Safe Mode
Guidelines for Summer Camps During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Promote Social Distancing

Create cohorts of campers and counselors

- It will be difficult to prevent campers, especially younger children, from coming in close contact with one another and their counselors. Instead, the goal is to limit the number of people in close contact with one another and the duration of that close contact. This can be done through a cohort model of organizing camp.

- Create cohorts of campers and counselors of a maximum of 25 people total (campers plus counselors). Smaller cohorts are safer so consider having fewer campers per cohort if staffing and space permits. Campers and counselors should remain in the same cohort for the duration of the summer camp.

- Campers should do all activities within their cohort and should not mix with other cohorts.

- If the camp uses classrooms, each cohort should have its own classroom.

Modify camper activities

- Encourage outdoor play as much as possible.

- Camps that have a private pool may use the pool for campers as long as only one cohort is in the pool or locker room at any time.

- Avoid activities where campers from different cohorts interact. For example, stagger use of playgrounds and do not combine cohorts for sports.

- Within a cohort, avoid activities where campers would have close contact with one another (e.g. wrestling, games that involve holding hands). Instead, do activities where campers can maintain social distance (6 feet apart) as much as possible. This may be more challenging for younger campers.

- Cancel all fieldtrips and excursions. Due to local guidance, this includes the use of public playgrounds by camps. Spraygrounds may be used if the camp is able to regulate the sprayground and ensure that only one cohort is using at a time.

- For sports activities:
  - Campers should do sports activities as a cohort.
  - Adjust practices and drills to maintain 6 feet of distance between players. For some sports (e.g., wrestling, basketball) that will mean focusing exclusively on individual skill-building and fitness activities. Other activities may need to be modified in order to maintain distance.
  - Adjust physical environment (bench, dugout) as needed to remind participants to stay at least 6 feet apart. For example, place cones or other markers at regular intervals on bleachers to mark seating places for players not actively participating in practice.
  - Only individual skill-building activities and practices and scrimmages within a cohort are permitted. Competitions between teams, different cohorts, and travel for competitions will need to wait for a later phase.
  - Do not allow spectators, visitors or volunteers beyond those needed to run practice.
  - Recreational sports leagues are not permitted during the Yellow Phase.
Minimize contact and crowding at pick-up and drop-off

- Set up hand hygiene stations at the entrance of the facility, so that campers and staff can clean their hands before they enter. If a sink with soap and water is not available, provide hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol at entrance. Require all parents to wear masks at pick up and drop off. If caregivers sign in or out campers, they should use their own pen. If a shared pen is used, it should be wiped with alcohol after each use.
- Consider the following options to avoid overcrowding during pick up and drop off times:
  - Assign staggered arrival and drop off times for campers.
  - If staffing allows, have staff greet campers outside as they arrive and escort them to their area in the camp and escort campers to exit during drop-off.
  - Have families wait 6 feet apart (can use space marker) while waiting to drop off their children and complete daily health screen.
- For campers who take a school bus: create social distance between children on school buses (for example, seating children one child per seat, every other row) where possible.

Implement food safety procedures

- If a cafeteria or group dining room is typically used, serve meals in a classroom or outdoors if available. Otherwise, stagger the use of the cafeteria so that each cohort can maintain social distance from the other cohorts. Try to minimize the number of campers per table and discourage sharing of food.
- If meals are typically served family-style, plate each camper’s meal to serve it so that multiple campers are not using the same serving utensils.
- Sinks used for food preparation should not be used for any other purposes.
- Campers should wash hands prior to and immediately after eating.
- Staff should wash their hands before preparing and distributing food.
- Encourage campers and staff to bring in their own water bottles instead of using water fountains.

For staff

- Stagger break and lunch hours for staff in order to minimize interactions.
- Move chairs in break rooms so that employees do not sit opposite or next to each other while eating.
- Post signs alerting employees to maintain distance and avoid eating near or across from each other.

Keeping Camp Clean

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces within the camp and school buses at least twice daily. This includes tables, chairs, doorknobs, light switches, remote controls, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- Wipe shared objects (for example, toys, games, art supplies, sporting equipment) between use.
- Wipe off any playground equipment or indoor play space equipment between usage by different cohorts of children.
- Facilities should use cleaning products that are EPA-approved for use against COVID-19. Store all cleaning products securely and out of the reach of children.

Promote Healthy Habits

Promote hand hygiene

- Hand hygiene should be practiced at the following times:
  - Entry to the facility and after breaks.
  - Before and after eating.
  - Before and after preparing food and drinks.
  - Before and after medication administration.
  - After using the toilet.
  - After coughing, sneezing, or blowing their nose.
  - After playing outdoors.
  - Before and after group activities.
- Perform hand hygiene by washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used.
Use personal protective equipment

- All staff should wear masks with the exception of meals or outdoor break time. If using a disposable mask, should use a new mask each day. If a cloth mask, should launder every day.
- All campers should be encouraged but not required to wear masks with the exception of during meals and water activities. Masks are most important when indoors or when physical distancing is difficult. Mask wearing may be more challenging and not feasible for younger campers.

