



Guidelines for Camp Operations During COVID-19

For use in licensed camps. (rev. 5/28/21)

Current Guidance

Required

- The [MDHHS Epidemic Order](#) requires unvaccinated individuals to wear masks. Specific requirements are available on page 4.
- The [MIOSHA Workplace Emergency Rules](#) require employers to develop and follow COVID-19 preparedness and response plan and other workplace safety measures. Please view requirements for these plans in the [Rules](#).

Recommended Best Practices

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed [Guidance for Operating Youth and Summer Camps During COVID-19](#). The guidance includes information about COVID-19 and children, vaccination, planning and preparing, prevention strategies that reduce the spread of COVID-19, maintaining healthy environments and operations, preparing for when someone gets sick, and additional guidance for overnight camps.

Communication and Training

- Staff training is required per the [MIOSHA Emergency Rules](#). The training should include workplace infection-control practices and information on COVID-19 vaccination, use of Personal Protective Equipment, how to report unsafe working conditions, and steps the employee must take to notify the camp of any symptoms of COVID-19 or a suspected or confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19. Records of employee training must be kept for 6 months from time of generation. The camp must designate at least 1 COVID-19 safety coordinator to implement, monitor, and report on COVID-19 control strategies.

- Proactively communicate with parents and staff members about the importance of vaccinations, any health concerns that put campers or staff at higher risk of complications if exposed to COVID-19, and steps taken, including the response plan, to make the camp as safe as possible.
- Families play a key role in risk mitigation. Camps are encouraged to communicate the summary of their plans for mitigating risk of COVID-19 transmission at camp and responding to any camper who may develop symptoms of COVID-19.

Pre-Camp Screening and Health Monitoring

- MIOSHA requires employers to conduct daily entry self-screening protocol for all employees entering the workplace, including, at minimum, a questionnaire covering symptoms and suspected or confirmed exposure to people with possible COVID-19. Camps may use the free [MI Symptoms tool](#) to help screen their staff members for COVID-19 symptoms. Records must be kept for 6 months from time of generation.

- The best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is to keep the virus from getting into your camp program in the first place. Encourage sick individuals to stay home from camp. Conduct daily health checks (for example, [symptom checking](#)).
- Overnight camps may utilize pre-camp symptom logs or screen testing protocols to limit the spread of COVID-19 before arriving at the camp.

Antigen Testing Program and PCR Testing

- MDHHS has developed [guidance for testing](#) at Overnight Camps. The guidance provides information about at-home Antigen testing and procedures for camps to use when implementing the program. [FAQs are also available](#). PCR Testing locations can be found by visiting www.michigan.gov/coronavirustest.

Face Coverings

Required

- Current [MDHHS Epidemic Order](#) requires face coverings for unvaccinated individuals when indoors. See page 4 below for specific requirements. Camps are required to provide masks to unvaccinated employees.
- [Center for Disease Control and Prevention Order](#) requires face coverings during public transportation, all must wear masks.
- Face mask exceptions include: younger than 2, medical conditions, while eating or drinking, sleeping, swimming, communicating with a deaf person, and vaccinated individuals. See page 4 for more exceptions.
- See Overnight Camps “household cohort” section below for information about masking within household cohorts.

Recommended Best Practices

- Face coverings are still encouraged for all individuals, especially when working or volunteering in youth settings. Vaccines are not yet approved for use in children of all ages.

Physical Distancing and Cohorting

- MIOSHA [Workplace Emergency Rules](#) require employers to ensure that any employees, except those fully vaccinated, remain at least 6 feet from one another to the maximum extent feasible and wear a face covering when the employee cannot consistently maintain 6 feet separation from other individuals indoors.
- MDHHS Epidemic Order indoor capacity restrictions do not apply to camps.

