



June 17, 2020

Statewide Guidance for School Aged Summertime Day Camps

Camps are an important enrichment activity for school-aged children (K-12) and are also important as a source of childcare for many working parents.

“Camps” include any formal grouping of children for a defined period of daytime hours with teen or adult counselors (sports camps, music camps, nature camps, art camps, etc.) outside of licensed childcare centers or formal summer education activities through a school.

Because summer camps are each unique, it is important for hosting organizations to refer to Oregon Health Authority guidance for [parks, gyms and fitness facilities](#), and other guidance for spaces where they host camps. It is essential that there is close collaboration between camp organizations and other organizations where campers access activities and facilities.

Overnight camps for adults, youth and families are ONLY allowed in Phase 2 counties following the [Phase 2 Outdoor Recreation guidance](#).

Operational Guidance

All camps are required to:

- Have a written communicable disease management plan. This plan must include:
 - Protocols to notify the [Local Public Health Authority](#) (LPHA) of any confirmed COVID-19 cases among campers or staff;
 - A process and record-keeping to help LPHA, as needed, for contact tracing;
 - A protocol for screening campers and staff for symptoms;
 - A protocol that requires any ill or exposed persons to stay out of camp; and possible cessation of camp activities.
- Keep daily logs for each stable group (“stable” means the same 10 or fewer campers in the group each day). These logs must be maintained for a minimum of 4 weeks after completion of the camp and must meet to the following requirements to support contact tracing, if necessary:
 - Camper name
 - Drop off/ pick up time
 - Adult completing both drop off/ pick up
 - Adult emergency contact information

- All staff that interact with stable group of campers (including floater staff)
- Registration paperwork or other regular means by which camps collect information from campers must contain contact information for all campers and staff
- Restrict from camp any camper or staff known to have been exposed (e.g., by a household member) to COVID-19 within the preceding 14 days.
- Communicate to staff not to work and communicate to parents not to bring their camper to camp, if they or anyone in their household have recently had an illness with fever or a new cough. They should stay home for at least 10 days after illness starts and until 72 hours after fever is gone, without use of fever reducing medicine, and COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, and diarrhea) are improving. Staff or campers who have a cough that is not a new onset cough (e.g. asthma, allergies, etc.), do not need to be excluded from camp. Camps may choose to collect information about existing conditions that cause coughing on intake forms.
- Report to and consult with the [LPHA](#) regarding cleaning and possible classroom or program closure, if anyone who has entered camp is diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Report to the [LPHA](#) any cluster of illness among the summer camp program staff or students.

General

All camps are required to:

- Review and implement General Guidance for Employers.
- Remind all staff and parents often to keep themselves and their children home with any illness involving fever, new cough, or shortness of breath.
 - Individuals should stay and remain home for at least 10 days after illness starts and until 72 hours after fever is gone, without use of fever reducing medicine, and COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, and diarrhea) are improving.
- Provide handwashing facilities, tissues, and garbage receptacles that are easily accessible to both campers and staff.
- Advise all persons in the camp to wash their hands often (e.g., after using the restroom, before and after meals, after coming inside, after sneezing, blowing the nose, or coughing) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
 - Except when eating, preparing, or serving food and after using the restroom, alcohol-based hand-sanitizer (60 to 95%) may be used as an alternative to handwashing. If soap and water is not available (e.g. back country camp), alcohol-based hand sanitizer may be used; however, every effort should be made to facilitate soap and water handwashing. Hand sanitizer must be stored out of reach of students younger than five (5) years of age when not in use.
- Remind staff and campers often to do the following:

- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or elbow;
 - Throw any used tissue away immediately into a garbage receptacle; and
 - Clean hands after covering coughs and sneezes, and after throwing away used tissues.
- Minimize contact during drop-off and pick-up by allowing parents to remain outside of the building for sign-in and sign-out of their children. Consider staggering drop-off and pick-up times and limit use of commonly touched objects (writing implements, clip boards, etc.).

