



**ARENA RESTART PROTOCOLS 2020/21**





**CLUB TRAVEL  
PROTOCOL**

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This document (“Club Travel Protocol” or “Travel Protocol”) governs travel for all members of the Club’s Travelling Party (or other Club Personnel, as applicable) during the 2020/21 NHL Season, including Training Camp, the Regular Season.

## INTRODUCTION

- When on the road, individuals in the Club’s Travelling Party shall adhere to the local public health regulations of the market being visited, which may be more stringent.
- Members of the Club’s Travelling Party are required to comply with these requirements, including for travel to the Club city, when using hotels and/or Club travel partners (transportation companies such as car services, buses, charter flights, etc.) in the Club’s home city (to the extent applicable), and in connection with travel for away games.
- The parties will continue to update this Club Travel Protocol as circumstances warrant and as the science and world events continue to evolve.
- Clubs shall establish operational processes for all Club travel to facilitate safe, clean, and hygienic travel, and to reduce interactions and maintain appropriate distancing between members of the Club Travelling Party, as much as possible.
- For purposes of this Travel Protocol, a Club that has been temporarily relocated shall be considered to be in its home city when in the city to which it has been relocated.
- In order to maintain the safety of all members of the Club Travelling Party, and to mitigate the incremental risk associated with the introduction of persons not essential to the Club’s business, while on Club travel, all members of the Travelling Party are prohibited from utilizing transportation, dining destinations, and/or going into shops or receiving services that are not provided for directly by the Club except as set out in this Protocol.

## THIRD PARTY STAFF (E.G., HOTELS, AIRLINES, BUSES)

- Clubs shall require that all travel partners (hotels, airlines<sup>1</sup>, buses, etc.) follow the below protocols with their staffs:
  - Appropriate symptom and COVID-19 exposure screening and temperature checks of all staff that will have any direct contact with members of the Travelling Party (e.g., in-flight crews, gate area staff, bus drivers, luggage handlers, hotel workers, hotel security, hotel food servers, etc.).
  - COVID-19 testing for any travel partner staff who is anticipated to be within six (6) feet over a twenty-four hour period of anyone in the Club Travelling Party for 15 minutes or more of cumulative contact over a twenty-four (24) hour period, to the extent permissible by the relevant staff’s labor and other contracts, which shall be provided to the Club Compliance Officer for review.
    - » Testing results shall be available within twenty-four (24) hours prior to each day when any such travel partner staff anticipated interaction would occur (e.g., if a bus driver drives the Club bus for three days, such driver shall be tested and have negative results available, three times).

<sup>1</sup> The airline industry is also subject to applicable industry regulations, which in Canada, includes Transport Canada’s Interim Order Respecting Certain Requirements for Civil Aviation Due to COVID-19, No. 16.



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While on the road during the Season, Members of the Club Travelling Party remain subject to the daily Monitoring Requirements set forth in Section L of the Protocol. No members of the Travelling Party shall travel if they have any of the symptoms noted in Section M of the Protocol, or have returned a positive or inconclusive test result immediately prior to travel.

## REPORTING TO THE CLUB

Players who have not yet traveled to their Club city should make travel arrangements that will accommodate the necessary period of any required quarantine, and the administration of COVID-19 PCR testing, such that the Player's testing is completed prior to the start of Training Camp. Clubs should help to facilitate Player travel arrangements, and the Club's Physician or infectious diseases expert will provide each Player travelling to the home city guidance on the Player's potential quarantine requirements (described below), as well as suggestions on methods of travel that may minimize or relieve the Player's quarantine obligations.

When members of the Club Travelling Party (or other Club personnel, as applicable) travel by commercial airline to report to the Club, they shall endeavor to book flights on air carriers that employ state-of-the-art precautionary practices to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmissions, including:

- Requiring all passengers to wear a mask except when eating or drinking;
- Limiting food and beverage services to reduce interactions with staff;
- Employing thorough and frequent cleaning and disinfecting practices with EPA or Health Canada approved hospital-grade disinfectants; and
- Utilizing distanced seating practices to block off booking of middle seats or in premium cabins, one person is booked per every two seats.

