

Overnight Summer Camp Operations Guidance

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Mandatory COVID-19 Guidance for Overnight Summer Camps

Effective Date: June 1, 2021

*Note: This guidance is for **summer overnight camp guidance only**. Municipally run or school-based summer day camps, or privately run day camps guidance should follow the [childcare and Out of School Time guidance](#).*

This document was created in collaboration with the Vermont Department of Health, the Vermont Department of Public Safety, the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development, and the Vermont Camp Association.

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1) Prearrival Protocols: Communicate the need for compliance with low-risk, pre-camp behaviors for the 10 to 14 days prior to travel to Vermont.

The following information will be included in explaining proper low-risk, pre-arrival practices:

- a. Use multiple non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPI) at all times unless with and within your single household. This family group is your cohort.
- b. These NPIs are most important: maintaining as strict a cohort as possible outside of mandatory school and direct work requirements or activities needed for the care of children including day camp and childcare, wearing face masks when with anyone not in your household, and conducting any interactions with those outside your cohort outdoors. Do not attend funerals, weddings, or family events (even visits to family members living outside your household).
- c. Do not have playdates or participate in team sports, attend recitals or other such gatherings.
- d. Evidence of a negative PCR test taken within the three days before arrival (and as close to arrival as possible) will be required. A pre-arrival test is not needed if the camper or staff person has proof that they are fully vaccinated or has recovered from COVID-19 in the past 90 days.

Camps will use any of the following methods to communicate with families and staff:

- a. Emails with specific guidelines.
- b. Group Zoom calls with camp personnel explaining specific behaviors that are considered low risk (as outlined above).
- c. Child and parent/guardian friendly video explanations by camp leadership on what is expected.
- d. Written additions to parent and staff manuals outlining proper pre-arrival behaviors.

2) Arrival and Travel to Overnight Camps

The following should be followed as campers arrive on site:

- a. Travel to camp should be as direct as possible.
- b. Travel should optimally be single day trips with contactless behaviors along the way.
- c. If public transport is the only option, NPIs must be used to minimize contact with others.
- d. **Before entering the camp property, an electronic or hard copy proof of negative test results taken within 3 days prior to arrival must be available to present to the camp administrator.** The Health Department's website has information about [where to get a test in Vermont](#). A pre-arrival test is not needed if the camper or staff person has proof that they are fully vaccinated or has recovered from COVID-19 in the past 90 days.

- e. Arrival at camp should be staggered to avoid contact with others not staying and with quick drop-offs and good-byes. Reducing the number of people not enrolled in a session on campus at any given time is recommended.

3) Start of Season Precautions

- a. Mask wearing must follow the [Vermont Forward requirements](#). When masks are required, exceptions include while sleeping and while eating/drinking.

4) Limited Off Campus Activity

- a. Residential staff whose job descriptions involve doing business for the camp off property (for instance those who take others to the doctors or run errands) may do so, but camps are encouraged to reduce the amount of exposure to local communities throughout the season by having them use multiple NPIs anytime they are off property or traveling with others in a vehicle.
- b. Day staff and vendors who come on campus (and any staff who leave campus at any point during the summer) must follow Vermont Forward guidance.

5) Additional Considerations

a. Health Screening/Surveillance for Campers

- i. **Before Camp** - Coordinate with camp families to ensure all campers obtain a COVID-19 test within 3 days of arriving at camp. Campers who receive a positive test should stay home and follow the Department of Health's [isolation guidelines](#).
- ii. **Opening Day Screenings**
 - a. Screen campers for COVID-19 exposures and symptoms of COVID-19 upon arrival at camp.
 - b. Develop a policy on isolating children with potential symptoms of COVID-19 upon arrival at camp.
 - c. Camp should consider adjusting their programs so that campers remain at camp for the duration of the camp session.
- iii. **Daily** - Screen campers once each camp day for symptoms of COVID-19.

b. Illness Management

- i. Isolate any campers and staff with potential COVID-19 symptoms.
- ii. Campers and staff with potential COVID-19 symptoms should be tested. Information about who should be [tested](#), and where to get tested, is available on the Health Department's website.

- iii. Cases will reside in a designated isolation space for the duration of 10 days, with 24 hours with no fever and improvement of any other symptoms.
- iv. Camp health centers should have capacity and staffing commensurate to the numbers of staff and campers in residence.
- v. Camp health facilities and other designated buildings will serve, in addition to their traditional roles, as isolation quarters for campers and staff who are positive (or presumed positive) for COVID-19. Camps may also consider other disposition for presumed cases including direct transport to home via private vehicle.
- vi. Camp health centers will meet all set standards for infection control and prevention per CDC and Vermont guidelines.
- vii. Camp health centers should be staffed by licensed medical professionals who are competent in the treatment and triage of children and adults.

c. High Risk Populations

- i. Camp directors should work with campers' parents and primary care providers to determine if camp is a reasonably safe option for any individual identified as potentially in a high-risk category.
- ii. Families of campers with high-risk individuals must consider COVID-19 exposure risks if they send their child to camp and determine if safe.

d. Communication with State and Local Public Health Authorities

- i. Camps must ensure timely and accurate [reporting](#) to the Health Department for all notifiable diseases and conditions, including COVID-19.