

Guelph Curling Club COVID-19 Protocols Fall 2021

The following protocols were created using recommendations from the CurlON Return To Play 2.0 Guide, and following the regulations from the Government of Ontario COVID-19 public health measures and advice- Stage 3 (<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/public-health-measures>).

The COVID-19 situation in Ontario is quickly evolving and these protocols are based on knowledge as of August 18, 2021. There will likely be changes throughout the season as we follow regulations released by the Government of Ontario, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH), and CurlON.

- **Vaccination-** At this time, the GCC will not be asking for proof of vaccination for those entering our facility. This decision was based on legal advice provided to CurlON by Steve Indig, LL.B – Partner, Sport Law. He indicated that “The use of vaccination passports has the potential to encroach on the rights of participants, including substantial privacy concerns around the collecting and storage of personal health information. This type of information is highly confidential and tightly regulated by provincial and federal legislation. Other concerns include potentially discriminating against individuals who may have valid reasons for not being vaccinated or who may be unable to receive a vaccination, including pre-existing medical conditions or religious beliefs”. CurlON currently recommends that clubs not ask for proof of vaccination as it exposes organizations to risk of legal liability including human rights complaints.

Under current legislation, employers are legally unable to enforce vaccination in staff or to ask about vaccination status for the purpose of determining whether that person would be let go from their job. We cannot therefore enforce vaccination of our staff.

- **Mask Policy-** Face coverings are mandatory in the “warm areas” of the club (including the lounge and change rooms) unless you are seated and eating or drinking. Face coverings are **strongly** encouraged, but not mandatory, on the ice surface.
- **Capacity** – We are able to run all eight sheets of curling but are limited to 50% capacity in the lounge. At GCC, we are fortunate to have a large enough lounge space that two full draws will be able to overlap without exceeding this number. We are therefore able to run leagues on a typical “pre-COVID” schedule with no need to prevent overlap between draws in the club. We will also be able to allow a small number of spectators.
- **Physical Distancing-** We ask that members continue to follow the directional arrows for moving around the club (see figures attached). The front door will be used as an entrance only and the exit will be through the side door into the parking lot. Players waiting to go onto the ice will use both the upstairs and downstairs lounges depending on what sheet they are playing on. We will release more specific direction on this as we see league numbers come in.
- **Locker Rooms-** GCC will continue to encourage distancing by having the locker rooms open ONLY to people who have purchased a locker for the season. Everyone else should arrive at the club dressed to play.

- **Lounge-** The lounge will be open for food and drink with tables set up with two metres between them. We will use two of our large round tables together for 8 people to encourage distancing. There will be enough seating for one full draw of people (64). While we will have no limit on members' time spent in the lounge, please vacate your table if you see that it is needed for people in the draw following yours as they come off the ice. Bartenders will sanitize tables as they are vacated.
- **Waivers/Liability and Declaration of Compliance-** Members will be asked to complete a liability waiver and declaration of compliance with COVID-19 protocols prior to the season start.
- **Hygiene and Cleaning-** The GCC will continue to use Enviro-Master Services for enhanced cleaning and the Club Manager will work with staff to ensure frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces which will be recorded in a log. Rocks will be sanitized prior to each draw by ice staff and hand sanitizer will remain accessible around the club.
- **Game Play-** Players should not shake hands prior to or following games but may tap brooms or give verbal acknowledgment instead. Players should use their own coin or other method (e.g. rock-paper-scissors, phone app) to determine who has the hammer in the first end. When putting up the score and measuring, hands should be sanitized both before and after completing the activity.

Distancing is encouraged during game play and there are markers on the sheets to advise waiting team members where to stand. CurlON has provided guidance for movement of players during the game. Please refer to the attached figures and our video from last season (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibMnTw7g7hc>) for an explanation. Keep in mind that these are guidelines only. When in doubt, just do your best to stay away from others.

At this time, we will allow teams to sweep with one or two sweepers, but with two sweepers you **must wear a mask** due to the close proximity you will be to the other player. We encourage players to speak with their teams and respect one another's comfort levels with this choice. Skips and vices will not be permitted to sweep in the house to avoid crowding.

- **Contact Tracing/COVID Screening-** GCC will continue to use the CurlON contact tracing app implemented last season. Each person is given a QR Code which can be saved on a smart phone or printed on a card and scanned upon entering the club. Members returning from last year may use the same QR code and new members will be given one at their first night of curling. By signing in, you acknowledge that you have passed the COVID-19 screener which will be posted next to the sign-in device.
- **Spares-** There are no limits on the number of people participating in leagues, so we can welcome non-members into drop-in leagues and to spare.