Note masks should not be placed on:

- Babies and children younger than 2 years old.
- Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious.
- Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance.

- Parents/caregivers should wear masks at pick-up and drop-off.
- Staff should wear gloves along with a mask when preparing food.

Screen Campers and Staff for Symptoms

All summer camps should create a daily screening checklist that is administered to staff and parents/caregivers upon either arrival or at home if using a web- or app-based screening tool. PDPH has developed a sample screener template. This daily check includes:

- **Fever:** Every staff-member and camper coming to the site should have their temperature checked each morning either at home or at the facility. If either child or staff-member has a temperature of 100.4 or higher, they should remain home. The following options can be considered for temperature monitoring:
  - Staff and campers take their own temperature at home and report the value during the daily screening.
  - Staff and parents/campers can take their own or their child’s temperature upon arrival to facility using facility-provided disposable thermometers (i.e. Tempa dot).
  - A designated staff-member wearing a mask and gloves can use a no-contact (temporal) thermometer to take temperatures on all staff and campers. The no-contact thermometers should be cleaned with an alcohol wipe (or isopropyl alcohol on a cotton swab) between each camper. The same wipe can be reused as long as it remains wet. The staff-member can wear the same set of gloves as long as they did not have physical contact with the individual whose temperature they are taking.

- **Symptoms:** A designated staff-person should administer the brief daily COVID-like illness symptom checklist to all staff and parents/campers upon arrival. If the child or staff-member has symptoms, the camper or staff-member should remain home.

  COVID-like illness is defined as cough, shortness of breath, or any 2 of the following symptoms: fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell.

  - **Visual Inspection:** Make a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness, which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness, and confirm that the child is not experiencing coughing or shortness of breath.

  - **Exposure:** Every staff-member and parent/caregiver should be asked if they or their child have been exposed to anyone with a confirmed case of COVID-19 the past 14 days. If the answer is yes, the child or staff member should return home.

PDPH has developed a sample letter to be given to caregivers explaining why the child is being dismissed and criteria for returning to camp.
Plan for When Someone Becomes Sick

- Staff who develop symptoms of COVID-like illness (cough, shortness of breath, or any 2 of the following symptoms: fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell) should immediately be sent home. If they need to be picked up, they should wait in a designated isolation room or area while waiting.

- If campers develop symptoms, they should be brought to a designated isolation room while waiting to be picked up. The staff member waiting with the child should wear a mask and also gloves if holding the child.

- If a separate room is not available, designate a cot or crib or outdoor space that can be kept at least 6 ft apart from all other children.

- PDPH has developed a sample letter to be given to caregivers explaining why the child is being dismissed and criteria for returning to camp.

- If a child or staff member in a camp group has COVID-like illness:
  - They can return to camp if:
    » Initial COVID-19 testing is negative and individual meets the camp’s normal criteria for return after an illness OR
    » A clinician has evaluated the child and documented an alternative diagnosis OR
    » COVID-19 testing was not done and all of the following are true:
      1) at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms AND
      2) fever-free off anti-fever medications for 3 days AND
      3) symptoms are improving.

  Note: repeat COVID testing is not required to return to the camp.

- If a child or staff member has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19:
  - All children and staff in the same camp cohort or who have come in close contact with the case (defined as greater than 10 minutes of interaction less than 6 feet away) should quarantine at home for 14 days. Anyone who develops symptoms during that time should contact their healthcare provider to request testing.

  - In accordance with PDPH guidance, the COVID positive individual should remain home until all of the following are true:

    1) at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms AND
    2) until fever free off anti-fever medications for 3 days AND
    3) symptoms are improving.

    The COVID-19 positive individual does NOT need a repeat COVID test or a doctor’s note in order to return to the camp.

- Cleaning/Disinfecting after a COVID or COVID-like illness:
  - Close off indoor areas used by the person who is sick.
  - Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the areas.
  - Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as classroom, offices, bathrooms, and common areas.
  - Clean and disinfect surfaces in your isolation room or area and in the classroom the sick child or staff members was in after the sick child or staff member has gone home.
Camps should consider designating a single staff-person with the responsibilities of monitoring and conducting cleaning/disinfecting, safe arrival/dismissing, and other support to maintain adherence to these guidelines. For some camps, this may mean hiring a dedicated staff-person for this role.

Encourage staff and parents to talk to their own and their children’s healthcare providers about their individual risk factors for COVID-19 and the risks of working at or attending a camp.

Ensure facility has updated contact information for all staff and families and the ability to rapidly communicate information.

If you believe there was a COVID-19 case at your camp (camper or staff), call the Philadelphia Department of Public Health at 215-685-6741 for further instructions. The Department will consult with you on management issues for your facility.

Additional Resources

- Sample daily symptom screener.
- Sample letter to parents/caregivers if child has symptoms and is being dismissed.
- Sample agreement for parents/caregivers to sign at the start of camp that shows their agreement to follow the health and safety guidelines.