

Utica Curling Club

COVID-19 Policy and Procedures

2021-2022 Season

Introduction

This document describes policies and procedures to be implemented for the 2021-2022 curling season at the Utica Curling Club in response to the ongoing worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. These policies and procedures, which have been unanimously supported by the Board of Directors, have been established in order to control risk to members,, employees, and visitors while providing an environment that maximizes the enjoyment of the sport of curling at the Club for both our members and guests.

The worldwide pandemic of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, continues to significantly impact personal health, safety, and everyday activities. This virus, especially the predominant delta variant which now accounts for more than 90% of infections in the U.S., is highly contagious and is primarily spread through the air from person-to-person interactions, especially in indoor spaces. The sport of curling, as well as the social aspects of the sport (*e.g.*, “broomstacking”) are activities that entail significant risk of viral transmission, especially among unvaccinated individuals.

The Utica Curling Club is committed to reducing the spread of COVID-19. The policies and procedures described herein are based on current biomedical understanding of the risk of transmission of the virus between both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. These policies and procedures are subject to change as new information becomes available, and as federal, state, and local health authorities issue recommendations or requirements.

Definitions

The following terms used in this document are defined here:

- **Club** - The Utica Curling Club
- **Employee** - an individual on the payroll of the Utica Curling Club
- **First Half/Second Half** - The first half of the curling season begins in October 2021 as designated by the official calendar and concludes December 31, 2021;

The second half of the curling season begins January 1, 2022 and concludes in March 2022 as designated by the official calendar.

- **Member** - an individual who has voluntarily joined the Utica Curling club as a paid or Honorary member.
- **Premises** - The entirety of the indoor spaces of the Utica Curling Club
- **Public/Visitors/Guests** - These terms refer to individuals who are not members of the Utica Curling Club.
- **Season** - The entirety of curling activities from approximately October 2021-March 2022, as designated by the official calendar at utiacurlingclub.org

Applicability

The policies and procedures described in this document apply to all members, employees, and visitors to the Utica Curling Club, with exceptions only as specifically noted herein.

COVID-19 Policy

All members, employees, guests, and visitors, without exception, will sign a [declaration of compliance](#) that acknowledges that they will comply with this policy.

COVID-19 Vaccination Standard

All members, employees, and visitors to the Utica Curling Club who are medically eligible for vaccination must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in order to enter the premises. Fully vaccinated status is defined as at least 14 days after the final dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson).

Rationale

- Vaccination is the gold standard for minimizing the spread of COVID-19, including the highly contagious delta variant, according to the Centers for Disease Control and medical professionals.
- Vaccination provides a reliably reproducible and efficacious degree of protection against serious disease, hospitalization, and death, and a significant reduction in risk of infection and the ability to spread virus to others.

- Requiring vaccination of all members, employees, and visitors reduces the risk of viral transmission sufficient to allow more normal curling activity and enjoyment, including but not limited to the avoidance of universal masking, use of changing rooms, normal curling rules, spectating, food service, and post-game socialization.
- Requiring vaccination also reduces the risk of avoiding outbreaks that would necessitate temporary suspension of curling activities.

Vaccination requirements and documentation

- **All members of the Utica Curling Club who are medically eligible for vaccination must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in order to enter the premises.**
 - Each member of the club must provide proof of vaccination to the Dues Treasurer prior to entering the club or exercising membership privileges.
 - A photograph or image scan of documentation is acceptable
 - Members are expected to maintain their vaccination status as per CDC recommendations
- **Members under the age of 12, who are not yet eligible for vaccination, are not allowed to enter the premises unless fully vaccinated as a part of a clinical trial.** (Appropriate documentation must be provided prior to entry to the premises.) Once individuals under 12 are eligible for vaccination, they will be subject to the same guidelines as for those 12 and older.
- **Employees must provide proof of vaccination to the President prior to beginning work at the Club.**
- **Guests and visitors, without exception, should be prepared to provide proof of vaccination to the relevant event coordinator or their designate prior to entry.**

Exemptions

- Contractors and other workers performing temporary maintenance, delivery, or other similar services are exempt from the vaccination standard. These individuals must wear a face mask on the premises at all times according to the mask policy described in this document.
- Members who are medically ineligible for vaccination against COVID-19 may seek an exemption the vaccination standard, subject to the following conditions:
 - Individuals seeking an exemption must provide to the Secretary of the Board of Directors a letter from a licensed NY state physician familiar

with their medical history stating that they are medically unable to be vaccinated.

- Requests for exemptions will be considered by the Utica Curling Club COVID-19 Committee and the Board of Directors for approval.
- Members seeking exemptions may not enter the premises until their exemptions are approved.
- Exempted individuals must wear a face mask on the premises at all times according to the mask policy described in this document.
- Guests or visitors are not eligible for medical exemptions.

Mask Policy

- Anyone is permitted to wear a face mask on the premises at any time without bias or presumption of COVID-19 vaccination status.
- All individuals exempt from the COVID-19 vaccination standard must wear a face mask at all times within the premises.
 - Face coverings must cover both the nose and mouth completely, and must fit appropriately. Face coverings with vents are not permitted.