Other precautionary steps to consider include booking early morning flights; bringing sanitization wipes for contact surfaces; and minimizing getting in and out of your seat throughout the flight. Most airlines have made their COVID-19 protocols public and such protocols should be referenced prior to booking commercial travel.

Anyone reporting back to the Club's home market shall avoid carpooling together from one location to the Club's home city. To the extent carpooling occurs, post-travel quarantine for individuals involved shall be considered by the Club's medical staff.

## COMMUTING

Carpooling or taking public transportation to/from the Club facility (including ride shares and taxis) shall be avoided when commuting. For Players, if no alternative is feasible, the Club shall make arrangements to pick up and drop off the Player at their residence. Private car service is recommended. The driver shall wear a face covering at all times.

Particular consideration shall be paid to the following additional precautionary measures:

- Encouraging hand hygiene before and after entry/exit of the vehicle and avoiding contact with surfaces frequently touched by passengers or other drivers;
- Having members of the Club's Travelling Party handle their own personal bags and belongings during pick-up and drop-off;



- Avoiding, if possible, using the recirculated air option for the car’s ventilation during passenger transport;
- Using the car’s vents to bring in fresh outside air and/or open the vehicle windows; and
- Having members of the Club Travelling Party sit in the back seat.

## **CLUB TRAVEL ON THE ROAD** //

- Only Groups 1 and 2A personnel are permitted to travel with the Club.
- All members of the Club Travelling Party are expected to observe and to strictly comply with all applicable state/provincial and local travel restrictions where they are located, while en route, and at the planned destination.
- Clubs shall endeavor to travel in a controlled environment at all times.
- No internal or outside marketing, sponsorship, or other third parties are permitted to travel with the Clubs; only individuals in Groups 1 and 2A are permitted on the Club charter.
- Absent extenuating circumstances and permission from the League, members of the Travelling Party shall travel on Club-provided transportation between the Club’s home city and other Club cities. In situations where members of the Club’s Travelling Party require separate transportation from the group transportation, such travel shall be limited to private travel.
- Clubs shall ensure that members of the Travelling Party minimize time in crowded settings.
- Clubs shall provide masks, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes to all members of the Travelling Party, shall travel with additional supplies while on the road, and shall have on hand an adequate overall supply of these products prior to their first Club travel.
- All members of the Travelling Party are required to wear face coverings whenever travelling with the Club.
- All members of the Travelling Party shall frequently clean and/or disinfect their hands and high-touch surfaces they encounter in connection with Club Travel (e.g., when entering the Club hotel, Club facilities, planes and buses; luggage handles; hotel key cards; remote controls; phones; airplane seatbelts; trays on airplanes; etc.).
- Clubs shall ensure that all travel partners (hotels, airlines, buses) have adopted enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols, consistent with industry standard and best practices, which include, without limitation, frequent disinfecting of “high touch” facilities, rooms, surfaces, etc., with hospital-grade EPA List N disinfectants or Health Canada approved products, and regular disinfecting of non-“high touch” areas with hospital grade EPA List N or Health Canada approved disinfectants. Disinfection shall occur before and after each usage by the Club.
- In addition to the requirements set forth in this Protocol, Clubs shall follow, and ensure their travel partners follow, applicable guidelines and regulations delineated by the PHAC, CDC and local/state health departments.

