

SAFER AT HOME

DAY CAMPS

This guidance applies to summer day camps/playground programs offered by municipalities, private day camp providers and youth serving organizations.

Review and follow the NH [Universal Guidelines](#)
Review and follow CDC [considerations for youth and summer camps](#).

Day camp staff must be recruited from and be residents of New Hampshire, **residents of surrounding states without current travel and quarantine restrictions for New Hampshire**, or out of state staff who have met a 10 day quarantine requirement

Day camp attendees are restricted to children who are New Hampshire residents, **residents of surrounding states without current travel and quarantine restrictions for New Hampshire**, or out of state campers who have met a 10 day quarantine requirement

NOTE: You do NOT need to quarantine for 10 days or get tested for COVID-19 if either of the following apply:

1. You are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and more than 14 days have passed since you received the second dose of your COVID-19 vaccine.
2. You have previously tested positive for active COVID-19 infection (by PCR or antigen testing) in the last 90 days (if you had a previous infection that was more than 90 days ago, you must still follow all quarantine requirements)

General Guidance:

1. All day camp staff are required to wear reusable/washable cloth face coverings over their nose and mouth to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 when social distancing is not possible. A cloth face covering must be worn when in close contact with other staff or campers and are most essential when social distancing is difficult
 - a. Provide training on cloth face coverings based on CDC guidance for [Use of Cloth Face Coverings](#).
 - b. Review the NH DHHS information about [using cloth face coverings](#).
 - c. People wearing face coverings must not touch their eyes, nose, mouth, or face, or adjust their face covering without first sanitizing hands. After touching face or adjusting face covering, hands must be sanitized.
2. All adults dropping children off at day camp shall be asked to wear a cloth face covering over their nose and mouth when at the day camp facility or public spaces where other individuals are present when social distancing is not possible.
3. The NH Department of Health and Human Services does **not** recommend children routinely wear face masks or face coverings for the reasons outlined below:
 - a. CDC guidance states, "Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance."

Commented [EC1]: This will put Day Camp Guidance in line with current travel and quarantine restrictions and avoids confusion if COVID-19 rates change outside of NH and travel and quarantine restrictions change again.

Commented [EC2]: This will put Day Camp Guidance in line with current travel and quarantine restrictions and avoids confusion if COVID-19 rates change outside of NH and travel and quarantine restrictions change again.



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- b. There are safety issues with young children having cloth, ties, elastics etc. around their mouths and necks which can pose choking or strangulation hazards.
 - c. The effectiveness of masks and other face coverings is impacted by proper handling and use, and children are more likely to play with the masks, adjust them or remove them without washing their hands before or after touching the masks, touch their face, etc. Touching the face and then touching other objects (e.g. toys) can potentially put other children in a group at risk.
 - d. Staff would need to increasingly be in close contact with children to provide assistance with face coverings, which can be counter-productive to maintaining distance as much as possible.
4. ~~Older children who are able to be compliant with cloth face coverings should be asked to wear them over their nose and mouth when in close proximity to other staff and children when social distancing is not possible.~~
Because of increased risk for coming into close contact with other campers and staff NH DHHS recommends that cloth face coverings be used by children over the age of 2 who are able to be compliant with cloth face coverings when a child is:
- Waiting to enter, or entering the camp facility
 - Leaving the camp facility
 - Boarding, exiting, or seated on a school bus
 - When engaged in indoor activities where students may come closer than 3 feet of other students or staff, including use of restrooms and locker room/changing facilities
 - When social distancing of 6 feet or more is not possible
5. Staff and children should practice frequent hand hygiene:
 6. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
 7. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer should be made readily available to ~~staff and older children~~ and should be carried by staff at all times.
 8. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
 9. Supervise and help young children to ensure they are washing/sanitizing hands correctly, and to prevent swallowing of alcohol-based hand sanitizer. When soap and water are not readily available and hand sanitizer is used with children, it should be used under the direct supervision of staff. When not in use, hand sanitizer should be kept out of reach of children (on a high shelf, cabinet, or in a backpack worn by staff outside).
 10. At a minimum, require hand hygiene when arriving at the day camp; when entering a facility; before and after meals or snacks; before and during meal preparation or handling food; after outside time; before and after going to the bathroom; before and after medication administration; after cleaning up and handling any garbage; before and after coming into contact with any child or staff member; after sneezing, coughing, or nose blowing; after using shared equipment; and prior to leaving for home.

