



Recreational Camps and Programs

Health and Safety Standards for Reopening

Recreational Camps and Programs must comply with any MA state or local requirements or orders in response to COVID-19. Recreational Camps licensed under 105 CMR 430 Minimum Standards for Recreational Camps for Children: State Sanitary Code Chapter IV must comply with those regulations as well as any additional more restrictive MA state or local requirements or orders in response to COVID-19. Camps and Programs are responsible for ensuring their operations are updated to comply with new COVID19 guidance and orders.

Definitions

Recreational Camp: any program required to be licensed as a Recreational Camp for Children under 105 CMR 430.

Recreational Program: any municipal or recreational youth programs not traditionally licensed as camps or as childcare facilities.

Residential Camp: as defined in 105 CMR 430.020.

Overnight Program: means any municipal or recreational youth programs not traditionally licensed as camps or as childcare facilities that offer overnight programs.

Staff: includes Staff and Volunteers as defined in 105 CMR 430.020.

Health Care Consultant: as defined in 105 CMR 430.020.

Health Care Supervisor: as defined in 105 CMR 430.020.

Staffing and Operations

- Visitors (including parents) are not permitted.
- Designate a senior staff person responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. Employees should know who this person is and how to contact them.
 - Make enrollment capacity decisions based on the ability to consistently maintain 6 ft of distance in all camp buildings where campers/staff are anticipated to be during the day and emergency shelter locations.
- Ensure adequate staffing to supervise sick campers and to accommodate cleaning requirements.
 - **Licensed Rec. Camps** must have at least two Health Care Supervisors present at all times.
- Review medical information submitted by parents and reach out to parents of high-risk children to discuss whether additional protections are necessary, and what supports can be offered to best help their child.
- Update plans to address new health and safety requirements associated with COVID-19 and provide parents with information on the policies for preventing and responding to COVID-19.
 - **Licensed Rec. Camps** must include plans into Staff Training and Orientation and provided in writing and included in or in addition to the written camp Health Care Policy and other relevant procedures (105 CMR 430.159).
- Develop a tested communication system with parents, children at the camp, all staff, facility and/or grounds management, and emergency medical services. Obtain parents email addresses and home, work, and mobile phone numbers so that staff can reach them at any time.
- Staff must provide campers with an orientation at the start of camp to review new COVID protocols, encourage and educate on reporting of symptoms and not coming to camp if sick, and how to request a replacement mask if needed.

- Must have a plan for handling camp/program closings and staff absences. Consider flexible sick leave policies and promote the importance of staff not coming to work if they are sick.
- Ensure that ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, and other methods unless doing so creates a hazard.
- Ensure water systems and features (e.g., cooling systems) are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown to minimize the risk of Legionnaires' disease and other diseases associated with water.

Cohort Size

All Camps and Programs:

- Staff must be assigned to the same cohort for the duration of the program session. Cohorts must not be combined at any time and staff must not float between cohorts, unless needed to provide supervision of specialized activities or to provide breaks for other staff.
- May have multiple cohorts of campers and counselors in the same area, but must maintain separation between cohorts and comply with the Governor's most recent [Gathering Order](#).
- Ensure campers/staff belongings are stored in a manner to prevent groups congregating.
- Stagger use of communal spaces, such as game rooms and recreation halls, to reduce congregating and disinfect in between uses.
- Must develop safe pickup/drop off procedures to maintain physical distancing and prevent the mixing of campers. These procedures must be explained to parents prior to the first drop off.
- Must develop a plan for safe vendor deliveries, if applicable.
- **Licensed Recreational Camps** must maintain the camper to counselor ratios in 105 CMR 430.101.

Day Camps and Programs:

- Cohort size limited to ≤ 25 campers. Staff are not counted as part of cohort size. Social distancing must be maintained within each cohort.
- May not congregate staff/campers in a way that does not allow for 6 feet of physical distancing between individuals; limit activities to those that can maintain social distancing.

Residential Camps and Overnight Programs:

- Cohort size is limited to ≤ 12 campers grouped by sleeping arrangements. Staff are not counted as part of cohort size. There may be multiple cohorts of ≤ 12 campers but they may not be combined at any time.
- Social distancing within cohorts is required unless requirements in "Cohort Exceptions" listed below are met.

