

## Interim Guidelines for Day Camps

The Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Department of Health & Environmental Control (DHEC) have worked together to develop the following guidelines to assist day camp providers in re-opening quickly and safely. In addition to actions specific to minimizing the spread of COVID-19, the following guidelines incorporate general health and safety recommendations.

DSS recommends that summer day camps serve school-age children (ages five and older), while more traditional child care settings are more appropriate for children ages 0-5. Parents who need assistance finding child care can contact the Child Care Resource & Referral Network at 1-888-335-1002 or go to the website after hours at [www.sc-crr.org](http://www.sc-crr.org) and submit a referral indicating their need to find an opening in a child care facility.

### Reopening Guidelines

These guidelines are intended for application in non-health care related places of employment. The foundation guidelines for businesses and employers remains the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)'s Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#).

### General Guidelines that Apply to All:

Each employer is responsible for providing a safe and healthy workplace. All employers must determine how best to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. In order to re-open and successfully remain open for business, everyone individually and collectively must actively participate in the following core recommendations:

1. Self-isolation – if you are sick, stay home;
2. Practice social distancing of at least six feet distance to the greatest extent possible;
3. Wash hands frequently (20 seconds with soap and water or use of a sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol);
4. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects (e.g., keyboards, phones) and surfaces (e.g., handrails, workstations, sinks) and remove unnecessary frequently touched surfaces (e.g., trash can lids);
5. Avoid touching of eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands;
6. Strongly consider wearing a cloth face covering when it is difficult to practice social distancing (do not use on children under two years old, people with difficulty breathing, or people who cannot remove the mask themselves);
7. Cover mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze and throw used tissues away immediately after use;
8. Avoid using other employees' phones, desks, offices or other work tools and equipment when possible, or disinfect them before and after use; and
9. Minimize the use of soft surfaces like cloth covered chairs or area rugs that are more difficult to clean or disinfect.

### **Guidelines Specifically for Day Camps:**

In addition to the above safe-practices, compliance with the following additional guidelines will further minimize the potential for transmission and spread of COVID-19.

#### ***CDC Guidance: Things to Consider Regarding Reopening***

- ✓ Will reopening be consistent with applicable state and local orders?
- ✓ Are you ready to protect children and employees at higher risk for severe illness?
- ✓ Are you able to screen children and employees upon arrival for symptoms and history of exposure?

#### ***Recommended Health and Safety Actions***

- ✓ Promote healthy hygiene practices such as hand washing and employees wearing a cloth face covering, as feasible.
- ✓ Intensity cleaning, disinfection and ventilation of facilities and transport vehicles/buses.
- ✓ Encourage social distancing through increased spacing, small groups, and limited mixing between groups, and staggered scheduling, arrival and drop off, if feasible.
- ✓ Adjust activities and procedures to limit sharing of items such as toys, belongings, supplies and equipment.
- ✓ Train all employees on health and safety protocols.

DSS recommends that all summer day camps follow the child care licensing standards for staff-children ratios. If there are five-year-olds enrolled, then the ratio should be at least one adult for every 20 children. If all the children attending the camp are between the ages of six and twelve, there should be at least one adult for every 23 kids.

#### ***Ongoing Monitoring***

- ✓ Develop and implement procedures to check for signs and symptoms in children and employees daily upon arrival.
- ✓ Implement enhanced screening for children and employees who have recently been present in areas of high transmission, including temperature checks and symptom monitoring.
- ✓ No individual who is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms or who has knowingly been in contact with a suspected positive case of COVID-19 within the past 14 days will be permitted to enter the facility. No individual may enter the facility within 72 hours of exhibiting a fever.
- ✓ Establish procedures to ensure children and staff who become sick at the day camp or arrive at the facility sick are sent home as soon as possible. Keep sick children and staff separate from well children and staff until they can leave.
  - a. If an employee develops symptoms and is sent home, he/she should follow the [CDC guidelines](#) with regard to when to discontinue home isolation and return to work.
  - b. All areas where the suspected or confirmed infected individual was present should be cleaned and disinfected following the [CDC guidelines](#) PRIOR to facility re-opening.

### ***Interim Guidance as of 5.18.2020***

- c. Follow guidance from DHEC Epidemiology that may be specific to the scenario.
- ✓ Regularly communicate and monitor developments with local authorities, employees and families regarding cases, exposures and updates to policies and procedures.
- ✓ Monitor child and employee absences and have a pool of trained substitutes, and flexible leave policies and practices.
- ✓ Be ready to consult with local health authorities if there are cases in the facility or an increase in cases in the local area.

