

Tammy Henderson is a very worthy recipient of the Al Clarke Memorial Award as an outstanding volunteer for Ajax Pickering Ringette. As APRA's COVID Safety Leader, Tammy readily volunteered for a role that, at the time, had many questions and undefined responsibilities. Drawing on her experience as a dedicated healthcare professional, the association could not have been more fortunate when Tammy agreed to step into the role.

Tammy has been proactive not only on behalf of our association, but of other groups and Ringette CSLs across Ontario. She established a fantastic relationship with Durham Region Public Health, and together she and her contacts discussed many new scenarios while interpreting health guidelines and agreeing to new protocols. As a testament to her engagement and relationship management, many of these discussions eventually led to new protocols that became the standard applied to other ice sports throughout the region. Tammy also regularly reached out to other ringette associations to learn about and better understand their experiences, and the impacts of any potential positive COVID case on ringette activities.

Navigating through the various changes and stages within the region, Tammy always ensured that APRA members had the most current information and were following the latest recommended protocols. She developed and delivered excellent training materials and tracking reports to all of our cohort CSLs at the start of the season, and again when the association was forced to switch gears in November, and finally once more in February. These efforts did not go unnoticed, as APRA received outstanding feedback from our partners in Pickering and Ajax facilities for following all of the necessary protocols "to a T", and creating a safe working environment for their staff.

If there were other documented COVID cases such as those at school or work, Tammy was an invaluable resource not only for the family, but also their entire team and cohort volunteers. Tammy worked the phones tirelessly to make sure families were educated, reassured, and all of their questions answered. As a committed and busy front line worker throughout the pandemic, Tammy still found the time to be an invaluable executive member, as well as trainer or CSL for any team or group that needed support at the rink. All of her efforts directly contributed to keeping our players and families safe, informed, and on the ice. Tammy, or as she is now known throughout the association simply as "Nurse Tammy", was front and centre throughout the 2020-21 season, and her efforts were the primary reason that there was not a single case of COVID traced back to participation in any APRA activities. In these challenging times, being able to provide safe and compelling programming for our young players was a major accomplishment, and for this, we loudly declare... THANK YOU NURSE TAMMY!!!