

February 7, 2021

Dear Club President and Head Coaches,  
(this information can be shared with club membership and coaches)

**Swim Alberta Update – Step 1 Changes – Children and Youth Sport Activities – February 6 GOA announcement**

On Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> the Government of Alberta announced that children and youth sport activities would form part of the Step 1 restriction changes that are due to come into effect on Monday February 8<sup>th</sup>. This is welcomed news and a step forward to a Return to Training during this second wave of the COVI-19 pandemic for our athletes. The announcement on Saturday, although welcomed, was as much of a surprise to Swim Alberta, as it was to all of you.

**Swim Alberta will provide a full update, as soon as we are able, early in the week February 8<sup>th</sup>.** Although we have a general understanding of “what” can occur, ***we will be seeking clarification on “how”***. The “what and how” that can occur will be verified against the published Health Order (yet to be published) and in working with the Government of Alberta through the Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Branch and Alberta Health.

Swim Alberta will be updating the Return to Training Requirements document and if necessary, providing an opportunity through a town hall meeting to walk through the requirements with head coaches and club presidents.

I would ask clubs to give facility operators a chance to determine their next steps. Some facilities may still choose not to open due to the costs to operate under these conditions, as the general public is still not permitted to access facilities. In addition, pool facilities need time to recall staff and re-train staff if they have decided to pursue a re-opening.

The current understanding of the intended restrictions that may come into place on February 8, 2021 include the following:

**School and team sport activities**

Children and youth will be allowed to participate in limited school and team sport activities.

- Lessons, practices and conditioning activities are allowed for indoor and outdoor, team-based, minor sports/activities and school athletics.
- Games are not allowed.
- All participants must be 18 years old or younger, except coaches or trainers.
- Maximum of 10 total individuals, including all coaches, trainers, and participants.
- Physical distancing must be maintained between participants at all times:
  - 3-metres physical distance for indoor activities
  - 2-metres physical distance for outdoor activities
  - coaches or trainers may enter physical distancing space for brief interactions with participants (for example, to correct form or technique)
- Participants must be masked at all times, except during the training activity. Coaches/trainers/etc. must remain masked at all times.
- Access to change rooms must be limited, including accelerated arrival and departure, emergencies (for example, first aid) and washroom use.

Source: [Government of Alberta website – Public Health Measures](#)

At this time, I would ask that you please refrain from reaching out to Swim Alberta staff with any questions you may have to allow us the time to confirm how the membership as a whole can return to training safely. We are committed to ensuring a full update will be provided to the membership as quickly as possible and would welcome your questions at that time.

Kind regards,  
Cheryl Humphrey, Executive Director