



Guidelines for Camp Operations During COVID-19

For use in licensed camps. (rev. 6/22/21)

Overview

Camp operators must be knowledgeable of safe and healthy camp practices. The following guidance provides resources for mitigation of infectious disease outbreaks at camp. The document is structured so that camp operators may easily identify what is required and what are best practices in the State of Michigan.

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

BEST PRACTICES

Communication and Training

- 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 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

- 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.

Physical Distancing and Cohorting

- 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.

Maintaining a Healthy Camp Environment

- 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.

REQUIRED

Face Coverings

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Order](#) requires face coverings during public transportation for all passengers over 2 years of age.

BEST PRACTICES

- Face coverings are still encouraged for all individuals, especially when working or volunteering in youth settings. Vaccines are recommended for all eligible adult and youth age groups.
- Face mask should not be used: younger than two years old, those with medical conditions, while eating or drinking, sleeping, swimming, or communicating with a deaf person.
- MDHHS has issued recommended [guidance for face](#)

Responding to Known or Suspected Case COVID-19

- 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)

- 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.

RESOURCES

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.

RESOURCES

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](#).

CONTACT INFORMATION

[MIOSHA](#)

Workplace Safety: 855-SAFEC19 (855-723-3219)

[MDHHS](#)

COVID-19 Hotline: 888-535-6136 or COVID19@michigan.gov

[LARA](#)

Camp Licensing: 866-685-0006