

Responsible RestartOhio



Residential Camps

During summer camp season, ongoing preventative measures to ensure the health and safety of campers, staff, and volunteers are recommended. While great strides have been made in controlling the spread of COVID-19, the virus remains a continued health threat, especially as Ohio encounters new variants of the virus that are more easily spread from person to person.

COVID-19 outbreaks tied to camps have been seen nationally and here in Ohio. Simple public health measures can be implemented to help ensure a fun and healthy camp season this year.

If not everyone at a residential camp is fully vaccinated,* protect campers, staff, and volunteers by using layered (multiple) prevention strategies that have been shown to be effective at controlling COVID-19, including masking, social distancing, hand washing, and frequent cleaning/sanitization.

Below are universal recommended best practices for COVID-19 prevention, as well as recommendations specific to camp settings.

Universal Recommended Best Practices

Vaccination

- If you are eligible (12 or older) and can safely do so, get vaccinated against COVID-19.
 - COVID-19 is a vaccine-preventable, respiratory illness caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2. The disease can spread rapidly among individuals who are not vaccinated* and result in serious illness or death.
 - The COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective and offer the best protection against serious illness.
 - If you get a two-dose vaccine, it can take five to six weeks for you to be fully protected: your first dose, your second dose three to four weeks later, and full protection two weeks after that.
 - If you get a one-dose vaccine, you are fully protected two weeks after that dose.

Masking

- If you are not fully vaccinated* against COVID-19, wearing a mask that covers the nose, mouth, and chin will help you protect yourself and others. You should wear a mask when:
 - In any indoor location that is not a residence.
 - Outdoors, if it is not possible to consistently maintain a distance of 6 feet or more between people who live in different homes/households.
 - Riding, driving, or operating public transportation, or a taxi, car service, or ride sharing vehicle. (This does not apply to members of a household sharing a private or rental vehicle.)
- Regardless of vaccination status, you may be asked to wear a mask in a healthcare setting.
- If you are fully vaccinated,* you may be asked to wear a mask in certain situations, such as when traveling on public transportation or if a business chooses to require masks.
- A mask should never be worn by/placed on anyone who:
 - Is younger than 2.
 - Cannot remove it without assistance.
 - Risks choking if wearing a mask.
 - Is sleeping/napping.
 - Is living with a medical condition that makes it unsafe to wear a mask. This includes respiratory conditions that restrict breathing, mental health conditions, or disabilities.
 - Is swimming. (Wet masks can cause difficulty breathing.)
 - Risks workplace health, safety, or job duty if wearing a mask.

Congregating, Social Distancing, and Sanitizing

- If you are not fully vaccinated:*
 - In addition to wearing a mask as outlined above, maintain at least 6 feet of distancing from others when possible.
 - Avoid gathering in groups with other unvaccinated individuals when possible.
 - If you gather with other unvaccinated individuals, maintain groups of no more than 10 people, separated from other groups by at least 6 feet.
- For everyone:
 - Regularly clean high-touch surfaces.
 - Frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
 - Watch out for any symptoms of COVID-19. If you have fever, cough, or other signs of COVID-19, stay home and away from others.

Persons With COVID-19 or Exposure to Someone with COVID-19

- Anyone with signs or symptoms of COVID-19 should stay away from others and seek medical care if necessary.
- If possible, individuals with symptoms should get tested for COVID-19.
- If you have or likely have COVID-19, isolate from others for at least 10 days.
- Your local health district may contact you to obtain more information and to contact individuals who may be considered close contacts.
- If you are exposed to COVID-19 and not fully vaccinated,* quarantine as recommended by the local health district.
- Optimal quarantine is 14 days but, if recommended by the local health district, may be reduced to seven days if a viral test collected on or after day five has come back negative.
- If you are fully vaccinated,* quarantining or testing after exposure is generally not necessary unless symptoms develop.
 - There are some exceptions for specific settings. Always follow the direction of the local health district.

Other recommended best practices for residential camps

General

- Encourage COVID-19 vaccination for all eligible campers (age 12 and older), staff, and volunteers.
- Establish cohorts or “pods,” small groups of campers and staff who stay together for the entire camp. Minimize mixing of cohorts to the largest extent possible, to reduce potential exposures.
- Campers who stay together in the same cabin, bunkhouse, or similar space do not need to wear masks provided they maximize physical distance when together, and there are no other cohorts nearby.
 - Whenever possible, campers should maintain at least 3 feet between any other camper in their cohort and 6 feet from campers outside their cohort.
 - Face masks should NEVER be worn when sleeping.
- When different cohorts are in the same indoor space, campers and staff who are not fully vaccinated* should wear face masks and maintain physical distancing.
 - Generally, face masks are not needed outdoors, unless in a crowded space and physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- Consider using screening testing to rapidly identify cases of COVID-19, including individuals who may not be experiencing any symptoms.
- Improve ventilation in cabins, recreation centers, and dining halls as much as possible. For instance, open windows if it is safe to do so.
- Encourage frequent handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Persons With COVID-19 or Exposure to Someone with COVID-19

- All camps should have plans and protocols to identify and isolate any camper or staff who develops symptoms of COVID-19.
- Anyone with symptoms should immediately be isolated away from other people.
- Sick campers or staff should be quickly isolated, and sent home to be tested for COVID-19; overnight camps should work with camp administrators and healthcare providers to develop plans for care or safe transportation home.
- While maintaining appropriate confidentiality, camp administrators should notify their local health district, staff, and families of campers if any case of COVID-19 is identified.
- Work with public health to identify anyone else who may have been exposed, to prevent additional spread of the virus.

Additional guidance and recommendations for camps is available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Guidance for [Operating Youth Camps](#).

* Someone is considered fully vaccinated:

- Two weeks after their second dose in a two-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- Two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as the Johnson & Johnson Janssen vaccine.

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