



# Arkansas Department of Health

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## **Guidance Regarding Summer Day Camps**

Community spread of COVID-19 remains active within the State. Therefore, the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) makes the following recommendations for how to best prevent transmission of COVID-19 at summer day camps.

This guidance from ADH addresses the operation of summer day camps throughout the state during the summer of 2021. This guidance is intended to cover organized, daytime group activities for children that may be outdoors or indoors, including vacation Bible school, band camps, and arts camps. It is not intended to cover summer residential, or overnight, camps, which can be found in the [Guidance for Summer Residential Camps](#). Summer day camps should follow the measures below to protect the health of attendees and staff. Taking these proactive measures will help limit the spread of COVID-19 and help safeguard children and their families.

### **Vaccination**

- The more people at a camp who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, the less likely it will be for a large outbreak to occur. ADH strongly recommends camps encourage all eligible campers and staff to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before arrival to camp. Currently, vaccination is available to all those aged 12 years and older. So, most camp staff, counselors and adolescent campers should be able to receive COVID-19 vaccination.

### **Visitors and Arrival/Departure**

- Summer Day camps should limit the number of persons entering the facility except:
  - Camp or facility staff;
  - Children enrolled at the camp;
  - Parents or legal guardians who have children enrolled and present at the facility; and
  - Professionals providing services to children.
- The camp should consider scheduling arrival/departure times to limit the number of campers and parents present at one time. Campers should preferably be dropped off outside the facility. If necessary, parents can drop off campers within the facility but are encouraged to remain in their vehicles and should wear a face covering while at camp. If parents are allowed

out of vehicles at arrival/departure, they should adhere to physical distancing and masking measures.

### **Groups and Cohorting**

- All efforts should be made to limit the congregation of children. Class sizes should be limited to numbers allowing for proper physical distancing.
- **Cohorts:** Ensure student and staff groupings change as little as possible by having the same group of children stay with the same staff (all day for young children and as much as possible for older children). Limit mixing between groups.
- Limit camp enrollment to numbers that will allow for proper physical distancing.
- 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.
- Avoid field trips and events with outside groups or other camps.

### **Physical Distancing**

- CDC recommends the following to promote physical distancing among staff and campers who are not fully vaccinated, indoors and outdoors, including maintaining
  - At least 3 feet between all campers within a cohort
  - At least 6 feet between all campers outside of their cohort
  - At least 6 feet while eating and drinking without a mask indoors, including among people within the same cohort
  - At least 6 feet between campers and staff
  - At least 6 feet between staff

### **Masking**

- Generally, staff and campers 2 years of age and older should wear face coverings to diminish potential spread from individuals who might be asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic for COVID-19. Face coverings have also been shown to provide protection to the person wearing one. For safety reasons, under no circumstances should a mask be placed on a child under 2 years of age or on those who cannot safely wear a mask. Face coverings should not be worn while exercising, eating, sleeping, bathing, swimming, or during activities that could get the mask wet. See the [Face Coverings Guidance](#) for more details.
- Camp programs should encourage people who are not fully vaccinated and [those who might need extra precautions](#) to wear a mask consistently and correctly:
  - **Indoors.** Mask use indoors is strongly encouraged for people who are not fully vaccinated, including children.
  - **Outdoors.** In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors. However, people who are not fully vaccinated are encouraged to wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated.
- Although people who are fully vaccinated do not need to wear masks, camp programs should be supportive of campers or staff who choose to wear a mask.
- Camps may also choose to continue to require masks for vaccinated and not fully vaccinated campers and staff in order to adhere to prevention strategies when it is difficult to tell who has been vaccinated or to set an example for not fully vaccinated campers.

## **Ventilation**

- Attempts should be made to increase ventilation in buildings as much as possible, especially in cabins, dormitories, or places campers are sleeping. This may include, without limitation, opening doors and windows as weather permits, turning on exhaust fans, improving central air filtration without significantly diminishing design airflow, or, if equipped, run the HVAC system at maximum outside airflow for 2 hours before and after occupied times.
- Consider holding as many activities and meetings outside as possible.

## **Cleaning**

- Areas that are frequently touched—shared objects/toys, door handles, drinking fountains, and sink handles—should be cleaned and disinfected between uses, or at least frequently throughout the day.

## **Meals**

- Ensure that each child is provided individual meals and snacks. Do not serve family style meals.
- Mealtimes should occur in classrooms if at all possible. If communal use spaces such as dining halls are used, ensure adequate physical distancing. Stagger mealtimes and disinfect in between use.

## **Screening**

- Advise campers and families in advance about COVID-19 symptoms and exclusions, and place signage at all entrances. These signs should inform campers and staff that those who have any of the following characteristics should NOT be allowed to enter:
  - Have had a fever of 100.4°F or greater in the last 2 days;
  - Have a cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell or any symptom typical of COVID-19;
  - Had contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 in the previous 14 days and have not themselves been fully vaccinated;
  - Had a positive COVID-19 test in last 10 days;
  - Waiting on the results of a test for COVID-19.
- Advise campers and staff/volunteers that some people may wish to refrain from entering the facility. Place signage at all entrances alerting campers and staff that it may not be safe for the following people to enter:
  - Individuals who are 65 years of age or older.
  - Individuals of any age with underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, severe obesity, asthma or weakened immunity.
- Screen staff/volunteers upon arrival for fever, cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat or loss of taste/smell or other COVID-19 symptoms; exclude from work all who are ill. Camps could also opt to check temperatures and ask the above screening questions of all who enter to ensure no one who is ill or exposed enters the camp. Do not allow sick children to be cared for in the facility for extended periods of time. Sick children should stay at home. If a child becomes sick while at the day camp, contact the parent or guardian immediately and separate the child from other children at the camp.

### **Camps where *Everyone* is Fully Vaccinated**

Although it is unlikely many camps will be able to meet this standard, CDC has offered the following recommendations for camps where *everyone* present, both staff and campers, is fully vaccinated:

- Staff and campers who are fully vaccinated do not need to wear masks at camp. Although fully vaccinated persons do not need to wear masks, camps can be supportive of staff or campers who choose to continue to wear a mask.
- Physical distancing is not necessary for campers and staff who are fully vaccinated.

### **CDC Guidance for Youth and Summer Camps**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/summer-camps.html>

### **Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/disinfecting-building-facility.html>