- Cohorting: Cohorts are groups of campers and staff that stay together throughout the day to minimize exposure to other people while at camp. Cohorts should have the same staff stay with the same group of campers and remain together as much as possible. Limit mixing between cohorts.
- Physical Distancing: Physical distancing provides protection by reducing risk of exposure and limiting the number of close contacts when someone is infected with COVID-19. Establish camp policies and implement strategies to promote physical distancing indoors and outdoors.
- See Overnight Camps for more information about physical distancing in “household cohorts.”

Maintaining a Healthy Camp Environment

- MIOSHA [Workplace Emergency Rules](#) requires promotion of basic infection prevention measures including frequent and thorough handwashing or use of antiseptic hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol as well as increased facility cleaning and disinfection to limit exposure to COVID-19 in accordance with the latest CDC guidance. Employers must use [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)-approved disinfectants](#) that are expected to be effective against SARS-CoV-2 based on data for harder to kill viruses.

- Camp operators should implement strategies in physical spaces to maintain a healthy camp environment such as cleaning and disinfecting, limiting shared objects, improved ventilation, and stagger use of shared spaces.
- The [CDC Guidance for Operating Youth and Summer camps](#) provides helpful resources for preparing your camp environment in areas like food service, transportation, bathrooms, playgrounds, swimming pools, activity areas, and sports.
- To minimize the potential spread of COVID-19, limit the number of individuals in your facility at drop off, pick up, and throughout the day. Strategies include: set up hand hygiene stations at the entrance of your facility, stagger arrival and drop off times and plan to limit direct contact with parents to the extent possible.

Responding to Known or Suspected Case COVID-19

Required

- [MIOSHA Workplace Emergency Rules](#) requires employers to physically isolate any employees known or suspected to have COVID-19 from the remainder of the workforce, using measures such as, but not limited to: not allowing known or suspected cases to report to work, sending known or suspected cases to away from the workplace, or assigning known or suspected cases to work alone at a remote location (for example, their home) , as their health allows. When a camp learns of an employee, visitor or customer with a known case of COVID-19, they must notify within 24 hours anyone who came into contact with the individual. Employees can only return to work after they are no longer infectious according to the latest CDC guidelines.
- The [MDHHS Epidemic Order](#) requires, upon request, establishments provide names and phone numbers of individuals with possible COVID-19 exposure to MDHHS and local health departments to aid in contact tracing and case investigation efforts.
- The [Public Health Code](#) and associated rules requires camps to report occurrences or outbreaks within 24 hours of suspecting to their local health department. (MCL 333.5111 and R325.173)
- Camp operators are required to submit an incident report to the Camp Licensing if a camper is sent home for illness or stays overnight in a hospital or clinic. [R400.11127(9)]
- Camp operators must [take action](#) and [isolate](#) sick campers and staff. (R400.11149)

Recommended Best Practices

- If a camper or staff member has a confirmed case of COVID-19, a camp should:
 - ◇ Report the case to your local health department and assist in contact tracing efforts.
 - ◇ The Local Health Department will assess your specific situation and identify the steps you should take to reduce transmission. This may include possibly closing a camp operation. At a minimum, your local health department will recommend the camp be [cleaned](#), and they may recommend that everyone in that cabin or camp be quarantined up to 14 days.
 - ◇ Camps are encouraged to contact their Local Health Department and their licensing consultant to discuss any COVID-19 related questions in your camp operation.

Overnight Camps: Household Cohorts

- Consider campers and staff who are staying together in a cabin, bunkhouse, or similar defined space a “household cohort.” Unvaccinated campers and staff should always wear masks indoors when together unless staff are part of the household cohort and sleep in the same space as campers. When different household cohorts are using shared indoor spaces together, continue to monitor and enforce mask use behaviors in accordance with the face mask chart on page 4.

