

Guidance for Summer Camps, Summer School Programs, and Other Children’s Activities

With the school year ending, many families with children are considering their options for summer camps, summer school, and other children’s activities. In light of COVID-19, it is important that summer camps, summer school, and other children’s programs take special precautions to make sure that staff and campers/students stay safe and healthy. A key way this can be accomplished is through ensuring that each person has a limited number of contacts, so that if a person becomes infected, spread is limited.

This guidance provides information about how these programs may operate and answers to some frequently asked questions. Please remember to check the [County’s website](#) regularly for updates, as the rules and limitations on summer camps may change.

Guidance specific to summer schools is at the end of this document. The guidance for schools in this document applies to **summer instruction only** and school districts should anticipate separate guidance regarding the 2020-2021 school year.

Development of a Social Distancing Protocol

Like all other businesses that are allowed to operate under the Health Officer’s Shelter in Place Order (“Order”), summer camps must complete and implement a Social Distancing Protocol before opening. This includes a requirement to wear face coverings at camps, which is discussed in more detail later in this guidance. Following these precautions will allow campers and staff members to be better protected from COVID-19.

The Social Distancing Protocol must be distributed to all camp personnel, and it must be accessible to County and city officials who are enforcing the Order. Summer camps must also print (1) a COVID-19 PREPARED Sign and (2) a Social Distancing Protocol Visitor Information Sheet, and both must be posted prominently at all camp facility entrances and check-in locations. (See [Appendix A](#) of the Order for a Social Distancing Protocol template, the COVID-19 PREPARED Sign, and the Social Distancing Protocol Information Sheet.)

Group Size and Mixing Restrictions

Just like daycares, summer camps, summer school, and other children’s programs must ensure that: (1) children are in stable groups of 12 or fewer; (2) children do not change from one group to another; (3) multiple groups of children in a facility stay in separate rooms; and (4) providers remain solely with one group of children.

Also, children may not move from one program to another more often than every 3 weeks. This means that, for instance, if a child attends a week-long summer camp program, that child is not allowed to attend another summer camp or childcare program for two more weeks. It also means that children cannot attend two camps simultaneously, or attend a summer camp and also another kind of recreational group or childcare program. Children’s programs are responsible for maintaining appropriate enrollment and attendance records. They should verify compliance with these restrictions to the extent feasible.

Families and Households with Multiple Children

There is no limit to the number of children from a single household or living unit who may attend the same program. But whenever possible, children who live together should attend the same program and be assigned to the same stable group. This will minimize the risk of exposure to camp staff, other campers, and other members of the children's household.

Use of Shared Facilities Otherwise Not Allowed to Open Under Order

Summer camps may use recreational facilities like playgrounds and indoor athletic facilities that are not otherwise allowed to open under the Order, but they must ensure that no other groups or individuals are using the same facility at the same time. In other words, an indoor facility or playground must either be part of the organization's own facility and access must be restricted only to children in that organization's programs, or, if the indoor facility or playground is located on a different site, the organization can reserve it for exclusive use by children in its programs during the time of day when the camp or program is in session.

For example, a gymnastics camp that meets at a gym every morning for 3 weeks can use the gym so long as the gym is reserved exclusively for the camp on those mornings. In addition, the Order's restrictions on group size and mixing must be followed, meaning these facilities may only be used by one stable group of 12 or fewer children at any time and there can be no mixing between groups of children while using these facilities.

Multiple groups of children may use a shared indoor facility or playground at different times of the day or week. However, these facilities should be sanitized between uses by different groups of children.

Use of Shared Equipment

Children's programs may use shared equipment for sports and recreational activities within each stable group of children. All shared equipment should be sanitized between uses by different groups of children.

Camp Counselors, Instructors, and Other Staff

Instructors, camp counselors, volunteers, and other staff who supervise children's programs cannot work with multiple groups of children. For instance, if a camp counselor works with one group of children for a Monday/Wednesday camp, that same camp counselor may not work with a different group of children for a Tuesday/Thursday camp during the same week(s). Each camp counselor must remain with the same group of children throughout the duration of the camp. After a camp ends, no matter the duration of the camp, the camp counselor may begin working with a new group of children. If camp staff are sick or hurt, or can't work for another reason, a substitute may take over.