## AIR TRAVEL

- Planes shall be configured to provide as much free space between passengers as possible so that members of the Travelling Party are staggered to maximize distance between individuals.
- Each member of the Travelling Party shall be assigned a specific seat on the Club flights, to be used for the duration of each road trip.
- Except to use lavatories, members of the Travelling Party shall remain seated for the duration of the flight.
- Whenever possible, Clubs should depart from or arrive into smaller private airports. If travelling through a public airport is unavoidable, Clubs should avoid using main terminal gates.
- Clubs should make every effort to screen for TSA compliance at the Club facility or arena, where possible, or planeside, as opposed to in a public terminal. Such screening shall be conducted in a manner that meets disinfection and physical distancing requirements.
- Members of the Club's Travelling Party should hold their own documents and scan their own boarding pass or mobile device whenever possible.
- Flight attendants shall wear masks and gloves at all times and shall be the sole distributors of food items, which shall be individually wrapped and prepared.
- If possible, prior to the Travelling Party boarding the flight, flight attendants should place food items (snacks, prepackaged items, etc.), hand sanitizer, masks, gloves, etc. in each seat.
- In-flight catering, including distribution and clean-up of food and beverage, shall be as limited as possible (or eliminated altogether on short flights) to avoid touchpoints and interactions between flight attendants and members of the Travelling Party. Single-use utensils, napkins, plates, condiments, and hand wipes shall be provided for and disposed of after each meal.
  - As an alternative, Visiting Clubs can coordinate with Home Clubs grab and go post-game meals at the Home Club Facility, if suitable space exists at the Home Club Facility to allow for appropriate physical distancing and hygiene measures.
- Individuals on the flight should avoid eating and drinking at the same time as others in the row.

## HOTELS

- In each Club city, a single hotel will be designated for all visiting Clubs to use during road trips so that League standards for COVID-19 prevention can be consistently applied.
- While on Club travel, and except as permitted in this Protocol, the Club's Travelling Party shall not patronize or enter internal venues other than the designated hotel, the practice facility or the game arena. Individuals may walk around or exercise in outdoor space, so long as they are properly masked and distanced and not in a crowded environment. While outside, members of the Club Travelling Party shall not engage in close contact or interactions with individuals from the general public. In communities where COVID-19 rates are high or



increasing, extra cautionary measures should be used and/or may be imposed.

- Notwithstanding the above, Players may enter into venues other than the designated hotel, practice facility or the game arena when the Club is on the road for the purposes of seeking medical treatment, treatment by third party wellness providers (as specified in the 2020-21 NHL Season COVID-19 Protocol), visiting immediate family members who are present in the city the Club is visiting, or in the event of extenuating personal circumstances. In such event, Players shall seek the approval of the Club’s medical staff, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. Club medical staff may impose such restrictions and requirements as are reasonable in the circumstances, including limiting the duration of the visit and the contact that the Player may have with third parties in the course of such a visit. In all events, however, the Player and the Club shall comply with applicable regulations and restrictions that are imposed by the local health authorities.
- Whenever possible, windows shall be opened to increase fresh air flow in hotel rooms.
- Traveling teams must hold at least two (2) additional hotel rooms (with a checkout date later than the date upon which the Club is scheduled to depart the game city) in the game city until after they have boarded transportation for their home city and confirmed that no member of their Traveling Party has tested positive for or developed symptoms of COVID-19.
  - Anyone who receives a positive test result on the road and is subject to an in-hotel quarantine cannot leave their hotel room for any purpose, including to use common amenities such as the hotel gym, bar, or restaurants; no visitors are permitted; and meals and medications must be delivered to the room in a contactless manner.
  - If these situations arise, the visiting Club Medical staff shall direct the care of any such Member of the Club Travelling Party, in conjunction with the home Club’s Medical staff and the local health authorities.
  - Clubs shall identify a designee of the Club Travelling Party who can stay in the visiting Team city to provide services to (e.g., deliver meals and medication to) an individual who tests positive, for the duration of their time in the visiting team city.

## **DISTANCING** //////////////////////////////////////

- Each member of the Club’s Travelling Party will be required to stay in a single occupancy room, and no individual shall permit guests or other personnel in their room (with the exception of housekeeping or engineering staff, as needed, which services shall be provided while individuals are not present in the room).
- All members of the Club Travelling Party are required to stay at the Club hotel.
- Hotel meeting rooms shall be large enough to enable proper physical distancing.
- Clubs shall endeavor to arrange for rooming blocks within the hotel to ensure that the Travelling Party is isolated from other hotel guests to the greatest extent possible.
- Clubs shall also endeavor to arrange for access to a dedicated elevator to ensure that the Travelling Party is isolated from other hotel guests to the greatest extent possible.
- Use of the hotel fitness center, pool, sauna or other shared hotel facilities is prohibited during the Club’s stay at the hotel.