### ***Posters/Signage***

- ✓ Display relevant posters and signage from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), and/or other health-based organizations in appropriate activity areas to encourage behaviors that mitigate the spread of disease:–COVID-19 information–Handwashing–Cough etiquette–Symptoms associated with COVID-19–Stop the spread of germs–Physical distancing

### ***First Aid and CPR***

- ✓ If first aid and/or CPR is required during an activity, it is best to follow normal camp protocol that considers current guidance from state and local authorities including the fire and/or emergency services departments.

DSS recommends that all summer day camps have at least one adult who is certified in pediatric first aid and CPR onsite at all times, including during group outings or field trips.

### ***Sports and Range Activities***

- ✓ Limit shared high-touch equipment and designate equipment to campers or groups for the duration of camp.
- ✓ All outdoor equipment and facilities should be routinely cleaned
- ✓ All shared equipment (e.g., bows and arrows, tennis rackets) should be cleaned immediately after each use or session.
- ✓ Cleaning and disinfection at the end of each day should also be conducted on all sports and range equipment.
- ✓ Provide campers with dedicated equipment for the camp session. All equipment (e.g., bows and arrows, tennis rackets) should be cleaned and disinfected immediately after each use.
- ✓ Cleaning and disinfection at the end of each day should also be conducted on all sports and range equipment.

### ***Aquatics***

COVID-19 is not waterborne. There is no current evidence that COVID-19 can be spread to people through the water in a pool or water play areas. Proper operation and maintenance (including disinfection with chlorine or bromine) of these facilities will likely inactivate the virus in the water.

- ✓ Proper operation, maintenance, and disinfection of swimming pools will likely inactivate the virus that causes COVID-19. Keep swimming facilities properly cleaned and disinfected.

### ***Interim Guidance as of 5.18.2020***

- ✓ Campers should follow physical distancing per groups/cohorts and perform proper hand hygiene prior to entry and when leaving pools or other outdoor aquatic facilities (e.g., lakes, ponds).
- ✓ Continue safe swim practices.
- ✓ Maintain spacing between individuals swimming by creating a rotation.
- ✓ Campers and instructors should follow physical distancing and proper hand hygiene practices prior to/following any small craft activity (e.g., individual kayaks, paddle boards, etc.).
- ✓ Consider keeping activities together to include the same group of campers each day and consider keeping the same instructors per group.
- ✓ All shared and used equipment (e.g., oars, lifejackets, boats) should be cleaned and disinfected between each use.
- ✓ Limit the amount of shared supplies and equipment per activity.
- ✓ Hand wash life jackets in hot soapy water.
- ✓ Allow to air dry and spray lifejackets with alcohol-based disinfectant spray.

DSS recommends that all summer day camps follow the child care licensing standards for staff-children ratios when children are swimming, wading, or near a body of water that poses a potential risk for younger children. If all the children attending the camp are between the ages of five and twelve, there should be at least two adults for every 25 kids. All swimming activities should be supervised by an adult with a current lifeguard training certification.

#### ***General Guidance for Indoor Activities***

- ✓ Ensure enough space to accommodate staff and campers while practicing safe physical distancing.
- ✓ Staff members and campers should wear cloth face coverings during activities indoors when physical distancing is not maintained.
- ✓ Ensure that there is proper ventilation within the space by maximizing fresh air intake or natural ventilation via screened windows and doors.
- ✓ Conduct sign-in and handoff activities outside the front entrance to minimize parents and other visitors coming into the indoor space and avoid possible exposure to children and caregivers.
- ✓ Limit visitors to the facility.

#### ***Performing Arts***

- ✓ Campers and instructors should follow recommended physical distancing and good hand hygiene practices prior to/following performing arts activities.
- ✓ Consider planning performing arts activities to include the same group of campers and instructors per group.
- ✓ All shared and used equipment (e.g., props) should be cleaned and disinfected between each use and the performing arts area should be cleaned and disinfected after use
- ✓ Consider designating certain equipment to individuals for the duration of camp to decrease the amount of shared items.

### ***Creative Arts/STEM***

- ✓ All indoor creative arts and STEM activities should be conducted following physical distancing guidelines for camper groups and proper hygiene guidance.
- ✓ Consider moving activities outdoors.
- ✓ Increased spacing for seating and physical distancing should be encouraged.
- ✓ Limit the number of individuals to the craft/STEM area, increased spacing and physical distancing, and require staff to wear masks or face coverings.
- ✓ Consider keeping activities together to include the same group of campers and instructors per group.
- ✓ All shared and used equipment (e.g., tools, scissors, paint brushes) should be cleaned and disinfected between each use. Limit the amount of shared supplies and equipment per activity.
- ✓ Designate certain equipment to individuals for the duration of camp, to decrease the number of shared items.