Commented [EC3]: Borrowed from the NH Dept. of Education Back to School Guidance and adapted for Day Camps. This is preferable as “older children” is not defined by DHHS, the CDC, or the American Academy of Pediatrics. This summer, each camp was left to determine the age with which this should be applied. This leaves camps open to liability and creates tension between parents and camps who may interpret the guideline differently.

Commented [EC4]: The term “older children” is again problematic.



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11. Advise children and staff to avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
12. Cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and clean hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer (if soap and water are not readily available). Alternatively, cough or sneeze into elbows.
13. Children and staff should be reminded to maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from others whenever possible.

Employee Guidance:

1. Staff must be provided with education and training around safe practices as it relates to hand hygiene, sanitation (cleaning and disinfection policies), and illness policies outlined in the NH [Universal Guidelines](#).
2. Day camp staff must be screened for symptoms or risk factors of COVID-19 before the start of each day as outlined below in Business Process Guidance and in the NH [Universal Guidelines](#).
3. Require all staff to report any symptoms of COVID-19 or close contact to a person with COVID-19 to supervisor.

Business Process Guidance:

1. All day camps should have a communication plan to educate staff, families, and children about COVID-19 health and safety practices at the day camp.
2. Restrict non-essential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving other groups.
3. Children and staff should be screened daily on arrival to the day camp by asking if the individual:
 - a. Has any symptoms of COVID-19 (see Universal Guidelines for list of potential symptoms) or fever of 100.4 degrees F or higher.
 - b. Has had any close contact with someone who is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 in the past 10 days. (**NOTE:** Healthcare workers caring for COVID-19 patients while wearing appropriate personal protective equipment should answer “no” to this question)
 - c. Traveled in the past 10 days either:
 - i. Internationally (outside the U.S.),
 - ii. By cruise ship, or
 - iii. Domestically (within the U.S.) outside of New England?
 - iv. **NOTE:** You do NOT need to quarantine for 10 days or get tested for COVID-19 if either of the following apply:
 1. You are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and more than 14 days have passed since you received the second dose of your COVID-19 vaccine.
 2. You have previously tested positive for active COVID-19 infection (by PCR or antigen testing) in the last 90 days (if you had a previous infection that was more than 90 days ago, you must still follow all quarantine requirements)



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4. Person(s) with any COVID-19 symptoms, those who report close contact with someone suspected or confirmed with COVID-19, or those reporting travel risk factors should **not** be allowed into the day camp:
 - a. Symptomatic persons should be instructed to contact their health care provider to be tested for COVID-19 and [self-isolate](#) at home following the instructions below **unless symptoms are the result of medically documented allergies or asthma and the child has no other COVID-19 related symptoms.**
 - b. Asymptomatic persons reporting close contact with someone suspected or confirmed with COVID-19, or who report one of the traveled-related risk factors, should [self-quarantine](#) for 10 days from their last exposure or return from travel.
 - c. **NOTE:** Healthcare workers caring for COVID-19 patients while wearing appropriate personal protective equipment should answer “no” to this question
 - d. **NOTE:** You do NOT need to quarantine for 10 days or get tested for COVID-19 if either of the following apply:
 - i. You are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and more than 14 days have passed since you received the second dose of your COVID-19 vaccine.
 - ii. You have previously tested positive for active COVID-19 infection (by PCR or antigen testing) in the last 90 days (if you had a previous infection that was more than 90 days ago, you must still follow all quarantine requirements)
5. Person(s) with suspect or confirmed COVID-19 must stay out of day camp until symptom-based criteria are met for [discontinuation of isolation](#):
 - a. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared
 - i. **AND**
 - b. At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (recovery is defined as resolution of fever off any fever reducing medications plus improvement in other symptoms)
6. Any person that develops symptoms of COVID-19 while at the day camp should be masked if they are over 2 years of age, removed from contact with others, and be immediately sent home **unless symptoms are the result of medically documented allergies or asthma and the child has no other COVID-19 related symptoms.**
7. *If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 at a camp, the facility should contact: The Bureau of Infection Disease Control (BIDC) at 603-271-4496.*

Commented [EC5]: This is important as a child having an asthma attack is currently required to be sent home.