RESOURCES

When and Where to Wear a Face Covering in Your Site

Environment	Vaccinated Individuals, ages 2 years and older	Unvaccinated Individuals, ages 2 years and older
Indoors	Not required, still encouraged	Required*
Outdoors	Not required, still encouraged	Not required, still encouraged
Overnight Camps (Residential, Travel, and Troop camps)	See Overnight Camps Household Cohorts on page 3.	
During transportation	Required, per the CDC order	Required, per the CDC order

*A good faith effort is accepted, as defined by the [current MDHHS Epidemic Order](#).

Exceptions to Mask Wearing

- **Age:** Face coverings should never be placed on young children under age 2.
- **Medical condition:** Anyone who cannot medically tolerate a mask should not wear a face covering. Camps with staff that claim the medical exemption to wearing a face mask should view [MIOSHA guidance](#) on this topic and contact MIOSHA’s COVID-19 hotline with any questions: 855-SAFEC19 (855-723-3219).”
- **Eating and drinking:** Cloth face masks may be removed while eating and drinking.
- **Sleeping:** Campers and staff should not wear masks while sleeping.
- **Activity:** Face coverings for unvaccinated individuals are not required during some activities:
- **Swimming:** People should not wear cloth face coverings while engaged in activities that may cause the cloth face covering to become wet, like when [swimming at the beach or pool](#). A wet cloth face covering may make it difficult to breathe. For activities like swimming, it is particularly important to maintain physical distance from others when in the water.
- **When communicating with someone who is deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing** and whose ability to see the mouth is essential to communication.
- **Receiving a medical or personal care service** for which removal of a face mask is necessary.
- Temporarily for **identification purposes**.
- Are engaging in a **religious service**.
- Are giving a **speech for broadcast** or to an audience, provided that the audience is at least 12 feet away from the speaker.
- Are engaging in an activity that requires removal of a mask not listed in another part of this section, and are in a facility that provides ventilation that meets or exceeds 60 ft³/min of outdoor airflow per person.
- Are engaged in practice or competition where the wearing of a mask would be unsafe and are participating in a testing program specified in MDHHS’s document entitled Guidance for Athletics issued May 24, 2021.

Symptom Screening for Campers

When Should a Sick Child Stay Home?

Camps should strictly enforce their health services policy, especially during flu season. The presence of any of the symptoms below generally suggests a child has an infectious illness and should not attend camp, regardless of whether the illness is COVID-19. For campers with chronic conditions, a positive screening should represent a change from their typical health status.

- Temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Sore throat
- Cough (for campers with chronic cough due to allergies or asthma, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Difficulty breathing (for children with asthma, a change from their baseline breathing)
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

Campers should also stay home if they:

- Are in quarantine due to exposure to an individual with a confirmed case of COVID-19 or
- Have other signs of illness described in a camp's health services policy.

Camps should encourage families to contact their healthcare provider or follow up with a local clinic/urgent care before coming to camp..

The CDC has additional guidance about [screening K-12 students for symptoms](#) of COVID-19 which may be helpful to camps. They also have [signs](#) available in multiple languages to help share symptoms with families.

Symptom Screening for Staff Member

When Should a Sick Staff Member Stay Home?

Camp operators should strictly enforce their health services policy, especially during flu season. Staff members should stay home, or be sent home, if they are experiencing any of the following symptoms not explained by a known or diagnosed medical conditions:

ONE of the following:

- Fever of 100.4 degrees or above
- Shortness of breath
- Uncontrolled cough

OR TWO of the following:

- Diarrhea
- Loss of taste or smell
- Muscle aches without another explanation
- Severe headache
- Sore throat
- Vomiting
- Chills

Staff members should also stay home if they are in quarantine due to exposure to an individual with a confirmed case of COVID-19 or if they have other signs of illness described in a camp's health services policy.

Quarantine is not required for staff members who are fully vaccinated and remain asymptomatic after an exposure to COVID-19. If a person is having symptoms, even if they are fully vaccinated, they should get tested and isolate.

Use signage to remind employees about [symptoms](#) to watch for and to [stay home](#) when they are sick.

Additional information regarding quarantine guidelines is available at [MDHHS' website](#).