



March 11, 2020

From: Ron Yeung, Director, Domestic Development

To: PTSOs & Basketball Stakeholders

RE: COVID-19 (coronavirus) in Canada

The impact of COVID-19 on sport is becoming increasingly worrisome and continues to have an expanding impact internationally. Canada Basketball has been closely monitoring all available information related to the continued spread of the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 (coronavirus). The health and safety of our players, officials, employees, volunteers, fans, partners, and everyone associated with Canada Basketball and upcoming events continues to be our priority.

After reviewing the relevant positions from the Public Health Agency of Canada, Canada's chief public health officer, and the Government of Canada, there are no planned schedule changes and absent from other information or advice from local health authorities for a particular event in Canada, there does not appear at this time to be significant enough risk to justify postponing or cancelling.

Although there have been a number of sport event and conference cancellations, they are occurring mainly with those at the international level (e.g. IIHF Women's World Hockey Championships, Arctic Winter Games) that involve international visitors. The risk factor domestically here in Canada remains low.

At this time, our domestic events such as NCCP Super Clinic, U15 & U17 National Championships will proceed as scheduled. If this changes, information will be posted on Canada Basketball website and communicated to participants as soon as possible. Currently the health risk for Canadians due to the COVID-19 virus is quite low, but is being observed and reassessed regularly. If there is a change in status, or new recommendations, we will provide updates on a timely basis.

Given the dynamic nature of this situation we are establishing additional protocols to promote the health and safety of all participants and fans at upcoming events, and we will regularly review our procedures in light of revised recommendations from the Public Health Agency of Canada.

In addition to establishing additional protocols, we encourage all athletes, coaches, officials, support staff, volunteers, spectators and everyone participating in any basketball events and competitions in the upcoming weeks and months, to be vigilant with their health and safety. To support this and to continue protecting all individuals, teams should no longer be shaking hands,



instead will elbow bump, at the conclusion of each game. All other participants, including volunteers, spectators, partners and all other stakeholders are also encouraged to elbow bump, instead of shaking hands.

The below are additional recommendations that should be considered at all times during basketball programming:

- Athletes are reminded to bring their provincially issued health card when travelling with a team to any competition or training camp.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available. Make soap and/or hand sanitizer available in dressing rooms and hotels.
- Avoid contact with sick people, including avoiding close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections.
- Athletes, coaches, and officials showing signs of illness should refrain from participation in basketball activities until symptoms subside.
- Gloves should be worn by staff handling towels or laundry in the team environment.
- Towels should not be shared on the team bench. Players should not share clothing, bar soap or other personal items such as razors.
- Canada Basketball recommends the following protocol as it relates to the use of water bottles:
 - Good team hygiene includes ensuring all players and staff have their own water bottles to prevent the transmission of viruses and bacteria.
 - Bottles should be labelled and washed after each practice or game.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing. Practice cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, and wash hands).
- Advise players to try and not touch their own mouths or nose when in basketball environment to reduce the chance of them passing an infection on to themselves.
- Monitor illness and injury in all teams. Parents are urged to keep their children away from the basketball environment if they are showing any signs of infectious disease or virus.
- Team members should be encouraged to self-report if they feel ill.
- Elbow bumps instead of shaking hands.

In addition, basketball event hosts/organizers should:

- Provide disinfectant wipes upon arrival at the airport for chairs and team equipment.
- Provide hand sanitizer and wipes on team benches and at the scorer's table during all games.
- Wipe all balls between games.
- Solicit feedback from coaches at the Coach and Manager Meeting on additional feasible measures.



Good hygienic practices will help to maintain a healthy team atmosphere and ultimately assist in keeping all participants healthy throughout the season.

The Public Health Agency of Canada currently assesses the public health risk associated with COVID-19 as low for Canada and for Canadian travelers. Public health risk is continually assessed as new information becomes available. Updates on COVID-19 can be found at:

- Public Health Agency of Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

- World Health Organization (WHO) International Travel & Health Updates

<https://www.who.int/ith/en/>

Further updates by the Sport Medicine Advisory Committee are available every 48 hours. See attached document 'Advisory on COVID-19' for more info.

These updates are important in aiding sport leaders in assessing the risks associated with travelling for events, training and competitions.

Canada Basketball will continue to monitor this evolving situation and its impact on sport travel, and will aim to share any further risk mitigation measures for COVID-19.

If any questions, please contact Ron Yeung, Director, Domestic Development-
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