Membership Fees

- Individuals who have already paid membership fees prior to the start of the curling season may request refunds prior to the start of league play if they are unable to meet the requirements of this policy.
 - Once the Utica Curling Club commences regular league play, all paid membership fees will be non-refundable. Any league play or other events that are canceled due to unforeseen events related to COVID-19 will be made up if possible.
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Health Monitoring and Reporting

Member and Employee Responsibilities

- **Members and employees who are ill should not enter the premises until they have determined the cause of their illness and the appropriate response prior to returning.** (See following section for Guidance for COVID-19 Symptoms, Diagnosis, and Action.)

- **Members and employees experiencing potential COVID-19 symptoms must take the appropriate action as outlined in the following section for Guidance for COVID-19 Symptoms, Diagnosis, and Action.**
- **Members and employees who have a confirmed case of COVID-19 or have been advised by a medical professional or public health authority that they should be isolated may not enter the premises.**
- **Members and employees who are confirmed to have COVID-19 and have been on the premises during a period that they were potentially contagious must notify the President as soon as possible.**

Guidance for COVID-19 Symptoms, Diagnosis, and Action

Symptoms of COVID-19

The following are common symptoms of COVID-19, according to the Centers of Disease Control. Many of these symptoms are also typical of other viral respiratory diseases. Members are encouraged to be tested for COVID-19 if there is any concern about the cause of their symptoms. Being tested for COVID-19 may hasten your return to normal curling activities.

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Anyone experience the following symptoms should seek emergency medical care:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Pale, gray, or blue-colored skin, lips, or nail beds, depending on skin tone

Scenarios

- You have symptoms of COVID-19 and test positive
 - You may return 10 days after your first symptoms, provided you have not had fever for 24 hours (without fever reducing medication), and symptoms have resolved. If you have experienced a severe case requiring hospitalization or are experiencing prolonged symptoms, your health care team must determine when it is safe for you to return. **If you have been on the premises during a period that you were potentially contagious you must notify the President as soon as possible.**
- You have symptoms of COVID-19 and test negative
 - You may return providing you have not had a fever for 24 hours (without fever reducing medication) and symptoms have resolved.
- You have symptoms of COVID-19 and have not been tested
 - You may return 10 days after your first symptoms, provided you have not had fever for 24 hours (without fever reducing medication), and symptoms have resolved.
- You have symptoms of COVID-19 which are part of a confirmed diagnosis of another condition such as an ear infection, sinusitis, or strep throat, *etc.*
 - You may return when your health care team says you are no longer contagious.
- You have tested positive for COVID-19, but have no symptoms
 - You may return 10 days after the date of your positive test, assuming you remain symptom-free. If you develop symptoms, you are not eligible to return until after 10 days from symptom onset, provided you have not had fever for 24 hours (without fever reducing medication). **If you have been on the premises during a period that you were potentially contagious you must notify the President as soon as possible.**

Club Responsibilities

- The Club will notify the membership regarding the existence and timing of any reported positive case
- The Club will cooperate and provide all requested information to local, state, and federal health authorities as required by law.
- In the event of multiple, confirmed cases, the Board of Directors will consider additional actions as necessary to assure the safety of the membership.

Club Procedures

General

- During league play, members are encouraged to keep the doors locked to discourage visitors who have not been provided or complied with the COVID-19 policy.
- Any individual who has entered the club without meeting the requirements of this policy will be asked to leave immediately.

Curling Activities

- Curling activities shall use the normal rules of play without alteration.
- Participants should minimize potential for viral transmission by substituting broom taps or other gestures for handshakes at the start and conclusion of games.
- Participants should consider using personally owned curling equipment instead of shared equipment (e.g., brooms, stabilizers, grippers).
 - Participants should wipe down shared equipment (including rock handles) prior to and after use.
- Participants should use hand sanitizer and/or wash hands with soap and water upon entering the facilities, and before and after games.

Broomstacking, Bar, and Dining Activities

- With the vaccination standard implemented, there is no current reason to employ restrictions to traditional broomstacking and bar activities.
- All participants are encouraged to minimize congestion around food and beverage areas.
- All participants are encouraged to avoid sharing food or beverages.

Event Procedures

- **All participants in bonspiels, ice rentals, or member recruitment events will be subject to the COVID-19 vaccination standard as described herein.**
- All participants (or the group coordinator) will be provided with the COVID-19 policy in advance to ensure compliance.

- Each participant will be required to provide proof of vaccination and sign a [declaration of compliance](#) as described in this document, and attest that they are not experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.
 - Event coordinators are responsible for implementing these procedures.
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Policy Enforcement

- Members of the Utica Curling Club are expected to adhere to these policies until explicitly suspended or discontinued.
- League or event chairs and members of the Board of Directors are authorized to remove any participant from play who does not comply with these policies.
- Unintentional violations of this policy by members may occur. Such violations should be treated with a courteous reminder to follow the established policies.
 - Repeated violation of this policy by members should be reported to a member of the Board of Directors, who will relay this information to the President and Dues Treasurer for documentation.
 - In the case of two or more reported violations of this policy by a member, the Board of Directors may issue penalties that include but are not limited to written reprimand or suspension for a specified period of time.
- Intentional or repeated violation of these policies may result in suspension of membership according to Article IV, Section 6 of the Utica Curling Club bylaws.