Commented [EC6]: This is important as a child having an asthma attack is currently required to be sent home.

Pick-up and Drop-off:

1. Develop a drop-off and pick-up process which staggers arrival/departure of children and parents/guardians so that children and parents/guardians from different groups do not interact. Attempt to also stagger drop-off and pick-up times to avoid congregating of parents and children within a facility.



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2. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after signing in and out. No pen should be shared. Parents/guardians should use their own pen when signing in. If check-in is electronic, provide alcohol wipes and frequently clean the screens or keyboards.
3. Limit direct contact with parents as much as possible and have day camp staff greet children outside as they arrive.
4. **Each child's belongings should be labeled. Water bottles and food or drink related items should not be shared or touch those of other children. Belongings should be taken home each day. Keep each child's belonging separated and in individually labeled storage containers, cubbies, or areas; take belongings home each day.**

Commented [EC7]: This was adjusted for clarity and will help camps with costs as individual storage containers for 200 campers would be cost prohibitive.

Social Distancing Strategies:

1. Day camps should attempt to divide staff and children into small groups of ideally no more than ~~10~~ **20** people total, including children and staff. Small group sizes will help to limit COVID-19 transmission if someone is found to be infected.
2. **Safe and recommended staff/child ratios must be maintained. Allow for proper coverage to comply with Federal and NH Labor and Child Labor Laws (i.e., breaks, hours worked, and for staff calling out).**
3. **Consistently keep the same groups of staff and campers together throughout the camp session. Do not move children between groups. Staff should not float between groups (unless necessary for activity instruction where one person teaches multiple camp groups).**
4. **Avoid overlapping groups in any one particular area or activity. Detailed schedules should be created to allow enough time for groups to move between activities without interacting with other groups.**
5. **Different groups may use the same outdoor or indoor space if space is large enough, but groups should be kept separate and not allowed to interact.**
2. **Where feasible, consistently keep the same groups of children and staff together and avoid intermixing or interaction between groups during the day (e.g., at opening and closing, during lunch, outdoor play, etc.).**
6. **3. Keep campers outside as much as possible. Close communal use spaces, such as game rooms or dining halls, if possible. Indoor activities should be limited and groups will need to be separated and not interact.**
7. **4. Space seating and activities so that children are at least 6 feet apart, whenever possible.**

Commented [EC8]: Borrowed from the Safer at Home 2.0 Guidelines for Childcare.

Commented [EC9]: This is unnecessary as camps are already required to follow state and federal laws.

Commented [EC10]: Simplifies this section. New text is borrowed from the Safer at Home 2.0 Guidelines for Child Care.

Commented [EC11]: Repetitive

Activities:

1. **Each group will get their own supply of sports equipment to run their own activities.**
2. **Each group will get its own supply of arts & craft supplies (Each child could also receive their own set of basic arts and crafts supplies which they bring back to camp everyday)**
1. **Only one group should use a ball or piece of equipment at a time. Equipment should be cleaned and sanitized before use by another group.**
3. **Games and activities should be designed to allow for social distancing. Modifications may be made to traditional games and activities to ensure camper safety.**

Commented [EC12]: The purchasing of separate equipment for every group, that cannot be used by another group during the entire session is cost prohibitive. Camps have shown success in cleaning and disinfecting equipment prior to use by another group.



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- ~~4. Any used equipment/supplies will need to be cleaned and disinfected after usage~~
5. 2. Avoid field trips and special performances per CDC guidelines

Commented [EC13]: Numbers 3 +4 are already covered under Social Distancing Strategies and Cleaning and Disinfecting Procedures.

