



Spit Guard Information

As players return to the ice, some are wearing “spit guards.” If you’re not familiar, spit guards -- produced by helmet manufacturers and other companies -- attach to helmets in a variety of ways with the intent to help in the fight against infectious disease transmission, including COVID-19.

At this time, there has been no conclusive research presented to determine the effectiveness of any of these products in preventing the spread of air borne illnesses.

The goal of spit guards is indeed appropriate, however, it’s important that parents, players, coaches and officials know that attaching anything to a HECC-certified helmet voids the certification, unless it is approved by the helmet manufacturer and verified by HECC’s validator.

HECC stands for Hockey Equipment Certification Council, which is the non-profit independent organization that certifies hockey equipment. HECC is focused on product safety and has been an integral part of the overall hockey ecosystem since its founding in 1978.

Ensuring the integrity of a hockey helmet is at the core of HECC’s mission and it is fully committed to evaluating products as manufacturers submit them, including spit guards. To view the full HECC statement on spit guards, visit <http://hecc.org/spitguards.html>

To find the most up-to-date list of HECC approved products, please visit [HECC.org](http://hecc.org).

And as a reminder to all, HECC-certified helmets are required for all USA Hockey-sanctioned activity.

It is also worth noting that wearing a cloth mask that is completely separate from your helmet has no impact on whether or not a helmet is certified by HECC.