The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

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Improvements to be Made in Long-Term Care

Health Minister Randy Delorey announced September 21 government is preparing for future cases of COVID-19 with recommendations from two reviews of outbreaks in long-term care facilities. Infectious disease consultant Dr. Chris Lata of Nova Scotia and former British Columbia associate deputy minister of health Dr. Lynn Stevenson conducted a review of the COVID-19 outbreak at Northwood's Halifax campus.

Some of their key recommendations include: Improving infection prevention and control within the existing architecture at Northwood; reviewing and updating pandemic plans; creating a mobile infection prevention and control resource to support facilities facing outbreaks; addressing staffing challenges with more employees for housekeeping, resident care, screening and visits, and a human resources plan for the sector and clarifying roles and responsibilities within the Department of Health and Wellness and the Nova Scotia Health Authority, restructuring their disaster response teams and improving communication

The Department of Health and Wellness will work with its partners to take immediate action to make improvements, including: ensuring existing long-term care rooms have no more than two residents each. Since 2007, new facilities are built with single rooms and private bathrooms; establishing one mobile infection prevention and control response team in every zone to support facilities facing outbreaks, as well as an infection prevention and control resource person per zone dedicated to long-term care

— ensuring there are processes in place for long-term care staff to get tested and return to work as quickly as possible; funding for all facilities to increase cleaning (staff and supplies); funding for small capital projects and equipment purchases to support infection and prevention control in long-term care facilities, such as lock boxes and carts for medications, hand-sanitizing stations, personal protective equipment (PPE) carts and room dividers and funding for staff who can be deployed as needed to manage outbreaks.

Gathering Limits for Participants in Performing Arts, Sports to Increase

Government is increasing the allowable numbers for participants in performing arts, sport and organized physical activity. Effective Oct. 1, the number of people who can participate in one of these activities without physical distancing will increase from 10 to 50. For most sports, this will allow full team practices and competition to resume, while for the performing arts, this will allow for larger rehearsals and performances. This change also applies to recreational league sports, like adult hockey, and drop-in activities, like open swims and skates. Unorganized or casual games, like pickup basketball or soccer in the park, must adhere to existing gathering rules of small groups of 10 without physical distancing within a maximum of 50 with physical distancing.

The gathering limit of 50 without physical distancing includes: players/participants, officials, coaches, instructors or anyone else who is required to be on or near the field of play and performers, directors, cast, crew or anyone else required to be within the performance space.

The limit of 50 applies to practices, competitions, games, rehearsals and artistic performances. While mask use is not required while doing physical activity, wearing masks and maintaining distance as much as possible continues to be encouraged for these activities.

The gathering limits for day camps and after school programs remains at 15; for events and performances is 250 outside with physical distancing and 50 per cent of a facility's capacity and up to 200 inside, with physical distancing and mandatory masks for spectators.

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Maritime Junior Hockey League (MHL) return to the ice

Truro, N.S. (September 18, 2020) – For the first time since the 2019-20 season was abruptly cut short due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in mid-March, teams in the Maritime Junior Hockey League (MHL) are preparing to return to the ice. The 2020-21 exhibition season began Sunday, September 20th in Campbellton as the Tigers hosted the Grand Falls Rapids at 3 p.m.

Campbellton Tigers were successful in the exhibition match, outscoring the Rapids 6-4 with 442 fans in attendance.

Some of the rules and regulations for Sunday's game included:

- A mask must be worn at all times in the building until you're sitting in your seat. The mask can be removed as long as two-metre physical distancing is maintained.
- A mask is required when getting up from a seat to use the washroom.
- Hand sanitizer stations have been installed throughout the Civic Center and their use is encouraged.
- Tickets must be purchased in advance at the ticket office. Tickets will not be sold online. The ticket office will close an hour and a half prior to game start.
- To follow COVID-19 contact tracing guidelines, names and contact information for everyone tickets are being purchased for must be provided.
- Doors of the Campbellton Civic Center would only be open 10 minutes prior to the start of the warm-up (2:20 for a 3 p.m. game, 6:20 for a 7 p.m. game, etc).
- The main doors at the front of the building will be the only entrance. Maintain physical distancing, enter, and go directly to your seat. No one will be allowed to stand or gather to chat on the walking track or any other areas.

On Friday, September 25, Campbellton defeated Grand Falls again, 4-3 in front of a crowd of 571.

Several exhibition games are currently planned through to the start of the 2020-21 regular season on October 30th. The schedule will be updated at **themhl.ca** as they are confirmed.

Teams will communicate information regarding their rinks ahead of time. The MHL and its teams ask for patience from fans as preparations continue for the return of hockey to each of the league's twelve markets. The MHL thanks officials at various levels of government and numerous stakeholders around the Maritime provinces for the progress made so far and looks forward to continuing the conversations in the weeks ahead.

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Hockey Canada Fall Events, and 2020 World Jr A Challenge, cancelled

September 4, 2020

CALGARY, Alta. – Following the cancellation of the 2019-20 hockey season and all national championships in March, Hockey Canada has worked tirelessly with its host organizing committees for 2020 and beyond.

While a tremendous amount of work has gone into planning the fall 2020 events, the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has created a position where there is no further option other than to cancel three events, instead planning for their return in 2021 to the following communities:

- 2020 World Junior A Challenge, Dec. 13-20 in Cornwall, Ont.
- 2020 National Women's Under-18 Championship, Nov. 2-8 in Dawson Creek, B.C.
- 2020 Canadian Tire Para Hockey Cup, Dec. 6-12 in Bridgewater, N.S.

The following statement is on behalf of Hockey Canada from Tom Renney, chief executive officer, and Scott Smith, president and chief operating officer:

"At various rates, provinces from coast-to-coast-to-coast have started moving ahead with their phased re-opening, but as it has been since the season was cancelled, Hockey Canada's priority remains the health and safety of all participants and the general public. We believe the decision to cancel these three events is the safest decision given the ongoing uncertainty of the pandemic at the local level, as well as the international implications associated with these events.

Hockey Canada is grateful for the continued support of our local host committees and event partners, including BC Hockey, Hockey Nova Scotia, Hockey Eastern Ontario, NHL Central Scouting, the Canadian Junior Hockey League (CJHL) and the Central Canada Hockey League (CCHL). We appreciate the commitment and support of everyone involved and we look forward to showcasing some incredible hockey to fans next year."

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MHL Moves START to October 30

Truro, N.S. (September 1, 2020) – The Maritime Junior Hockey League (MHL) has announced that the start of the 2020-21 regular season will be moved from October 2nd to October 30th. The decision was made during a recent meeting of the Board of Governors in Moncton due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, as well as questions surrounding attendance and a normal return to play for the league's twelve franchises.

"The return of fans is critical to the success and continued health of the Maritime Hockey League and its teams," says President Steve Dykeman. "We're confident that this extra time will allow for continued productive discussions to lead to the return of our exciting brand of hockey throughout the region."

The MHL's Return to Play Plan was submitted to health authorities and other stakeholders this summer and has been well received. It outlines the steps that will be taken to ensure the safety and well-being of players, fans, and staff during these unprecedented times. The MHL will continue to communicate with the Canadian Junior Hockey League (CJHL), Hockey Canada, various levels of government, and other stakeholders.

In July, the MHL had announced plans for a full 52-game season. With the modified start date, the Board voted for a 44-game schedule that runs through the end of March. Further details on the schedule will be released at a later date.

Media Contact: James Faulkner Director of Communications Maritime Hockey League

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