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- All beverages shall be provided in individual bottles, when possible.
- Automatic hand sanitizer stations shall be set up at the entrance of the meal room, as well as at various locations throughout the meal room.
- Kitchen and serving staff shall wear masks, gloves, hair and beard covers, aprons, etc.
- The Club shall ensure that menu offerings provided in Club-organized dinners can accommodate any dietary special requirements or restrictions of the members of the Club Travelling Party.
- The following provisions shall come into effect no sooner than February 15, 2021 but, in any event, only upon the agreement of the Medical Consultant of the NHLPA and the Medical Director of the NHL after consulting with a Club’s Infectious Diseases expert that the prevailing conditions in the applicable Club city are appropriate for its implementation:

Provided that it is consistent with any local regulations concerning dining in restaurants, Clubs will make arrangements with at least three local restaurants to host dinners for individual members of the Club Travelling Party. The restaurants shall be chosen after consultation with the Players and shall, to the extent practicable, include restaurants with outdoor dining facilities. If the restaurant does not have outdoor dining facilities, it must provide a separate dining room, or arrange for an area securely cordoned off from access to the general public. To the extent that it is feasible, all restaurants should offer wait and service staff dedicated solely to the members of the Club Travelling Party. The Club shall ensure that the facilities and service offered by the restaurant allows for appropriate social distancing and that the restaurant is otherwise compliant with the hygiene requirements set out elsewhere in this Protocol. Subject to availability, individual Members of the Club Travelling Party may choose to eat at these restaurants, and shall notify the Club of their intention to do so by no later than noon of the day of the dinner. No persons other than members of the Club Travelling Party may participate in such a dinner. The costs of such dinners shall be borne by the participating members of the Club Travelling Party. The Club shall ensure that touchless methods of payment are available so as make the handling of credit cards and payment devices unnecessary.

## **ELEVATOR USAGE** //////////////////////////////////////

- As noted above, Clubs shall endeavor to arrange access to a designated elevator to the greatest extent possible.
- Elevators may be subject to specific capacity and distancing protocols, identified with floor markers. Use of stairs are preferred where possible to avoid close contacts.
- Other best practices should be adhered to when using elevators, including:
  - Not using fingers to press elevator buttons. Instead use knuckles or elbows.
  - Not entering crowded elevators (even if capacity limits are not mandated).
  - Not lingering or standing in a crowded elevator bank.
  - Not talking to others while in the elevator.

## TRAVEL BY BUS

- In each Club city, a single bus company will be designated for all visiting Clubs to use during road trips so that League standards for COVID-19 prevention can be consistently applied.
- Clubs shall provide at least two buses (each filled at no more than 50% capacity) for transfers from the airport to the hotel, the hotel to the arena and back, and the arena (or hotel) to the airport, so that members of the Travelling Party can adhere to physical distancing protocols.
- Each member of the Travelling Party shall be assigned a two-person seat on the Club buses, to be used for the duration of each road trip, to the extent the configuration of the buses allows for such consistency. Clubs shall work with bus companies in each market to block off seats not in use, to the extent possible.
- If the bus driver is not segregated by a physical barrier (e.g., plexiglass), seating for members of the Club Travelling Party shall begin at least six (6) feet behind the bus driver.
- Buses shall be configured to provide as many seats, rows and free space between passengers as possible.
- Members of the Travelling Party shall not eat or drink while on Club buses.
- Whenever possible, open windows to increase fresh air flow on the bus.
- Only members of the Travelling Party are permitted to travel on Club buses, and the buses shall be treated as Restricted Areas.
- The buses shall be cleaned and disinfected ahead of each time the Club Travelling Party re-boards the bus during trips.
- To the extent drivers park on-site and stay during the game, drivers shall follow strict physical distancing guidelines, and remain in private areas without interacting with other people, and shall adhere to the NHL/NHLPA Cleaning, Disinfecting and Hygiene Requirements and this Team Travel Protocol before the Travelling Party re-boards the bus.