



Guidelines for Camp Operations During COVID-19

For use in licensed camps. (rev. 03/16/2022)

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 best practices and required actions to limit the spread of COVID-19. Camps should work with their local health department to determine if there are additional regulations in your area.

Prevention strategies should be used to reduce transmission of COVID-19 and variants in the camp setting. These best practices, symptom screening resources, and contact information are intended to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and variants, maintain healthy environments and operations, and prepare for possible illness at camp.

BEST PRACTICE PREVENTION STRATEGIES

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.

Testing Resources

- Testing resources and locations can be found by visiting www.michigan.gov/coronavirustest.

Vaccination

- Promoting vaccination against COVID-19 for eligible adults and children can help camp facilities remain open. Vaccination has proven incredibly effective as the leading public health prevention strategy.
- Staff and families can visit vaccines.gov to learn where they can get vaccinated against COVID-19.

Physical Distancing and Cohorting

- 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.
- Cohorting: Cohorts are groups of campers and staff that stay together throughout the day to minimize exposure to other people while at camp.

Maintaining a Healthy Camp Environment

- Camp operators should implement strategies in physical spaces to maintain a healthy camp environment such as cleaning, disinfecting and improved ventilation.
- 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.

Masking

- 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 guidance and information about masking. This information can be found on the [here](#).

Responding to Known or Suspected Case COVID-19

REQUIRED

- 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 and R400.11123]

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.
 - ◊ Camps are encouraged to contact their Local Health Department and their licensing consultant to discuss any COVID-19 related questions in your camp operation.

Quarantine and Isolation

Camp providers should follow the [quarantine and isolation guidance for K-12](#) for all staff and campers.

SYMPTOM SCREENING RESOURCES

Symptom Screening for Campers

When Should a Sick Camper/Staff Person 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 camper or staff have an infectious illness and should not attend camp, regardless of whether the illness is COVID-19.

- 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/Staff 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 or staff to contact their healthcare provider or follow up with a local clinic/urgent care before coming to camp. [Signs](#) are available in multiple languages to help share symptoms with families.

Additional information and frequently asked questions 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