

Camp 2020 - Frequently Asked Questions

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A public Q&A with medical professionals and educators will be held (via Zoom) to discuss safety and strategy for camps during COVID, time TBA. To sign up, please email us at medical@jccovid.com.

How many people can be in a group?

No group of campers and staff (“bunk”) should exceed 15 individuals, including campers and staff. (Please note: This is true for Baltimore County. The allowed number may vary by locality - please check with the local county or city regulations for individual group limits.) As a rule, **smaller groups are better**. Each bunk should stay the same (no moving in between bunks) and only interact together.

** As discussed below, if proper care is taken to separate between units, the presence of one child with COVID only affects the individual bunk; if not, it could cause the entire camp to be shut down. Also note that the smaller the bunk, the fewer children potentially affected.

How can programs safely transport participants? Can buses be used to provide pick up and drop off service from camp and or trips? Can parents drive campers in their car for trips?

Being inside a vehicle should be considered as being in an indoor space.

Camps that use vehicles should only have one bunk from the camp at a time. Do not mix participant/staff groups, clean and disinfect the vehicle after each use. Provide as much physical distancing as possible and wear face coverings as recommended in indoor areas.

Using a camp van or bus for pick up and drop off is not recommended as it would necessarily create mixing of bunks. Carpooling can be done, but everyone in the car should wear a mask, and the windows should be open, if possible.

Having parents drive campers to an activity is acceptable if all children in the vehicle are from the same bunk, and the vehicle is disinfected after each use. As recommended in any indoor space, the adults should ideally wear masks while in the vehicle.

If a participant becomes sick or has a confirmed case of COVID-19, what does the program need to do?

Any counselor or camper who develops **any** symptoms associated with COVID-19 should immediately contact their primary care doctor, and must be tested as soon as possible (see below regarding ways to test).

The infected individual should consult with their primary care doctor, who will decide when they are cleared to come back to camp. A doctor’s note should be required prior to that individual’s return to camp. The local health department should be notified of any positive COVID case.

All other counselors and campers in that bunk must quarantine at home while the test is being performed. They should not attend camp while awaiting the results of the testing.

If the COVID test comes back negative, all campers and counselors may return to camp immediately, as long as they remain asymptomatic.

If the COVID test comes back positive, **all counselors and campers in that bunk must quarantine at home for 14 days from their last exposure. They may not attend camp during this time, and should not be in other social settings so they do not continue to spread the virus.** A doctor's note should be required prior to their return to camp after their period of social distancing.

If a child needs to be sent home, extra cleaning and disinfecting of the entire facility (not just high-touch areas) should be done, and windows should be opened, if possible, for one hour.

Please note that if a camp has multiple bunks (groups of children), and they are not social distancing according to the guidelines, there is a very real risk that other bunks could be affected, as well, and they would need to quarantine for 14 days as well. In this way, **appropriate social distancing of the individual bunks ensures that the whole camp does not need to be shut down if a COVID case occurs in one bunk.**

**** Saliva-based COVID tests are available upon demand. In addition to being less uncomfortable than the nasal swab tests, results may be obtained in as early as 24-36 hours after testing. Please contact medical@jccovid.com if testing is needed.**

What if a camper is exposed to someone who had COVID?

Any counselor or camper who is exposed to a person with active COVID must let the camp know immediately. They should quarantine at home for 14 days, and must provide a doctor's note before being allowed back into the camp.

What are the safety guidelines for swimming pools including indoor pools and changing?

COVID does not survive for long in swimming pools, so there is no risk of infection from the water. There does exist, however, the same risk of respiratory spread, especially since no one will be wearing a mask in the water. All individuals should remain 6 feet apart within the water (and, obviously, when out of the water), to the extent possible. Changing rooms may be utilized by one group at a time. High-touch surfaces should be disinfected in between groups' use of the changing room.

What are the safety guidelines for disinfecting surfaces, toys and rooms?

All high-touch surfaces should be cleaned multiple times a day. ex: door handles, light switches, bathrooms, sinks, etc. Each camp should develop a daily schedule of disinfecting. Convenient times may be at transitions, nap times, before and after lunch or snacks, etc.

Rooms that are shared space between groups should be disinfected before the next group uses the space leaving a time period of 10-15 minutes for the room to sit empty. (Some individual disinfectants may require longer times. This can be found on the EPA website:

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>)

Disinfecting surfaces also kills other viruses and bacteria, which lowers the risk that a summer “flu” will enter the camp and cause unnecessary absences or closure of a group.

When should campers over 9 and staff be wearing masks?

Indoor areas have a higher risk of transmission of COVID (and other respiratory viruses). Wearing masks inside decreases the risk of transmission. The current state and national guidelines for camps all recommend that campers 9 and over wear masks while indoors. Staff are recommended to wear masks at all times when in contact with campers and other staff. However, anyone with asthma should not wear a mask. On days where there is a risk of overheating, the camp should consider the risk of masks for the staff. In both of these situations, anyone not wearing a mask should be extra careful about social distancing.

Should staff and/or campers (including older campers for specialty camps) be tested before coming to camp?

In Baltimore, testing is not necessary or recommended prior to joining a day camp.

How should social distancing and disinfecting be used in camps and within groups for all ages (including preschool) ?

Social distancing and disinfecting practices should be used as much as possible including preschool. This will take some creative thinking. Some ideas are:

- Have markings on the floor for individual play space, waiting in line and hallway walking

- Use a rope with loops to walk with younger children so they are spaced out

- Instead of building with blocks together they should try to copy each other’s building.

- Every child having their own arts supplies in a bag that they use for the entire summer will avoid the need to disinfect every marker.

- Having a bucket for clean and used items will keep items that need to be disinfected out of reach until they are clean.

How can we stay safe at meal times?

All food should be individually packed either from home or camp. Space markers should be placed in between campers and staff to provide appropriate distance while eating. **There should be no sharing of food, and no serving bowls or dishes.**

This year camp will be different, but it can still be safe and fun!