity such as hockey, figure skating or public skating sessions. Therefore, the mask must be worn until you enter the ice surface for your session.
- It is recommended that Individuals over 60 years of age and those with chronic conditions are at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and these individuals should consider not attending indoor gatherings.
- Signage will be posted at the entrance to all facility and program spaces regarding COVID-19 safety precautions.
- Participants in any program or activity must adhere to physical distancing requirements.
- Maximum ice capacity is 50 people including participants, skaters, staff, instructors, and volunteers on a single ice pad.
- Maximum ice occupancy for hockey games will be 10 skaters plus a goalie per team.
- There will be a separate entrance and exit with patron movement noted by floor markings and directional signage.
- Patron movement through the arena lobby will be one way only.
- Dressing rooms are available, but due to social distancing there are a maximum of 7 – 8 persons allowed at one time. Dressing room #1 allows for 8 people and Dressing Room 2-6 allows for 7 people each. However, it is recommended that participants arrive at the facility in their appropriate gear and equipment for their activity and use the assigned seating area in the lobby to put their skates on. If dressing rooms are required, please arrange thru Admin office. Masks must be worn in dressing rooms.

- Showers located in the dressing rooms are not available.
- Washrooms in the dressing rooms along with the main washrooms in the lobby are available for use.
- Ice rental groups will be allowed to arrive up to 10 minutes ahead of their scheduled program/activity time and must exit the facility within 10 minutes of the end of their scheduled program/activity time. Facility staff will open the door 10 minutes before the session if all users from the previous session have left the building. Please be respectful of those renting ice after you and leave the building on time.
- Programs and rental group activities will be scheduled for a 60-minute ice session (which includes 50 minutes on ice and 10 minutes for ice resurfacing)
- There will be a minimum of 25 minutes between each rental to facilitate for the exit of one group and the arrival of another group.
- At no time are two different ice user groups permitted in the stadium at the same time. The previous user group and spectators must all be left the building before the next group enters.
- Coaches who are on the bench with the skaters are required to wear a mask. However, coaches on the ice taking part in the physical activity are not required to wear a mask while on the ice.
- Each team can only have 5 skaters on a bench at a time. All other skaters must remain on the ice surface or wait in the lobby area.
- Participants are advised that chairs and benches are being sanitized with a cleaning solution. The participant is responsible to make sure the area is dry before sitting. The Steele Community Centre is not responsible for any damage to clothing or equipment.
- Absolutely no spitting will be tolerated. Participants seen spitting on the ice or in the arena will be asked to leave the facility immediately and the ice rental session will have to be suspended for staff to clean the area.
- Hand sanitizer and/or hand washing options are available and patrons will be instructed to use these options before and after participation in class. However, all user groups are encouraged to have their own hand sanitizers on site for their participants.
- All user group officials/coaches must inform ice users on the safety guidelines and expectations of hand washing and sanitization at the start of each class.
- The indoor water fountains will not be available. Patrons should bring their own water bottles clearly marked with their names.

Arena Rental User Groups Guidelines:

- Individual, team and group sport and recreation activities will be permitted. Team practice and training is permitted to resume, and intra-squad competition (involving members of the same team) is permitted. All other competition (inter-division, inter-league, inter-association) would be to submit a Return to Sport Plan to the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation (michellehealey@gov.nl.ca) prior to competition being permitted.
- All rental groups must sign the declaration provided by the Town of Gander's Recreation & Community Services Department ensuring that they will follow the Steele Community Centre COVID 19 Safety Plan and Guidelines as well as the NL Public Health Guidelines.
- Dept. of Recreation & Community Services staff will periodically monitor the activities of the rental/user group and those found in contravention of the Steele Community Centre COVID 19 Safety Plan or the NL Public Health Guidelines will risk losing their ice time and risk closure of the facility for all.
- Rental/user group participants must always adhere to physical distancing requirements.
- Only participants involved in the rental are allowed in the building, therefore each user group must assign someone from their organization to let only their participants into the building.
- Organizers must make a record of all participants/coaches/sport officials/supervisors for each activity. However, providing contact information is voluntary and individuals cannot be denied entry to an activity based on this choice. This record must be kept for 14 day to aid in contract tracing and made available to the Department if requested.
- If any group is using another office or supply room, they will be required to make sure the room is sanitized, and physical distancing is followed.
- Social events post activity/rental/program are not permitted.
- Post session, food or beverages are not permitted.

Public Skating Sessions Guidelines:

- A maximum of 50 skaters will be permitted on the ice during the skating session based on first come first served.
- Skaters will pay at the Ticket Office. Credit or debit is the preferred payment.
- Patrons will be asked to arrive no earlier than 10 minutes prior to the start of the session and follow the foot traffic patterns as posted on the floor and walls of the arena and lobby.
- Skaters are advised to arrive at the facility in the appropriate gear and equipment for their activity. However, there will be an assigned area at the arena if needed to put skates on.
- One staff will be on duty patrolling the ice and educating patrons on physical distancing and other COVID-19 safety guidelines.
- Once the session has ended, patrons will be given a 10 minute “exit time” and leave the building via the posted traffic patterns.
- Spectators are not permitted, with the exception, of 1 person per child if assistance is needed to help the child in preparing to participate in a group activity.

Rapid Response Guidelines:

A Rapid Response system ensures the safest way possible to contain and reduce transmission of COVID-19 to athletes, coaches, volunteers, and staff as they partake in organized sport.

- If during an ice session, a skater is exhibiting **TWO OR MORE** of the symptoms listed under the NL Public Health COVID-19 website (see the following link for symptoms <https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/covid-19-symptoms-treatment>) they must leave the arena immediately and follow the guidelines for the NL Public Health COVID-19 Self Assessment Tool.
- If the user must wait for a guardian to pick them up, they must go to the First Aid room and isolate away from other users under the supervision of a coach. Once the guardian arrives, the user must use the closest exit door to leave the stadium to avoid other users. The coach is then responsible to notify facility staff so proper cleaning protocol can be done in and around the First Aid room.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Program spaces and equipment will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the NL Provincial Health Guidelines.
- Steele Community Centre staff will be provided with a cleaning schedule showing areas to be cleaned and staff will be required to log and sign cleaning times.
- Garbage cans and recycling bins will be cleaned daily.

Staff Safety & Training

- Steele Community Centre Staff will be trained in the following protocols to support a healthy return to ice activities:
 - Monitoring and supervision of physical distancing requirements.
 - Safe practices for first aid emergencies.
 - Expectations that every employee adheres to regarding the requirement to stay home if sick or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19
 - Proper and appropriate use of PPE such as masks and gloves if required.
 - Cleaning and sanitization procedures and safety measures
 - Frequent hand washing/sanitizing

Conclusion

The Recreation & Community Services Department will continue to monitor and adapt to the guidelines and recommendations of the Provincial Health Authority. Our safety plans will be adjusted and changed based on the Alert Level information provided by the Provincial Health Authority.

Any patron or group who requires further information is asked to call the Department at 709-651-5927 or email recreation@gandercanada.com.

User Group Declaration

All user groups must sign the declaration below stating that you have read the Steele Community Centre COVID-19 Safety Plan and Guidelines.

I _____ (print name), on behalf of _____

(name of user group), agree to follow all guidelines presented in this document and any subsequent updates which may be issued pertaining to the Steele Community Centre COVID-19 Safety Plan and Guidelines and the NL Public Health Guidelines.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Witness: _____

Date: _____