

HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS



CHECKLIST FOR DAY YOUTH CAMP OPERATORS AND STAFF

Page 1 of 5

Be advised:

Youth camps should follow the below health and safety recommendations. These recommendations may be updated based on guidance from the CDC and/or the American Academy of Pediatrics.

A note about children and COVID-19:

The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages. While fewer children have gotten sick with COVID-19 compared with adults, children can be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, get sick with COVID-19, spread the virus to others, and have severe outcomes. However, children are more likely to be asymptomatic or to have mild, non-specific symptoms; they are less likely than adults to have severe illness or die.

COVID-19 is spread from person to person through contact that is close enough to share droplets generated by coughing, sneezing, speaking, and even just breathing. COVID-19 can also be spread by touching objects where contaminated droplets have landed. Because of this easy manner of transmission, an infant, child or young person who is infected with COVID-19 can spread the infection to others they come in close contact with, such as members of their household, teachers, or other caregivers. We have learned that infected persons with mild or even no symptoms can spread COVID-19.

One thing is for certain: We must find ways to protect our children from COVID-19 and ensure that they do not bring the infection to others, such as other household members, who may be at high risk for severe infection or even loss of life..

For adults in the workplace or other public spaces, we are confident that if recommended measures such as getting vaccinated, wearing cloth face coverings or non-medical grade masks, respiratory etiquette, frequent hand washing / hand sanitation and environmental cleaning and sanitizing are widely observed, we can improve safety.

However, such recommended protective measures that we can expect from adults are, for a variety of reasons, not always possible for children to practice in youth camps. In some cases, the child will be too young to understand and practice these precautions.

Every adult who is responsible for providing care or education for children and youth in these settings must be aware of these facts and be willing to comply with the infection control measures that will be in place in these settings. Parents should monitor the health of their children and not send them to the program if they exhibit any symptom of COVID-19. They should seek COVID-19 testing promptly and report results to the program given the implications for other children, families, and staff. Individuals aged 65 or older are at a higher risk of COVID-19. Parents should protect any vulnerable persons who are members of the same household or come into frequent, close contact with children who attend youth camps.

HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS



DAY YOUTH CAMP OPERATORS AND STAFF: Page 2 of 5

About health recommendations:

The following are the health recommendations for all day youth camps choosing to operate in Texas. Day youth camp operators may adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all employees, contractors, volunteers and day campers.

Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Day youth camps should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization. Day youth camps should also be mindful of federal and state employment and disability laws, workplace safety standards, and accessibility standards to address the needs of both workers and customers.

Health recommendations for camp employees, contractors, volunteers (“staff”):

- Provide notice to the parent or guardian that the parent or guardian may choose to either pick up their camper, or to let the camper remain and trust the camp to take appropriate safeguards, when informed by the camp operator that a child at camp has tested positive for COVID-19.**
- Train all staff on appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
- Staff are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated before attending camp.
- Wear a face covering or non-medical grade mask.
- Staff should maintain 6 feet distance between other staff and campers, even those staff or campers who are in their cohort or pod.
- If campers are in a cohort or pod and they stay together throughout the day, they should maintain 6 feet distance from all staff and from campers not in the pod or cohort. They should also maintain 6 feet distance from all campers, even those in their cohort or pod, when they are eating or drinking. At other times, campers within the same cohort or pod should keep at least 3 feet distance from one another.
- Screen all staff and campers each day for any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:

<input type="checkbox"/> Cough	<input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat
<input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	<input type="checkbox"/> Loss of taste or smell
<input type="checkbox"/> Chills	<input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea
<input type="checkbox"/> Repeated shaking with chills	<input type="checkbox"/> Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
<input type="checkbox"/> Muscle pain	<input type="checkbox"/> Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
<input type="checkbox"/> Headache	

HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS



DAY YOUTH CAMP OPERATORS AND STAFF: Page 3 of 5

- Staff should mitigate environmental exposures by additional cleaning and disinfecting of symptomatic staff's work area, common areas, and bathrooms. Staff should follow and supervise the Dining Hygiene Plan, Program Activity Plan, and, if applicable, the Transportation Plan.
- Camps should act consistent with all US State Department travel restrictions for international travel.
- Camp activities should occur outside, as much as possible. If activities are held indoors, bring in as much fresh air into camp buildings as possible. Bringing fresh, outdoor air into the facility helps keep virus particles from concentrating inside. 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.

