



Camps - Overview

No summer camps can operate in counties in the “Red” phase of [Pennsylvania’s Phased Reopening Plan](#). As per the [PDE May 22nd guidelines](#), summer programs that provide childcare, enrichment, and/or recreational activities for children and youth are permitted to operate in “Yellow” and “Green” phases. Overnight camps may only begin to resume operation once in the “Green” phase.

Universal Face Covering Requirement: All staff must wear face coverings during childcare and summer program operations.

- Exceptions to this rule include: staff cannot wear a mask due to a medical condition, cannot remove a mask without assistance, or are communicating with someone who must see their mouth—such as a camper who is hearing impaired.

According to the [PA Department of Health May 22nd guidelines](#), summer programs must develop a written health and safety plan that follows the [CDC guidance for Youth and Summer Camps](#) and post the plan on the summer program’s publicly available website prior to providing services to children. If a website is not available, the program must use alternatives such as mailing the plan or having written information available upon arrival.

These materials and any related updates are provided and intended for general public informational purposes and guidance. While intended to be timely and accurate, please note that federal and state regulations and directives are changing often. To that extent, please continue to monitor this site for any significant modifications and developments.

Use the following to help ensure safe operation of summer camps.

Employer Tips and Guidelines

- The more people a camper or staff member interacts with, and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread:
 - Lowest Risk: Small groups of campers stay together all day, each day. Campers remain at least 6 feet apart and do not share objects. Outdoor activities are prioritized.
 - More Risk: Campers mix between groups but remain at least 6 feet apart and do not share objects. Outdoor activities are prioritized.
 - Even More Risk: Campers mix between groups and do not remain spaced apart.
 - Highest Risk: Campers mix between groups and do not remain spaced apart. All campers are not from the local geographic area (e.g., community, town, city, or county).
- Educate staff, campers, and their families about when they should stay home and when they can return to camp.

- Develop policies that encourage sick employees to stay at home without fear of reprisal, and ensure employees are aware of these policies. Employees and campers should stay home if they have tested positive for, are showing symptoms of, or have had close contact with a person with COVID-19.
 - Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Increase monitoring to ensure adherence. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
 - Encourage staff and campers to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately.
 - Teach and reinforce the use of cloth face coverings. Face coverings are most essential in times when physical distancing is difficult. Note: Cloth face coverings should not be placed on babies or children younger than two years old
 - Support healthy hygiene by providing supplies including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, tissues, disinfectant wipes, face coverings, and no-touch trash cans.
 - Post signs in highly visible locations that promote everyday protective measures.
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- Broadcast regular announcements on reducing the spread of COVID-19 on public address system.
 - Include messages (for example, videos) about behaviors that prevent spread of COVID-19 when communicating with staff and families (such as on camp websites, in emails, and through camp social media accounts).
 - Locate free CDC print and digital resources on [CDC's communications resources main page](#).
 - Develop a schedule for increased routine cleaning and disinfection.
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces within the camp facility and in any shared transportation vehicles at least daily or between use. Use of shared objects should be limited or cleaned between use.
 - If transport vehicles (e.g., buses) are used by the camp, drivers should practice all safety actions and protocols as indicated for other staff.
 - Use gloves when removing garbage bags or handling and disposing of trash. Wash hands after removing gloves.
 - Keep each camper's belongings separated from others'.
 - Minimize sharing of high-touch materials to the extent possible, or limit use of supplies to one group of campers at a time and clean and disinfect between use.
 - Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible.
 - Drinking fountains should be cleaned and sanitized, but encourage staff and campers to bring their own water to minimize use and touching of water fountains.
 - Space seating at least 6 feet apart.
 - If nap times are scheduled, ensure that campers' naptime mats are assigned to individual children, are sanitized before and after use, and spaced out as much as possible, ideally at least 6 feet apart. Place campers head-to-toe to ensure distance between their faces.
 - Prioritize outdoor activities where social distancing can be maintained as much as possible.
 - Create social distance between campers on school buses (e.g., seat children one child per row, skip rows) when possible.

- Install physical barriers, such as sneeze guards and partitions, particularly in areas where it is difficult for individuals to remain at least 6 feet apart (g., reception desks).
- Provide physical guides and markings to ensure that staff and campers remain at least 6 feet apart in lines and at other times.
- Close shared spaces such as dining halls and playgrounds with shared playground equipment, if possible; otherwise, stagger use and clean and disinfect between use.
- Have campers bring their own meals as feasible, and eat in separate areas or with their smaller group, instead of in a communal dining hall or cafeteria.
- Use disposable food service items. If disposable items are not feasible, ensure that all non-disposable food service items are handled with gloves and washed.
- If food is offered at any event, have pre-packaged boxes or bags for each attendee instead of a buffet or family-style meal.
- Offer options for staff/campers at higher risk for severe illness that limit exposure.
- Ensure privacy of people at higher risk for severe illness regarding underlying medical conditions.
- Consider “cohorting:” Keep campers together in small groups with dedicated staff and make sure they remain with the same group throughout the day, every day.
- Stagger arrival and drop-off times or locations by cohort (group) or put in place other protocols to limit contact between cohorts and with other campers’ guardians as much as possible.
- Consider whether to alter or halt daily group activities that may promote transmission.
- When possible, use flexible worksites (e.g., telework) and flexible work hours (e.g., staggered shifts) to help establish policies and practices for social distancing (maintaining distance of approximately 6 feet) between employees and others.
- Avoid group events, gatherings, or meetings where social distancing of at least 6 feet between people cannot be maintained. Limit group size to the extent possible.
- Limit any nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups.
- Designate a staff person (e.g., camp nurse or healthcare provider) to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. All camp staff and families should know who this person is and how to contact them.
- Have staff and families self-report to camp administrators if they have symptoms of, a positive test for, or exposure to someone with COVID-19.
- Consistently monitor staff wellness and do not let anyone symptomatic report to work. Revisit your leave or sick program to allow for this time off.
- Staff who monitor their temperature at home should update their supervisor if they have a temperature exceeding 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit and stay home.
- Consistently monitor camper wellness. Any child who is symptomatic should stay home.
- Implement flexible sick leave policies and practices that enable employees to stay home when they are sick, have been exposed, or caring for someone who is sick. Examine and revise policies for leave, telework, and employee compensation.
- If feasible, conduct daily health checks (e.g., temperature screening and/or symptom checking) of staff and campers.
- Encourage any organizations that share or use the camp facilities to also follow these considerations and limit shared use, if feasible.