Face masks and face coverings:

- Children over the age of two (2) may wear a mask, face shield or face covering if under close adult supervision.
- Children of any age should **not** wear a mask, face shield or face covering:
 - If they have a medical condition that makes it hard for them to breathe;
 - If they have a disability that prevents them from wearing a mask, face shield, or face covering;
 - If they are unable to remove the face mask, face shield, or face covering by themselves; or
 - While sleeping.
- A face mask, face shield, or face covering cannot be required for use by children. Camps cannot restrict access to activities and instruction for children who cannot wear a mask, face shield, or face covering.

Screening for symptoms. What if someone is sick?

All camps are required to:

- Check for new cough and fever for anyone entering the camp facility/area or working with campers and staff. Individuals with a fever greater than or equal to 100.4° F should not be allowed to enter. COVID-19 does not always present with fever or new cough. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever and new cough, as well as, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; fever; chills; muscle pain; sore throat; and new loss of taste or smell.
 - If parent cannot check a camper's temperature, the camp must check the temperature.
- Keep campers away from others immediately if a camper or staff member develops a new cough (e.g., unrelated to pre-existing condition such as asthma), fever, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19 during the camp day/class session and send them home as soon as possible.
 - While waiting for a sick camper to be picked up, a staff member must stay with the camper in a room away from others. The caregiver should remain as far away as safely possible from the camper (preferably at least six (6) feet), while remaining in the same room.

- The sick camper or staff must stay home for at least 10 days after illness starts and until 72 hours after fever is gone, without use of fever reducing medicine, and COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, and diarrhea) are improving.
- Ensure that the camp has flexible sick-leave and absentee policies that allow staff to stay home while sick.
- Report to and work with the local public health authority about cleaning and possible need for closure, if anyone who has entered the camp facility is diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Report to the local public health authority any cluster of illness among the summer program staff or campers.

Physical Distancing

All camps are required to:

- Be limited to maximum stable groups of 10 or fewer campers (“stable” means the same 10 or fewer campers in the group each day).
 - The stable group may change no more frequently than once per week (e.g. for camps operating on a weekly schedule).
 - Half-day camps hosting different morning and afternoon groups may be offered. Sanitation steps must be taken between these sessions. A space may hold a maximum of two (2) stable cohorts per day.
 - Before and after care must be carefully managed to keep campers in the same stable group in which they will spend their day.
 - A camp can have multiple stable groups of 10 if the camp facility or site can accommodate physical distancing for the number of campers hosted (a minimum of 35 square feet per camper for indoor spaces; a minimum of 75 square feet per camper for outdoor spaces), and campers’ access to or use of meals, restrooms, showers and activities happens within a stable group of 10.
 - Stable groups consist of campers and staff; the number of staff needed for a group does not count toward the total of 10. Staff should remain with a single group as much as is possible. Staff who do interact with multiple stable groups should wear a face mask, face shield or face covering and wash/sanitize their hands between group interaction.
 - **Before and after care:** Stable groups should include the same campers during before care, during the camp day, and during after care. Campers should always be in stable groups, even if there is only one of them in before or after care.
- Ensure that each stable group remains in the same indoor physical space each day and does not mix with any other group, when indoors.
- Minimize the number of staff interacting with each group of campers; staff must be dedicated to a single group and not move between groups if at all possible. If “floater staff” or different staff rotate with the stable group, they must be sure to

wash or sanitize their hands prior to entering the space with the stable group of campers, and staff must wear face covering. Also, if guest speakers come in, they must wash or sanitize their hands on entering and exiting and wear face coverings.

- Support physical distancing for daily activities and curriculum, striving to maintain at least six (6) feet between individuals. For example, program in the following ways:
 - Eliminate large group activities (larger than stable group)
 - Increase the distance between campers during table work
 - Plan activities that do not require close physical contact among multiple campers
 - Designate equipment (e.g., art supplies, musical instruments balls, mitts, etc.) solely for the use by a single group, to the extent possible, and sanitize between practices or uses. If equipment must be shared between groups, it must be sanitized before and after each use by a stable group.
 - Minimize time standing in lines and take steps to ensure that six (6) feet of distance between the campers is maintained.
 - Restrict non-essential visitors and volunteers.
 - Ensure more physical distance between participants for activities that include brass or woodwind instruments because these instruments may spread respiratory droplets farther than six (6) feet.
- Ensure physical distancing requirements for special events at camp. Parents or other visitors may come to camp for special events (e.g., theater productions, sports games) only if all persons not in the same household or party can stay six (6) feet apart. Visitors must wear face coverings and sanitize their hands when they enter.

Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation

All camps are required to:

- Clean, sanitize, and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (for example, private playground equipment, stationary climbing frames, door handles, sink handles, transport vehicles) multiple times per day.
- Avoid use of items (for example, soft or plush toys) that are not easily cleaned, sanitized, or disinfected.
- Disinfect safely and correctly, and keep disinfectant products away from children following directions on the label, as specified by the manufacturer.
- Ensure that ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, and other methods.
 - Do not open windows and doors if doing so poses a safety or health risk (for example, allowing pollen in or exacerbating asthma symptoms) to campers using the facility.

Field Trips/Transportation

All camps are required to:

- Avoid travel with others outside their stable group.
- Document the names in each stable cohort(s) and staff including the driver, along with the date and time of the trip and the vehicle number/license.
- Allow drivers to transport multiple stable groups if wearing a mask and sanitizing hands before and after each driving each stable group.
 - Vehicles must be cleaned between each group of students and staff following [transportation guidelines](#).
- Make sure campers and staff are seated in vehicles so that there is three (3) feet of distance between people.

Food service

All camps are required to:

- Observe all usual food handling and storage protocols.
- Ensure all campers and staff wash hands with soap and water prior to eating. In limited circumstances (e.g., back country camps) where use of soap and water is not possible because of lack of running water, using alcohol-based hand sanitizer (60-95%) is acceptable.
- Encourage campers to bring their own food, if possible. Campers must be told not to share food with other campers.
- Prohibit family-style food service. If food is served by the camp, individual plating of meals is preferred.

Miscellaneous:

- Camps held in public settings (e.g., parks) must follow the general camp guidelines as above and any [other guidelines](#) related to the location of the camp. For example, camps in state parks must follow state park use guidelines as well as summer camp guidelines.
- If camps have on-site pools and are in Phase 2 counties, they must also follow the [Swimming Pools guidance](#).
- Lakes: Campers and staff swimming in lakes should keep 6-feet apart and follow all hand washing and other hygiene recommendations. Facilities for changing in and out of swim gear must follow [guidance](#) for closest facility type (e.g. locker room, etc.).
- Camps must train staff prior to formal start of camp. If providing in-person staff training, physical distancing must be maintained. This includes training on COVID-19 facts, cleaning/sanitation and safety.
- Campers and staff who are arriving to camp from outside of the US must verify that they have been in the US for 14 days without symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath) prior to the start of camp.

- During the COVID-19 crisis, child abuse reporting has gone down by more than 60%. Summer camps must include training to recognize and report suspected child abuse and neglect. Staff can report any suspected child abuse by calling 1-855-503-SAFE (7233). Additional resources can be found through the [Early Learning Division](#) and [Oregon Department of Education](#).
- The nature of group gatherings raises risk for individuals with certain health conditions and for people age 65 and older. These groups are at higher risk of poor outcomes with COVID-19. Campers and employees in higher risk groups are strongly recommended not to attend camp.
 - High risk is defined as:
 - People 65 years and older;
 - People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma;
 - People who have serious heart conditions;
 - People who are immunocompromised
 - People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher);
 - People with diabetes;
 - People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis;
 - People with liver disease; and
 - Any other underlying conditions identified by the OHA or CDC.

Additional resources:

- [Signs you can post](#)
- [Mask and Face Covering Guidance for Business, Transit and the Public](#)
- [OHA Guidance for the General Public](#)
- [OHA General Guidance for Employers](#)
- [CDC's Guidance for Administrators in Parks and Recreational Facilities](#)

For individuals with disabilities or individuals who speak a language other than English, OHA can provide documents in alternate formats such as other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. Contact Mavel Morales at 1-844-882-7889, 711 TTY or OHA.ADAModifications@dhsosha.state.or.us.