



## **Ventures Winter Guards Covid-19 Protocols and Procedures** **2021-2022**

### **Introduction**

For many years, winter guard and performing arts have been a critical, reliable, and affordable source of education and socialization and has fostered children's foundations in creativity, dexterity and development through evening and weekend practices. Practice gyms and dance studios are typically large spaces well-suited to physical distancing requirements.

Children are also missing out on the critical social aspects of winter guard and their extra-curricular activities. Since COVID-19, more than half (59%) of parents in an Ipsos Reid index noted behavioural changes in their child ranging from difficulty sleeping/altered sleeping patterns and persistent sadness to outburst or extreme irritability, as well as drastic changes in mood, behaviour, or personality, and more.

Studies repeatedly show that participating in performing arts activities have a positive impact on self-confidence, self-esteem, resilience, relationship building, and contribute to a sense of belonging, all qualities which are associated with good mental health.

Parents have relied on the Ventures Winter Guards as a trusted source for programming for their children for 50 years.

*The following protocols have been implemented at the fall session of Ventures Winter Guard practices in accordance with the Ontario government Stage 3 workplace safety guidelines to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 / Covid-19.*

### **Proof Of Vaccination (18 years and up)**

The Ventures are committed to providing a safe environment for all members, staff and parents as we reopen for indoor guard practices. We will follow the guidelines provided by the Ontario Government and the Waterloo Region Public Health while continuing to adapt to new regulations.

The Government of Ontario announced on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 its decision to require proof of full vaccination (two doses plus 14-day waiting period) for access to select indoor facilities beginning September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021. On September 14<sup>th</sup> they further clarified details which included “Organized team sports in indoor facilities” to require proof of full vaccination to indoor facilities.

Indoor facilities are exempt from requiring proof of full vaccination for people:

- Who are under 12 years of age
- Who are under 18 years of age, and who are entering the indoor premises of a facility used for sports and recreational fitness activities solely for the purpose of actively participating in an organized sport.

This clarification means staff and parents entering into the practice facility will need to show proof of full vaccination along with photo ID but our members under the age of 18 do not.

### **Face Coverings**

Face coverings are required inside all Venture practice facilities.

Masks, however, are “not required while “athletes/coaches/trainers” are engaged in sports or other strenuous activity”.

Our Venture policy is that every member, staff member and parent must wear a mask in all common areas including halls, walkways and restrooms. While on the practice floor and socially distanced, **vaccinated** members, with express permission from their parents and at a time when the staff deems it appropriate, may choose to remove their mask while engaged in heavy aerobic activity only.

At no time will unvaccinated members be allowed to remove their mask during the rehearsal. Unvaccinated members will be able to remove their mask during mask breaks and while they are eating and drinking.

### **Restricted Admittance**

- We are limiting the number of parents within the facility. Only 2 parents per member/family **may enter the building 15 minutes prior to the end of practice** to view the last “run”. Parents will be required to submit a screening questionnaire, have a temperature check, sanitize hands, wear a mask, maintain social distancing and remain within the designated viewing area.
- Parents will not be permitted to enter the facility at drop-off with an exception for new parents to the program where two parents may enter to ask questions and briefly engage with specified parent liaison. Parents who enter the practice facility must show proof of vaccination as of September 22nd, 2021 and undergo all screening procedures.

### **Social Distancing Measures**

- Members, staff and parents must practice social distancing and be physically distanced a minimum of 6 feet at all times.
- All choreography will be rehearsed and executed maintaining social distancing.
- No partnering work or other physical interactions between members will be written into the routine
- All staff may only intercede to prevent injury and must wear a mask.

### **Hand Sanitizing**

- All members, staff and parents will be asked to sanitize or wash their hands upon entering the facility.
- Members will be asked to sanitize before exiting the practice floor.

### **Temperature Checks**

- All members, staff and parents will have their temperature checked at admittance to the facility using a touchless thermometer and will have their temperature recorded on their submitted screening sheet.

### **Screening Questionnaire & Contact Tracing**

- All members, staff and parents will be required to submit a Covid-19 screening signature form upon arrival to the facility.
- A screening questionnaire form must be submitted for each member on each day they attend practice. Please hand your signed form to the person at the door upon arrival at the rehearsal facility.
- The verification of this form helps us keep a record of who entered our facility and on which days to facilitate contact tracing if necessary.

### **Adjusted Scheduling & Entrances**

- Members are asked to arrive with enough time to undergo screening procedures (not more than 15 minutes early).
- Members must be picked up in a timely manner as we must clear the facility to allow for the next group to arrive.
- Entrance and exit is via the front door only.
- Only staff members and designated parent liaisons are permitted to move throughout the facility freely while maintaining social distance to perform their duties.

### **Equipment Sanitation & Cleaning**

- All equipment will be sanitized prior to use unless individually assigned and stored in separate equipment bags.

### **Sick Member Sequestering**

- If a member becomes ill at practice or exhibits symptoms of Covid-19 while at the facility, they will be isolated from the other members and staff until they are able to safely be picked up by a parent/guardian.

## **Important Rules For Members & Parents**

- **Come Ready to Spin & Dance!**

Members should arrive with their practice clothes on. Please dress in multiple light layers as the facility is not heated however, once the members get moving they will quickly be shedding layers. Bring athletic/running shoes. Members may wear dance shoes during the dance portion but must change into running shoes for the equipment portion. Each member will have a separate individual space on the practice floor to store their water bottle and all clothing.

Parents should pick-up dancers in a timely manner, within 5-10 minutes after the end of their final class.

- **Mask Care**

We highly recommend that members should bring a plastic ziplock bag or container labelled with their name to store their mask in if they choose to remove it during dance class.

- **BYOB - Water Bottles**

Members should bring their own water bottle labelled with their name.

- **Junior Guard No Food Please!**

Members and guests should refrain from consuming food items at the practice site. Please eat before you arrive or when you return home.

**\*\*A Guard Members and Staff** - A Guard members and staff are permitted to consume a mess free snack during break only and must sanitize afterwards. Large meals and fast food consumables will not be permitted into the facility. This does NOT include beverages which must be contained in a sealed, spill-proof container. \*\*

- **Cell Phones On Silent!**

Members need to keep their cell phone with their belongings and on silent during practice.

Members may NOT share their phone or let anyone else touch or use their phone.

- **Leave Toys & Trinkets At Home**

Toys and other personal belongings that do NOT need to be at practice should be left at home.