It is very important to understand that while these guidelines are voluntary, it is in everyone's best interest to diligently follow them as we move to re-open our economy and keep it open. All employers are responsible for providing a safe and healthy workplace.

**THE NATIONAL CAMP ASSOCIATION**  
**“GOOD, BETTER, AND BEST” PRACTICES FOR ACTIVITY TYPES CHART**  
<https://acacamps.app.box.com/s/flsg287wqachy4iehwzx6hueg6ss6qig>

**ONLINE LEARNING WEBINARS FOR CAMPS**  
<https://www.acacamps.org/resource-library/coronavirus/online-learning-events-covid-19>

Activity Type	“Good, Better, and Best” Practices
<b>Sports &amp; Range Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good practice: All shared equipment (e.g., bows and arrows, tennis rackets) should be cleaned immediately after each use or session. Cleaning and disinfection at the end of each day should also be conducted on all sports and range equipment.</li> <li>• Better practice: Provide campers with dedicated equipment for the camp session, if feasible. All equipment (e.g., bows and arrows, tennis rackets) should be cleaned and disinfected immediately after each use. Cleaning and disinfection at the end of each day should also be conducted on all sports and range equipment.</li> </ul>
<b>Swimming</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best practice: For free swim, continue safe swim practices, such as the swimming buddy system where each camper is assigned a “buddy” to stay with at all times.</li> <li>• Best practice: For athletics, maintain 8-foot lane width in swimming pools and maintain spacing between individuals swimming by creating a rotation.</li> <li>• Best practice: For counselors, maintain the same instructors with each group of campers each day. Refer to the guidelines in the Using Cohorts at Camp section of this guide.</li> </ul>
<b>Small Craft Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good practice: Limit the amount of shared supplies and equipment per activity. Hand wash life jackets in hot soapy water. Allow to air dry and spray lifejackets with alcohol-based disinfectant spray.</li> <li>• Better practice: Hand wash life jackets in hot soapy water. Use a dryer to ensure complete drying with a temperature setpoint not to exceed 140 °F. Spray lifejackets with alcohol-based disinfectant spray before use.</li> <li>• Best practice: Designate certain equipment (e.g., lifejackets) to individuals for the duration of camp, to decrease the quantity of shared items.</li> <li>• Best practice: Commonly-touched surfaces of boats should be cleaned and disinfected after each use, following manufacturer instructions and the guidance in the Cleaning and Disinfecting section of this guide. Do not use bleach products on ropes or lifejackets.</li> </ul>
<b>Equestrian Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good practice: All shared equipment (e.g., tack, helmets) should be cleaned immediately after each use or session. Cleaning and disinfection at the end of each day should also be conducted on all tack and helmets.</li> <li>• Better practice: Each rider has their own riding gloves and helmet.</li> <li>• Best practice: Groups should remain small and maintain safe ratios outlined in the Safety section of this guide.</li> </ul>
<b>Wilderness Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good practice: Consider activities that are accessible by foot, biking, or other alternatives to vehicle travel. Ensure cloth masks are available for all during travel by car, van, or bus.</li> <li>• Good practice: Limit the quantity of shared supplies and equipment per activity.</li> </ul>
<b>Performing Arts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better practice: Consider planning performing arts activities to include the same group of campers each day and consider keeping the same instructors per group. Follow the guidelines in the Using Cohorts at Camp section of this guide.</li> <li>• Best practice: Require performing arts activities to be limited to the same groups and instructors for a given group.</li> <li>• Good Practice: Limit the amount of shared supplies and equipment per activity.</li> <li>• Best practice: Consider designating certain equipment to individuals for the duration of camp to decrease the amount of shared items.</li> </ul>
<b>Creative Arts &amp; STEM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good practice: Seating should incorporate increased spacing and physical distancing should be encouraged.</li> <li>• Best practice: Limit the number of individuals to the craft/STEM area, incorporate increased spacing and physical distancing, and require staff to wear masks or face coverings.</li> <li>• Good Practice: Limit the amount of shared supplies and equipment per activity.</li> <li>• Ensure there are enough supplies to minimize sharing during each activity.</li> <li>• Best practice: Designate certain equipment to individuals for the duration of camp, to decrease the number of shared items.</li> </ul>