



Hello Durham West Families,

First of all, we want to extend our thoughts and support to any of our Durham West families and loved ones that have been directly impacted by the pandemic.

One thing that we are reminded of each day is that we are all truly in this together, and will also need to come out of this together, from our local Association, to the OWHA and finally, to Hockey Canada.

This letter is to confirm that we continue to slowly make our way back to hockey. **Please keep in mind things continue to change as the environment around COVID-19 changes.**

All stakeholders, at all levels, continue to work on solutions to bring back our wonderful game safely and fairly. As it stands right now, the OWHA is drafting a return to play document expected to be made public in the next week or so. We will post on our site as soon as we get the information.

There are still a wide range of issues unresolved and there are no specific timelines being set. We do know that hockey activities are intended to return in increments. That is, currently, the next phase will be allowing groups of up to 10 (including staff) to train on skills. Masks and physical distancing will still be the minimum standard and requirement.

The formation of 2020 rep teams are still in discussion. We will inform families as soon as we hear about concrete methodologies to get this done.

**Please note – For everyone’s safety and in the best interest of the entire membership, 2 important principles with a zero-tolerance policy will be applied.**

1. It would be expected that anyone (player, coach, staff, etc.) exhibiting any symptoms would remain at home and call in the reason for their absence.

2. Anyone subject to government quarantine rules e.g. contact with COVID-19 patient, returning from travel, etc. must also follow those guidelines and not participate in any DWGHA activities during this quarantine period.

A new addition to our team processes will be a screening survey for all entrances to facilities. This is to aid in backward tracing for any possible outbreaks. The screening would be conducted by a volunteer on each team.

Facilities are working on entry and exit plans that minimize contact. There will likely be a requirement of only one parent per player allowed in as necessary. Hygiene and distancing guidelines will be implemented as best as they can. Each player will be required to bring their own water bottle which will, of course, not be shared. Currently, players would be expected to come to the arena dressed and put skates on in designated areas. The dressing rooms would not be available.

As a final point, we sent out a survey recently. Thank you to all those who have filled it out. I would like to emphasize that this is only an 'information seeking' survey. We have not made any changes to the program or game but are only interested in finding out people's thoughts on what would work for them.

The current direction is to get back to the game as we all know it. The big questions are still how and when. We will update you as we continue to progress.

**To all our fantastic house league and rep team players** - Please keep in shape and find good ways to exercise and keep busy. Hockey will return in the long run. We all need to be as ready as possible when it does!

All the best in health and wellness,

Evan Jones  
President Durham West Lightning