

COVID-19 Summer Camp Guidance

Consistent use of the multiple prevention strategies described in this document can limit the spread of COVID-19 in many settings, including camps and can help camps open safely for in-person activities. For questions about this guidance or to report a COVID-19 case, please contact your [Regional OPH Office](#).

Key Prevention Strategies

- 1. All eligible staff and campers should be encouraged to complete COVID-19 vaccination**
- 2. Stay home if sick or having symptoms of COVID-19**
 - Unvaccinated and fully vaccinated staff and campers who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, and tested for COVID-19.
 - Staff and campers who have tested positive for COVID-19 should remain isolated at home until they meet [end of isolation criteria](#).
- 3. Correct use of well-fitted masks that cover the nose and mask**
 - Unvaccinated people in camp facilities should wear masks while indoors with exceptions for [certain people](#), or for certain settings or activities, such as while eating and drinking or swimming.
 - Unvaccinated campers and staff can use well-fitting cloth masks with two or more layers of tightly woven, breathable fabric or disposable masks.
 - Unvaccinated staff and campers should have more than one mask on hand each day so they can easily replace a dirty mask with a clean one.
 - Fully vaccinated campers and staff are not required to mask while indoors, however, camp programs should be supportive of campers or staff who choose to wear a mask.
- 4. Physical distancing, including cohorting**
 - Cohorting: Cohorts (or “pods”) are groups of campers and staff that stay together throughout the day to minimize exposure to other people while at camp. Cohorts should have the same staff stay with the same group of campers and remain together as much as possible. Unvaccinated campers and staff in the same cohort should continue to wear masks indoors, except when eating and drinking or swimming.
 - Maintaining Physical Distance: Physical distancing provides protection by reducing risk of exposure and limiting the number of close contacts when someone is infected with COVID-19. Establish camp policies and implement strategies to promote physical distancing, indoors and outdoors, of
 - At least 3 feet between all campers within a cohort
 - At least 6 feet between all campers outside of their cohort
 - At least 6 feet while eating and drinking, including among people within the same cohort
 - At least 6 feet between campers and staff
 - At least 6 feet between staff

- If nap times are scheduled for younger campers, assign campers' naptime mats to individual children, sanitize before and after use, and space them out as much as possible. Place campers head-to-toe to ensure distance between their faces. Masks should not be worn when sleeping.
- Create physical distance between campers on buses or transportation when possible. Campers who live in the same household may be seated together. Masks should be required on buses or transportation for unvaccinated campers or staff
- Camps programs where ALL campers and staff are fully vaccinated do not need to maintain physical distancing between participants.

5. Promote hand and respiratory hygiene

- Teach and reinforce frequent handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and monitor to ensure all campers and staff follow this practice.
- If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used (for staff and campers over the age of 2 who can safely use hand sanitizer).
- Staff and campers should not use hand sanitizer if their hands are visibly dirty or greasy. Instead, they should wash hands with soap and water as soon as possible.
- Staff who prepare food must wash their hands with soap and water.
Encourage staff and campers to cough and sneeze into their mask or a tissue. Masks that become dirty or wet should be replaced with a clean one as soon as possible. They should throw used tissues in the trash and wash their hands immediately.

6. Engage in outdoor activities whenever possible and [increase ventilation](#) for indoor activities

- Camp activities, including meals and snacks, should occur outside, as much as possible.
- Fully vaccinated and unvaccinated campers and staff do not need to mask when outdoors while also maintaining physical distance as outlined above.
- When possible, sports and athletic activities should be done outdoors. Campers should avoid playing close-contact or indoor sports because of an [increased risk of spreading COVID-19](#) while engaging in these activities.
- Perform activities that have the potential to produce respiratory droplets including singing, chanting, shouting, or playing an instrument outside. Unvaccinated campers and staff should maintain at least 6 feet physical distance during these activities when they are practiced outdoors. Unvaccinated campers and staff should be masked and maintain at least 6 feet physical distancing if these activities are performed indoors.
- If activities are held indoors, bring in as much fresh air into camp buildings as possible. Open windows and doors when possible, use fans to increase the effectiveness of open windows, and decrease occupancy in areas where outdoor ventilation cannot be increased.
Ventilation, including opening windows when possible, is also important on camp transport vehicles.

7. [Clean and disinfect](#) when needed, to maintain facilities

- If there has been a sick person or someone who tested positive for COVID-19 in your facility within the last 24 hours, you should clean AND disinfect the space.

- When no people with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 are known to have been in a space, cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove virus that may be on surfaces and help maintain a health facility. Frequently touched surfaces should ideally be cleaned twice per day as a general prevention measure for infectious disease transmission.
- Cleaning products should not be used near children, and staff should ensure that there is adequate ventilation when using these products to prevent children or themselves from inhaling toxic fumes.
- Discourage sharing of items that are difficult to clean.
- Ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high-touch materials to the extent possible (for example, assign art supplies or other equipment to a single camper), or limit use of supplies and equipment to one group of campers at a time and clean between use.

8. Contact trace in combination with isolation and quarantine

- Campers or staff who have COVID-19 symptoms while at camp should be isolated from other campers and staff in an isolation room or area, preferably with access to a separate bathroom.
- Sick staff members or campers should not return to camp until they have met [end of isolation criteria](#).
- Perform contact tracing and notify close contacts to quarantine.
 - Close contact: being within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hr period **OR** having direct contact with an infected person, including touching, hugging, kissing, or sharing eating or drinking utensils.
 - Fully vaccinated people (i.e., ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine) at the time of exposure who remain asymptomatic do not need to quarantine.
 - People who have been previously diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 90 days at the time of exposure who remain asymptomatic do not need to quarantine.
- End of quarantine criteria: Close contacts should quarantine for 14 days from the last day they were exposed to a suspect or confirmed case. Options to shorten the duration of quarantine if contacts remain asymptomatic include:
 - If no symptoms develop during quarantine **AND** they have a negative antigen or PCR/molecular test collected no earlier than day 5 after their last exposure: they may quarantine for 7 days from last contact with a COVID-19 case **OR**
 - If no symptoms develop during quarantine and no testing is done: they may quarantine for 10 days from last contact with a COVID-19 case.
- If quarantine is shortened, daily symptom monitoring and strict adherence to prevention measures including social distancing, hand washing, and especially wearing masks/face coverings, should continue until the full 14 days from last contact with a COVID-19 case.
 - Because there is an increased risk of post-quarantine transmission associated with options to shorten quarantine, OPH recommends use of the 14-day quarantine period in settings or during activities where masking and/or distancing among children is not maintained.
- Close contacts who are fully vaccinated, were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 90 days, or who met criteria for a shortened quarantine and develop symptoms on or before day 14

after their last exposure are considered suspect cases. They should self-isolate immediately and seek testing.

9. Screening testing

- CDC funding is available to support the use of screening testing as a strategy to identify cases and prevent secondary transmission. Screening testing is intended to identify infected people without symptoms (or before development of symptoms) who may be contagious so that measures can be taken to prevent further transmission. Screening testing supplies or services are available for K-12 students attending summer camps. For further information, please contact Diné Butler with the Louisiana Office of Public Health: K-12COVIDtesting@la.gov.