- Sick staff members or campers should not return to camp until they have met CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation:
 - Persons with COVID-19, under home isolation, can be released from isolation after 10 days after symptom onset and after 72 hours of feeling well and without a fever.
 - People with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who have not had ANY symptoms may discontinue home isolation when at least 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test with no subsequent illness.
- For sleep away camps: Limit camp attendance to staff and campers who live in the local geographic area (e.g., community, city, town, or county).
 - Align mats or beds so that campers and staff sleep head-to-toe at least 6 feet apart.
 - Add physical barriers, such as plastic flexible screens, between bathroom sinks and between beds, especially when they cannot be at least 6 feet apart.
 - Monitor and enforce social distancing and healthy hygiene behaviors throughout the day and night.
 - Clean and disinfect bathrooms regularly (e.g., in the morning and evening, after times of heavy use).
 - Encourage staff and campers to avoid placing toothbrushes or toiletries directly on counter surfaces.
- Work with camp administrators, nurses, and other healthcare providers to identify an isolation room or area to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-like symptoms.
- For additional support, the Chester County Health Department can be reached at 610-344-6225.

How Employees Can Protect Themselves

- Self-monitor your temperature every morning. Employees who have a temperature exceeding 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit should stay home and notify their supervisor.
- Staff should stay home if they have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 symptoms, or if they have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19.
- Practice effective hand hygiene including washing hands for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Always wash hands with soap and water. If soap and water are not readily available, then use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- When possible, maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from other individuals.
- Cover coughs or sneezes with a sleeve or elbow, not hands.
- Do not shake hands.
- Regularly clean high-contact surface areas.
- Wear protective masks/face coverings.

If an Employee Tests Positive

The following applies to campers and staff:

- If the individual receives a positive test notification while at camp, follow established Human Resources policy. If the individual receives a positive test notification while NOT at camp, the

individual should follow established Human Resources policy, stay home and self-isolate in accordance with Chester County Health Department guidance.

- Close off areas visited by the positive individual. Refer to the [CDC's general cleaning & disinfecting guidance](#) and [guidance in facilities where someone is sick](#).
- Determine who had contact with the positive individual during the time the individual had symptoms as well as 48 hours prior to symptoms. Notify employees who were in close contact with the confirmed individual while maintaining confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
 - People who had close contact must self-quarantine for 14 days from the date of last contact with the positive individual.
 - "Close contact" is defined as having contact for more than 15 minutes, at a distance of 6 feet or less, with a positive individual.
- Individuals may discontinue home isolation and return to camp under the following conditions:
 - At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since your fever went away without the use of fever-reducing medication
 - AND improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)
 - AND At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- After returning to camp, individuals should:
 - Wear a facemask at all times while at camp until all symptoms are completely resolved or until 14 days after illness onset, whichever is longer.
 - Be restricted from contact with individuals at a higher risk (e.g., older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness).
 - Adhere to hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, and cough etiquette (e.g., cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, dispose of tissues in waste receptacles).
 - Self-monitor for symptoms. Seek immediate re-evaluation from occupational health/primary care provider and do not work if symptoms recur or worsen.
- The Chester County Health Department will be notified of all confirmed cases through established disease reporting protocols and will follow-up with the individual appropriately. Contact the Chester County Health Department at 610-344-6225.

Supporting Families and Campers

- Parents should monitor their children at home for signs of illness and may take their child's temperature before arriving at camp. Children should stay home if they show symptoms of illness or have a fever.
- Practice effective hand hygiene including washing hands for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Always wash hands with soap and water. If soap and water are not readily available, then use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- When possible, maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from other individuals.
- Cover coughs or sneezes with a sleeve, elbow, or tissue, not hands.
- Regularly clean high-contact surface areas.
- Wear protective masks/face coverings.

- Encourage employees and campers to take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories about COVID-19, including social media, if they are feeling overwhelmed or distressed.
- Promote employees and campers eating healthy, exercising, getting sleep, and finding time to unwind.
- Encourage employees and campers to talk with people they trust about their concerns.