

# RETURN TO PLAY

Ice Rental Guidelines  
2020/2021



As of December 21, 2020

**CONTROL (RED) ZONE** of the [COVID-19 Response Framework](#)

## Summary

This document is intended to provide an overview of specific rules, regulations and guidelines in regards to ICE RENTALS and ICE USAGE that have been implemented by ASM Global at the Meridian Centre in order to safely use the facility during the COVID-19 pandemic. The rules and regulations within this Return to Play document have been developed following the safety measures outlined in the [COVID-19 Response Framework](#) issued by the Government of Ontario and will continue to be updated to reflect Public Health requirements. It is the responsibility of the organizer/agreement licensee to disseminate the information in this document to all of their participants and ensure that all participants understand the protocols in place before arriving at the facility.

Failure to comply with the below rules and regulations or Public Health recommendations will result in immediate cancelation of current and future ice rental(s) and potential lost of rental fee payment.

## Requirements:

As of December 21, 2020, the Government of Ontario has placed the Niagara Region in the **Control (Red) Zone** Public Health Measures. As a result, the Meridian Centre will implement the following;

- **Maximum 10 participants** on the ice, not including coaches.
  - Maximum of 2 coaches and 1 trainer on the ice (or players bench)
- Team sports must not be practiced or played except for training - **no games or scrimmage**
- **Dressing Rooms are closed** – designated skate on/off area will be provided.
- On Ice activities must keep 2 metres physical distance, no contact permitted.
- Contact tracing information is required from everyone entering the arena, including participants, parent/guardians, and coaching staff.
- Organizer/agreement licensee will be required to complete the Meridian Centre COVID-19 Screening and Contact Tracing form and email it to [rentals@meridiancentre.com](mailto:rentals@meridiancentre.com) prior to your rental time. **NO Exceptions.**
- Contact tracing sheets will be securely stored for a minimum of 30 days.
- Active screening of each participant and patron entering the arena will be conducted by Meridian Centre Staff.
- Mask/Face Coverings are required at point of entry and must be worn in all public spaces except on the ice surface.
- Physical Distancing should be practiced at all times, maintain 2 metres (6ft) in all public spaces. Public spaces include lobby, hallways, washrooms, dressing rooms, designated skate on/off areas, spectator view areas and arena parking lot.
- It is the responsibility of the organizer / agreement licensee to be aware of and comply with the parameters of **Control (Red)** level as set out by the [Government of Ontario](#).
- **Meridian Centre will only be issuing ice rental agreements to residents of the Niagara Region.**
- Meridian Centre is placing the responsibility on the organizer/agreement licensee to follow the **Public Health recommendation that 'individuals and families avoid travel outside their home health region.'**
- The organizer/agreement licensee must immediately inform the management team at the Meridian Centre of any COVID-19 related outbreaks or exposure to outbreaks within their participants that may have occurred during rental times. For the safety of the staff at the Meridian Centre and the community at large, it is imperative that organizations email [rentals@meridiancentre.com](mailto:rentals@meridiancentre.com) or call the General Manager 905-684-8400.

## Capacity/Gather Limits:

- **Maximum 10 participants on the ice**, not including coaches. Maximum of 2 coaches and 1 trainer on the ice with the participants.
- Family skates permitted with a maximum of 10 participants on the ice.
- Only 1 parent / guardian per participant will be allowed into the arena, provided maximum capacity is not exceeded. No spectators for Adult Hockey (18 years of age and older).

## Entry to Facility:

- Entry will be through the Main Lobby (Box Office), directional signage will be in place and must be followed. Masks or face coverings must be worn to enter the building. Hand sanitizer to be used upon entry. Social distancing to be maintained, both inside and outside of the venue while participants await their screening, including the sidewalk outside the main doors and in the parking lot.
- All participants should arrive at the facility dressed (Rink Ready), with the exception of skates and helmet and gloves.
- Entrance will be permitted **15 minutes** prior to rental to begin check in at the Main Lobby screening area. Participants arriving earlier must wait outside.
- Crowding is not permitted at entry and during check-in/screening, practice physical distancing. Once check in is completed the doors will be locked until the next rental. There will be no re-entry.
- **No Dressing Rooms.** Skate on / off area will be set up with chairs spaced to provided physical distancing.
- Each organizer/agreement licensee who is utilizing the facility should conduct passive screening of all participants and parents/guardians prior to leaving for they ice rental time. If an organization or renter does not have a screening tool they can utilize the self-assessment app which can be found at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/> or the Niagara Region Screening tool <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/pdf/screening-tool-colour.pdf>
- Meridian Centre staff will be present at the Entrance and Exits to facilitate check in, ensure Return to Play guidelines are being followed for the duration of the rental.
- Participants will be asked to follow directional signage to the designated skate on/off area. They will then proceed onto the ice through the designated ice entry point in a physical distanced format. See Appendix 1 - Participant Entry Directional Flow
- Sanitize hands before and after leaving the ice surface.
- Prolonged or deliberate contact while playing sports is not permitted
- There is NO warm-ups in the facility.
- Player benches and penalty boxes are available for use provided social distancing is maintained.
- Absolutely NO SPITTING anywhere in the facility.
- Facility is not responsible for items left unattended.
- Music must not be played in the facility at a decibel level that exceeds the level at which normal conversation is possible

## Exiting the Facility

- Participants who just exited the ice surface have **10 minutes** to change and exit the facility following the exit signage.
- Participants will be asked to follow the directional signage from the designated skate on/off area to the exit.
- When leaving the facility sanitize your hands.