Meal and Snack Time:

- ~~1. Stagger lunch times~~
 1. Keep group size small and do not commingle groups during meal time, such as having more than one time for meals and snacks to split the group or by seating children every other seat to create more space; no sharing of food, drink or utensils.
 2. Meal and snack time should occur outside whenever possible ~~under tents/shelters or pavilions~~. Avoid congregating in large groups to eat lunch and snacks.
 3. ~~Staff and campers should eat with their own group and maintain at least 6 feet of distance between children and staff when seated and eating; no sharing of food, drink, or utensils.~~ **Supervising staff and campers should maintain a distance of at least 6 feet apart.**
 4. If meals must be provided in a lunch room, stagger meal times, arrange tables to ensure that there is at least six feet of space between groups in the lunchroom, and clean tables between lunch shifts.
 5. Campers are encouraged to bring their own snacks and lunches when feasible.
 6. ~~If food is offered have in pre packaged boxes or bags with disposable utensils to ensure safety.~~
6. Any food service offered at a day camp shall follow the New Hampshire Food Service Industry Guidance.
 7. Campers and staff need to bring their own water bottles. No shared water jugs.

Commented [EC14]: Borrowed from the Safer at Home 2.0 Guidelines for Child Care.

Commented [EC15]: Under tents/shelters or pavilions inadvertently brings children in closer proximity to one another.

Commented [EC16]: This will allow for camps to meet labor laws by allowing for appropriate staff lunch breaks.

Commented [EC17]: This was borrowed from Safer at Home 2.0 Guidelines for Ski Areas and adapted for Day Camps.

Transportation:

1. Those providing transportation to day camps should maximize space between riders (e.g. one rider per seat in every other row). Close seating on buses makes person-to-person transmission of respiratory viruses more likely.
2. Keeping windows open might reduce virus transmission.
3. Transportation vehicles must be cleaned and disinfected after each use.

Cleaning and Disinfection Procedures:

1. Review and follow CDC guidance on [cleaning and disinfecting](#).
2. Review and follow CDC [guidance on creating a plan if staff or children become sick](#):
 - a. Plan to have an isolation room or area that can be used to isolate a sick child.
 - b. Be ready to follow CDC guidance on how to [disinfect your building or facility](#) if someone is sick.
 - c. If a sick child has been isolated in your facility, clean and disinfect surfaces in your isolation room or area after the sick child has gone home.
 - d. If COVID-19 is confirmed in a child or staff member:
 - i. Close off areas used by the person who is sick.
 - ii. Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the areas.



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- iii. Wait up to 24 hours or as long as possible before you clean or disinfect to allow respiratory droplets to settle to reduce the risk to individuals cleaning.
 - iv. Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as offices, bathrooms, and common areas.
 - v. If more than 7 days have passed since the person who is sick visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary.
 - e. Continue routine cleaning and disinfection.
3. All cleaning materials should be kept secure and out of reach of children.
4. Develop a schedule for cleaning and disinfecting. Perform frequent cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces, including door handles, equipment, surfaces, outdoor playground equipment, etc. Areas will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day, including anytime a group exits an area (indoors or outdoors) where they have used tables, chairs etc.
5. Increase the frequency with which you clean and disinfect toys, equipment, and surfaces, especially doorknobs, check-in counters, and restrooms. All equipment and supplies will be cleaned and disinfected after use
6. Use alcohol wipes to clean keyboards and electronics and wash hands after use.
7. Minimize the potential for the spread of by temporarily removing items that are not easily cleanable (such as stuffed animals and pillows). Personal comfort items from home need to be sent home daily and not shared.
8. If groups are moving from one area to another, cleaning measures must be completed prior to the new group entering this area.
9. Staff cleaning should follow the disinfectant manufacturer's instructions:
 - a. Use the proper concentration of disinfectant.
 - b. Maintain the disinfectant for the required wet contact time.
 - c. Follow the product label hazard warnings and instructions for personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, eye protection, and adequate ventilation.
 - d. Disinfectant use indoors should occur in a well ventilated space. Extensive use of disinfectant products should be done when children are not present and the facility or area should be thoroughly aired out before children return.
 - e. Day camps must have a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for each chemical used in the facility.
10. Disinfectants and other cleaning supplies are the responsibility of the day camp to have available.

