



Memorandum

Date: 15/09/09
To: HDCO Member Associations: Executive Directors, Technical Directors/Development Coordinators, HDCO Board of Directors
Cc: HDCO Trainers Committee
From: Wayne Dillon, HDCO Executive Director
RE: **H1N1 Influenza Virus – Precautionary Measures**

In response to the recent reports regarding the possibility of a re-emergence of the H1N1 influenza virus over the next several months, the attached information has been compiled from the Ontario Ministry of Health and is intended for the purpose of providing awareness, education and general guidelines in the prevention and recognition of the H1N1 flu.

From a safety and risk management perspective, the close interaction of athletes in a team sport environment is a potential concern for the transmission of this virus and in order to take precautionary measures, we encourage all member associations to make this information readily available to team trainers.

For additional information, please visit <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/ccom/flu/>

If you have any questions regarding the above information please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Thank you.



HOCKEY CANADA

INFORMATION BULLETIN D'INFORMATION

Bulletin No.: I1002

To: Officers
Branch Presidents
Branch Executive Directors
Council Representatives
Directors
Life Members

Minor Council Rep (10/01/
Junior Council Rep (10/03)
Senior Council Rep (10/01)
Female Council Rep (10/02)
HDC Rep (10/02))
Hockey Canada Staff

Date: September 9, 2009

From: Dr. Mark Aubry, Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT: H1N1 Virus – Recommended Steps for all Associations and Teams

Ladies and Gentlemen:

There is presently much speculation as to the impact that the H1N1 virus will have on Canadians over the next few months. Organizations have been urged to stress to their members steps that should be taken to prevent the spread of the virus, and to have plans in place to alleviate any hardships that may come of the spread of H1N1.

Hockey Canada has for many years had specific steps in place to reduce the spread of any infection in the hockey environment and we urge you to remind your teams of the following.

Team staff need to emphasize to players and parents the need for total cooperation in all aspects concerning hygiene, but specifically to the prevention of the transmission of the H1N1 virus. The following are recommended steps within the team environment:

1. Players should be urged to report all illnesses to their parents and the Safety Person/Trainer. **Parents are urged to keep their children away from the hockey environment if they are showing any signs of infectious disease or virus. Sick players are encouraged to see their physician if showing signs or symptoms of the H1N1 virus, and to be fully recovered prior to returning to play.**

2. Players should be encouraged to wash hands routinely and always after handling hockey equipment. Frequent hand washing with soap and water is one of the best preventions we can recommend. Teams are encouraged to carry extra hand soap or hand sanitizer as not all arenas have this readily available.
3. Talk to your players about covering their mouths and nose when coughing or sneezing using their arm as opposed to their hands.
4. Advise players to try and not touch their own mouths or nose when in the hockey environment to reduce the chance of them passing an infection on to themselves.
5. Ensure all players and staff has **their own water bottles labeled with names and players numbers.** Sport drink bottles should be avoided as direct lip contact is possible when drinking.
6. Officials and coaches should avoid drinking from other players water bottles and have water readily available to them on their perspective benches.
7. Towels should be removed from all benches. Players should not share towels, clothing, bar soap or other personal items such as razors.
8. Assist athletes in protecting their immune system by stressing they get sufficient sleep, that they do not over train and that they get proper nutrition.

Attached to this Bulletin you will find important information on the H1N1 virus and we suggest distributing this to your team's staff and parents for their information. You may find additional information on the Health Canada website at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/index-eng.php>, or on your applicable Provincial/Territorial sites.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Todd Jackson, Senior Manager Safety and Insurance at tjackson@hockeycanada.ca.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mark Aubry
CMO, Hockey Canada



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MEMORANDUM

TO: OMHA Member Associations
CC: OMHA Board, HCOP Personnel
FROM: Rick Morpew
Technical Director, Referees
DATE: October 28, 2009
SUBJECT: Fair Play Initiative:
H1N1 Virus Precautionary Measures/Recommendations

The OMHA has taken a proactive approach with respect to information sharing, as well as emphasis of precautionary measures and hygiene with respect to Flu, particularly H1N1. By way of reminder, please be aware that the OMHA has established an information section accessible on the OMHA website homepage (www.omha.net).

Many inquiries have also been received with respect to game officials shaking hands with team officials at the beginning of the game as part of the FAIR PLAY INITIATIVE.

Effective immediately it is recommended that the Fair Play handshaking prior to the start of each game be eliminated until further notice.

Game officials will continue to approach the team benches as in the past. They should indicate that because of current concern regarding the H1N1 Virus and the direction of the OMHA that they will not be conducting the Fair Play Handshake at the start of each game. Both the game officials and the team officials should acknowledge each other without the customary formal handshake until further notice. This in no way should diminish the spirit and intent of the Fair Play Initiative, and to replace handshaking game officials should verbally greet team officials at the bench prior to the start of every game.

Your anticipated cooperation in this matter is appreciated, along with the reminder that preparation and precaution remain your best defence.

Please do not hesitate in contacting myself, or the OMHA Office, should you have any questions.

Sincerely
ONTARIO MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Rick Morpew
Technical Director, Referees

Member of:

