



TO: Member Club Presidents & Representatives

FROM: Myles Spencer, Chief Executive Officer

CC: Rugby Ontario Board of Directors

DATE: March 13, 2020

SUBJECT: Rugby Ontario Statement on COVID-19

Dear Member Club Presidents & Representatives,

Rugby Ontario has been closely monitoring the rapidly evolving situation relating to the **COVID-19** pandemic (otherwise known as *Novel Coronavirus*). We wish to acknowledge the growing concern presented by the spread of COVID-19 and increasing reports of community impact here in Canada.

Rugby Ontario is actively discussing this situation and closely monitoring all available information to ensure the safety and well-being of players, coaches, officials, volunteers, employees and parents participating in our sport across Ontario. We are consulting with key stakeholders, including Rugby Canada, about how to best approach this unprecedented and fluid situation and any future impact to rugby programming in Ontario. Recognizing the severity of this matter, we wish to provide our Members with accurate information as it becomes available and will endeavour to do so at the earliest opportunity over the coming days.

As a matter of precaution, we encourage all presently active clubs and rugby programs to reinforce the following health advice to players, club personnel and other participants:

- Wash your hands frequently (it is the single most effective way of reducing infection spread).
- Practice other good hygiene habits:
 - do not touch your face/eyes/mouth with your hands;
 - cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough (ideally with a disposable tissue or the crease of your elbow);
 - restrict sharing of water bottles.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (e.g. rugby balls, tackle bags, cones, etc.).
- Maintain good general health (eat a balanced diet, get enough sleep, exercise in moderation).
- Stay home if you are sick or have been in close contact with others who may have symptoms.
- Contact Public Health or a health professional for questions about your personal health situation.
- Refer to the Government of Canada's directives on [Prevention and Risks](#).



Rugby Ontario will continue to monitor the impact on sport programming and club travel and tours, and will aim to share any further risk mitigation measures for COVID-19. For additional information, please refer to the following public resources.

Additional Resources & Information

[Government of Canada – Public Health Agency of Canada](#)

[Public Health Ontario](#)

[Sport Medicine Advisory Committee](#)

[World Health Organization](#)

We thank you, our Members, and those involved in our sport across Ontario, for your patience at this time and hope you and your families remain in good health.

Sincerely,

Myles Spencer
Chief Executive Officer
Rugby Ontario