Health recommendations regarding sick campers and staff members:

- Isolate staff exhibiting new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19 and contact the local health department.
 - Staff exhibiting new or worsening symptoms of possible COVID-19 should receive a nucleic acid-based COVID-19 test. Find [TX COVID-19 Test Collection Sites](#) online, contact the local health department for testing, or see a health care provider
 - Sick staff members or campers should not return to camp until they have met CDC's [recommendations to discontinue home isolation](#). If they have met all the CDC criteria for ending isolation, then no additional testing is needed to return to the facility.
 - In most instances, those who have had COVID-19 can be around others after:
 - 10 days since symptoms first appeared or a positive test, and
 - 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, and
 - Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.
 - In the case of a staffer who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to work until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above; or
 - If the staffer has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on a negative nucleic-acid COVID-19 test and an alternative diagnosis.
- Staff should help the camp operator in identifying exposure risks (a.k.a. contact tracing).
- Separate campers and staff into groups or cohorts that remain consistent over the camp session. Discourage mixing between groups or cohorts. Consider programs that operate by groups defined by age or grade.
 - Immediately isolate any camper or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 and report the positive test to the appropriate health authority.
 - If a staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the staff member will immediately leave the camp.

HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS



DAY YOUTH CAMP OPERATORS AND STAFF: Page 4 of 5

- When an individual tests positive for COVID-19, notify all parents or guardians of campers in the cohort. The parents or guardians may decide to either pick up their child from the camp or leave the child in the camp and trust the camp to take appropriate safeguards. Keep the cohort containing the individual who tested positive for COVID-19 isolated from other cohorts at the camp for the remainder of the camp session.
- If three or more cohorts have had any identified positive cases of COVID-19, work with state and local public health authorities about continued operations of the camp session.

Health recommendations limiting access to camp grounds and facilities:

- No parents or guardians visiting the camp during or between camp sessions, except to drop-off and pick-up campers.
 - Modify camper drop-off and pick-up procedures to keep parents and guardians from coming within 6 feet of individuals not within the same household. Possible strategies include, but are not limited to, staggering drop-off and pick-up times.
 - If possible, parents and guardians should remain in their vehicles at camper drop-off and pick-up.
- Visitors should maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet from other individuals while at camp, and should follow camp protocols for symptom screening and hand-washing or sanitization.
- Designate a facility on the camp grounds for staff to take a break.

Health recommendations for camp grounds and facilities:

- Develop, train, and implement increased daily sanitization protocols for common surfaces, restrooms, dining halls, cabins, recreational equipment, and camp facilities.
- Make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available throughout the camp.
- Consider having an individual wholly or partially dedicated to ensuring the health protocols adopted by the camp are being successfully implemented and followed.**
- Camp health policies and protocols should include communicating and coordinating with the local health department, local emergency services, and local health care providers before the start of a camp session. This coordination should include ensuring prompt and coordinated response to COVID-19 and other emergencies.
 - Ensure access to on-site medical personnel, or on-call physician, for the duration of a camp session.

HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS



DAY YOUTH CAMP OPERATORS AND STAFF: Page 5 of 5

Developing and implementing health protocol plans:

- Develop and implement a Dining Hygiene Plan to include:
 - No self-serve buffet meals
 - Serve meals with disposable utensils, napkins, cups, and plates. If disposable items are not feasible or desirable, ensure that all non-disposable food service items are handled with gloves and washed with dish soap and hot water or in a dishwasher. Individuals should wash their hands after removing their gloves or after directly handling used food service items
 - Clean and disinfect tables, chairs, etc. after use
 - To the extent feasible, have campers bring their own meals.
- Develop and implement a Program Activity Hygiene Plan to include:
 - Sanitization of all program areas
 - Sanitization of equipment before and after use
 - Hand washing or hand sanitizing before and after activities
- Excursions away from the camp are strongly discouraged, and should be limited or eliminated where feasible. To the extent those excursions continue, develop and implement Transportation Protocols to include:**
 - One individual per seat and every other row in a vehicle
 - Staggered seating for maximum distancing
 - Asking campers and staff to wear face coverings or masks while in vehicle
- Develop a management plan for infection outbreaks, including COVID-19.
- Clean and sanitize the camp prior to the start of a new camp session.