## Parent / Guardian / Spectators

- No spectators for any participant 18 years of age or older. Participants under 18 years of age are allowed 1 parent / guardian per participant to provide supervision, provided maximum capacity is not exceeded. Active screening of each parent/guardian will be conducted by Meridian Centre Staff.
- Contact tracing information (phone number) is required from all parent/guardians.
- Parent / Guardian may escort participant to skate on/off area when directed by venue staff.
- All Parent / Guardian must wear a mask or face covering at all times while in the venue.
- At the end of the ice rental time, parent/guardians will exit following staff direction and directional signage. See Appendix 2 – Spectator Directional Flow (perhaps update diagram to include seating section)

## Washroom and Concession

- For participants with skates -
  - Dressing Room 4 is designated as Men's Washroom to be used as a water bottle fill station and if need to go to the washroom with skates.
  - Dressing Room 5 is designated as Women's Washroom to be used as a water bottle fill station and if need to go to the washroom with skates on.
- Event level washrooms will be open with occupancy limits to promote physical distancing.
- Food and beverage services are not available, outside food and beverage is **not** permitted in the facility.

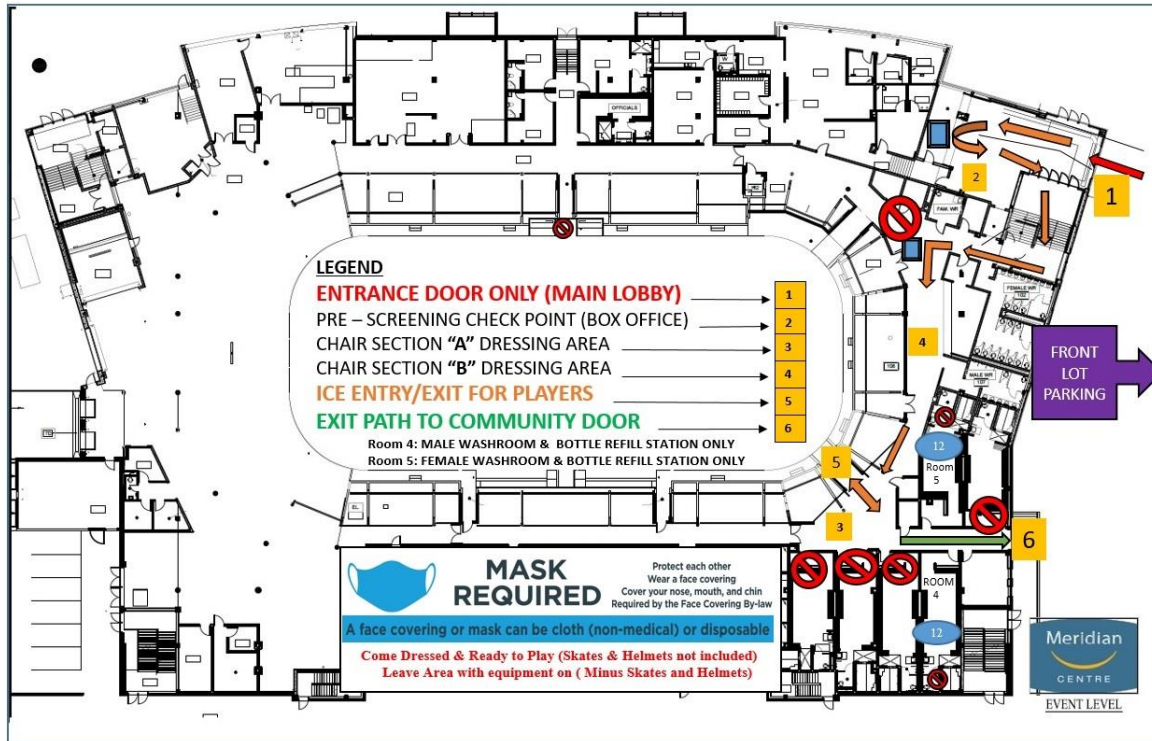
## Cleaning

Facility staff will be cleaning and sanitizing the Meridian Centre following the VenueShield program. Dressing rooms, players benches, and penalty box will be sanitized after every use. Seating and public washroom cleaning and sanitization frequency will be increased. There also will be a cleaning of high frequency touch points several times per day.

## About VenueShield

The Meridian Centre is managed by ASM Global on behalf of the City of St. Catharines. ASM Global is the world's leading venue management and services company, has created VenueShield, a comprehensive and best-in-class program, that is being deployed at more than 325 ASM Global facilities around the world, providing the highest levels of cleanliness and safety, all in partnership with leading medical professionals, industry experts and public health officials.

## Appendix 1 - Participant Entry Directional Flow



## Appendix 2 – Spectator Directional Flow

