

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](#).

General Guidance:

1. All day camp staff must wear face masks over their nose and mouth when indoors at day camp facilities and when outdoors and around other people in settings where 6 feet of social distancing is not able to be consistently maintained.
2. Masks should NOT be put on babies and children under the age of two because of the danger of suffocation.
3. Children two years of age and older, especially older children and teenagers should wear face masks at all times when within the facility and around other people, unless there is a valid medical or developmental reason a child cannot wear a face mask (per [CDC guidance](#)), or if a child is unable to be compliant with face masks even after staff and parents/guardians work with the child to gain compliance. Providers should work with children 2 years of age and older to help them understand the importance of face masks and gain compliance with use while at the day camp facility.
4. 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.
5. Everyone should follow [CDC guidance](#) on face mask selection and use.
 - a. 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.
 - b. Providers, staff, and children should be given routine mask breaks (ideally outside if weather permits) where everybody is separated by at least 6 feet or more and face masks can be removed for brief periods of time (and properly stored) while socially distanced. Hands should be sanitized before and after removing or replacing face masks.
6. Staff and children should practice frequent hand hygiene:
 - a. 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.
 - b. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer should be made readily available and should be carried by staff at all times.
 - c. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
 - d. 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).



SAFER AT HOME

DAY CAMPS

- e. 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.
7. Advise children and staff to avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
8. 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.
9. Children and staff should be reminded to maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from others whenever possible.
10. If there is a person with COVID-19 identified who has been present at a day camp facility, the day camp must contact and report the case to the NH Division of Public Health Services', Bureau of Infectious Disease Control (BIDC) at 603-271-4496.

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. Staff must be provided with education and training around safe practices as it relates to social distancing, face mask use, hand hygiene, sanitation (cleaning and disinfection policies), illness policies, and other guidance outlined in this document and the NH [Universal Guidelines](#).
3. Restrict non-essential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving other groups.
4. Staff must be screened for elevated temperature, symptoms of COVID-19, or risk factors of COVID-19 before each shift as outlined in the NH [Universal Guidelines](#). Anyone with any new or unexplained symptoms of COVID-19 or identified risk factors are not allowed into the facility.
5. Children entering day camp should also be screened for elevated temperature, symptoms of COVID-19, or risk factors of COVID-19 before entering the day camp following the same guidance and questions outlined (for employees) in the NH [Universal Guidelines](#). Anyone with any new or unexplained symptoms of COVID-19 or identified risk factors are not allowed into the facility.
6. Require all staff to report any [symptoms of COVID-19](#), travel, or close contact to a person with COVID-19 to supervisors prior to beginning their shifts or during their shifts if symptoms arise.
7. Persons with any new or unexplained [symptoms of COVID-19](#) should be instructed to contact their health care provider to be tested for COVID-19 and [self-isolate](#) at home until they meet criteria outlined in the NH [Universal Guidelines](#) (i.e., the person has met CDC criteria for [discontinuation of isolation](#), or they have tested negative AND at least 24 hours have passed since their last fever off any fever reducing medications, and other symptoms have improved).



SAFER AT HOME

DAY CAMPS

8. Asymptomatic persons who report close contact to someone with COVID-19 or who have a travel-related risk must [self-quarantine](#) for at least 10 days from their last exposure or return from travel.
 - a. See NH [Travel Guidance](#) for requirements about travel-related quarantine.
 - b. Day camps must review and follow NH's [Employer Travel, Screening, and Exclusion Guidance](#)
 - c. NOTE: a person does NOT need to quarantine for 10 days or get tested for COVID19 if either of the following apply:
 - i. Person is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and more than 14 days have passed since receiving the second dose of your COVID-19 vaccine.
 - ii. Person has previously tested positive for active COVID-19 infection (by PCR or antigen testing) in the last 90 days (a person with previous infection that was more than 90 days prior must still follow all quarantine requirements)
9. Any person that develops new or unexplained 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.

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.
2. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after signing in and out. Hand sanitizer should be made readily available for staff, children, parents/guardians during pickup and drop-off. No pen should be shared. Parents/guardians should use their own pen when signing in/out, or if a shared pen is used, it should be sanitized between uses. If check-in is electronic, provide alcohol wipes and frequently clean the screens or keyboards.
3. Limit close contact and avoid coming within 6 feet 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 and kept separate from others' belongings. Water bottles and food or drink related items should not be shared or touched by other children. Belongings should be taken home each day.

Social Distancing Strategies:

1. Day camps should attempt to divide staff and children into small groups/cohorts of ideally no more than 10-15 people total per group (including children and staff). Group size must not exceed 20 people. Camps should look to split groups larger than 20 individuals into two smaller groups. Small group sizes will help to limit COVID-19 transmission if someone is found to be infected.
2. 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.). Do not move children between groups.



SAFER AT HOME

DAY CAMPS

Staff should not float between groups (unless necessary for activity instruction where one person teaches multiple camp groups).

3. Schedules should be created to allow enough time for groups to move between activities without interacting with other groups.
4. 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.
5. Space seating and activities so that children are at least 6 feet apart, whenever possible.

Activities:

1. Conduct activities outside as much as possible, if weather permits.
2. Avoid shared equipment and supplies, if possible, otherwise common use items should be cleaned and disinfected after each use and before another group uses same equipment and supplies.
3. Games and activities should be designed to allow for social distancing.
4. Avoid field trips and special performances

Meal and Snack Time:

1. Keep group size small and do not commingle groups during meal time. If needed, have more than one time for meals and snacks to split the group or seat children every other seat to create more space; no sharing of food, drink or utensils.
2. Supervising staff and Children should be seated at least 6 feet apart when eating a snack or meal.
3. Meal and snack time should occur outside whenever possible.
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. Any food service offered at a day camp must follow the NH [Food Service Industry](#) guidance.
7. Campers and staff need to bring their own water bottles. No shared water jugs.
8. Children and staff must clean/sanitize hands immediately before and after eating.

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. If windows are unable to be opened due to the weather, then increase vehicle ventilation by bringing in outdoor air through the vehicles air system. Internal air must NOT be recirculated
3. Ensure an orderly boarding and disembarking process that avoids close contact between people.
4. Transportation vehicles must be cleaned and disinfected after each use. Refer to CDC's guidance on [cleaning and disinfection for non-emergency transport vehicles](#).



SAFER AT HOME

DAY CAMPS

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.
 - 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 disinfectants that are on EPA's [list of disinfectants for COVID-19](#).
 - b. Use the proper concentration of disinfectant.
 - c. Maintain the disinfectant for the required wet contact time.
 - d. Follow the product label hazard warnings and instructions for personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, eye protection, and adequate ventilation.



SAFER AT HOME

DAY CAMPS

- e. 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.
 - f. 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.

Additional Facility Considerations:

1. Ensure building ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening screened windows and doors, using fans, or other methods. Do not open windows and doors if they pose a safety or health risk (e.g., temperature, inclement weather, insects, and allowing pollens in or exacerbating asthma symptoms) to children at the facility.
 - a. See CDC guidance on improving [ventilation in buildings](#).
2. Ensure potable and process water plumbing systems are appropriately readied prior to camp in accord with CDC and local health department guidance to minimize the risk of diseases associated with waterborne pathogens.

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