The 12-child limitation on group size only applies to camp participants, not camp staff. If camp staff are under the age of 18 (e.g. "counselor-in-training"), they do not count against the 12-child maximum.

Face Coverings

Program staff and all children ages 13 and older must wear a face covering at all times while attending the program or camp, unless they are eating, sleeping, or actively exercising, in which case they should still keep their face covering with them to put back on when done. Children ages 7-12 should wear face coverings while under direct adult supervision, unless they are eating, sleeping, or exercising, in which case they should still keep their face covering with them to put back on later. Face coverings are not required for anyone if it is medically inadvisable for a person to wear one.

Unless it is medically inadvisable, parents and caregivers should also wear face coverings when they are picking up and dropping off their children.

Drop-off and Pickup

If possible, programs and camps should stagger times to reduce crowding at the entrance. Staff should maintain social distancing of at least six feet from parents and caregivers at all times. If the program operates indoors, drop-off and pickup should occur outside, with staff coming outside to greet the children at the beginning of the day and to bring the children to their parents or caregivers at the end of the day. Parents and caregivers should not enter the facility if it can be avoided. The same parent or caregiver should be encouraged to conduct drop-off and pickup every day to reduce the number of people who come into contact with camp staff and children.

Children should wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or clean their hands with hand sanitizer immediately after drop-off, immediately before pickup, and as often as possible throughout the day.

Symptom Screening

All staff members should be screened for COVID-19 symptoms prior to starting each shift, meaning they should be asked if they feel or recently felt feverish, and have or recently had other symptoms such as cough, shortness of breath, chills, night sweats, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, tiredness, muscle or body aches, headaches, confusion, or loss of sense of taste/smell.

In addition, each day before drop-off, parents or caregivers should screen their children for COVID-19 symptoms. Staff should also monitor children for visible COVID-19 symptoms throughout the day.

Staff and children may not attend the program if they have COVID-19 symptoms and must go home immediately if they develop any COVID-19 symptoms during a camp session. Parents or caregivers should be encouraged to seek COVID-19 testing for the child. Camp staff should direct the child's parent or caregiver to the County's ["If You Think You Are Sick"](#) webpage for further instructions.

Rules for Summer School Programs

Schools can operate summer school and summer instructional programs if they follow the rules in this guidance. This means that:

- Just like camps, summer schools must ensure that: (1) children are in stable classroom groups of 12 or fewer; (2) children do not change from one classroom group to another; (3) multiple groups of children in a facility stay in separate rooms; and (4) teachers remain solely with one classroom group of children.
 - Teachers cannot work with multiple classroom groups (for example, a Monday/Wednesday group and a separate Tuesday/Thursday group) during the same summer school session. Each teacher must stay with the same classroom of children for the full duration of the program. If a teacher is sick, hurt, or can't work, a substitute may take over.
- Children may not move from one summer school or other program to another more than every 3 weeks. This also means that children cannot attend both summer school and camp within the same three-week period. Like camps, schools are responsible for maintaining enrollment and attendance records, and should verify families' compliance with these restrictions to the extent feasible.
- Summer school programs can use indoor recreational facilities and playgrounds for their programs or for recess, as long as they follow the requirements listed above in the *"Use of Shared Facilities Not Otherwise Allowed to Open Under Order"* and *"Use of Shared Equipment"* sections. Schools should follow strict cleaning and sanitizing protocols for classroom areas, as well.
- Schools should require teachers, children 7 and over, and parents/caregivers doing drop-off and pick-up to wear face coverings as described in the *"Face Coverings"* section above. In general, teachers and students should wear face coverings even when speaking and giving presentations, because speaking is one of the key times when people spread respiratory droplets. But teachers can remove face coverings if they need to for a student with a disability to understand the lesson, and students can do so for a fellow student with a disability to understand them during a discussion group or other conversation, provided that everyone stays at least 6 feet apart from each other during these times when speaking without a face covering, and extra attention is paid to sanitizing any nearby surfaces (like desks) or shared items (like art materials). Students with disabilities are not required to wear face coverings during summer school classes if not advisable for them.
- Schools should arrange for summer school drop-off and pick-up to occur as described in the *"Drop-off and Pickup"* section above.
- Symptom checks are required for summer school programs following the rules in the *"Symptom Screening"* section above.