Hygiene and Handwashing

- Implement proper hand hygiene practices and frequency for both staff and campers including handwashing when necessary including but not limited to: arrival at camp, before and after meals, after bathroom use, after coughing/sneezing, and after contact with bodily fluids or surfaces that may be contaminated.
- Campers and staff must be instructed to go to the nearest handwashing/ hand hygiene station upon entry.
- Adequate handwashing facilities with soap, water, trash receptacle, and paper towels must be readily accessible to all campers and staff with handwashing instructions posted near every handwashing sink.
- Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol may be used at times when handwashing is not available if:
 - Appropriate to the ages of children and children are instructed on proper use;
 - Campers have written parent/guardian permission to use;
 - Products stored securely; and
 - Used under the supervision of staff.

- Ensure that campers and staff are aware of infection control practices and that personal supplies (e.g., hats, brushes, hair ties, contact solutions, towels and bedding) and drinking containers must never be shared with others.
- Post signage throughout the camp environment on signs/symptoms of COVID-19 and the importance of social distancing, mask use, and proper hand hygiene.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Face Masks/Coverings

- Staff and campers must wear face masks/coverings as required by the Governor's most recent [Order on Face Coverings in Public](#). (Residential Camps and Overnight Programs may be exempted, see "Cohort Exemption", below)
- Masks and cloth face coverings should be routinely washed or replaced (daily and any time the mask is used or becomes soiled), depending on the frequency of use.
- Masks/face coverings should be provided by the camper/parent, but camps should have a sufficient supply of reusable or disposable masks to provide to campers or staff when requested.
- May schedule times and locations for mask breaks, which should be outdoors if possible, or with windows open. During this time ensure 6 feet of distance is maintained between all individuals.
- Staff must wear appropriate gloves during food preparation and screening activities that require contact.

Screening and Monitoring

- Develop and implement a plan for screening children and staff that includes daily screening checks, location of screening activities, and identify designated staff responsible for conducting screenings.
 - **Licensed Rec. Camps:** Staff conducting screenings must be trained by the camp's Health Care Consultant.
- Daily screenings must include a visual inspection of each camper for signs of illness. At drop off parents must:
 - Verbally confirm their child and anyone in their household has not experienced any COVID-19 symptoms in the last 24 hours and that their child is not required to be in COVID-19 isolation or quarantine.
 - Sign a written attestation regarding any household contacts to someone with COVID-19 symptoms or if they have given their child any fever reducing medication.
 - Health check responses must be recorded and maintained on file.
 - COVID vaccination should be noted with other immunization records
- Establish procedures to ensure that no individual is allowed to enter the building or participate in the camp or program until they successfully pass the screening. Screening must be held in an area allows for privacy, confidentiality, and social distancing or a physical barrier.
- Staff must actively monitor children throughout the day for symptoms of any kind. Camps/programs must have a non-contact or temporal thermometer on site to check temperatures.
- Keep track of individuals that staff and campers come into contact with during the course of the day in the potential case of exposure.

Isolation and Quarantine

- Develop plan for identifying, isolating, and discharging symptomatic children and staff.
- Must have procedures for contacting parents of children in isolation immediately, criteria for seeking medical assistance, transportation of a child/staff who has developed symptoms related to COVID-19 and who rely on camp transportation, mitigation of transmission until the sick individual can safely leave the premises, and immediately notifying the local board of health.

- Must have contingency plans for arranging for transportation for a sick camper, in the case that parents are unable to pick up their children, and for staff, in case they are unable to transport themselves.
- Designate a separate space to isolate individuals with COVID-19 symptoms. While all camps/programs must designate an isolation room or space, camps must prepare for the possibility of needing to isolate multiple campers. If possible, camps must create multiple, separate isolation rooms and spaces so symptomatic individuals can also physically distance from each other. A private or separate bathroom and separate exit from the building/area should be made available for use by sick individuals only.
- Symptomatic campers/staff must be isolated immediately and supervised at all times by dedicated staff member(s). Others may not enter the isolation space without PPE appropriate for the care setting.
- In the event camper/staff tests positive for COVID-19 or is identified as a close contact, they may not return to the camp/program until they have met the requirements for discontinuing [isolation or quarantine](#).
 - **Licensed Rec. Camps:** Camp Health Care Consultants, Healthcare Supervisors and healthcare staff may follow current [Return to Work Guidance](#) for Healthcare Workers.
- If a symptomatic individual tests negative, they may return to camp after they have improvement in symptoms, and have been without fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications. If, after the individual tests negative, a provider makes an alternative diagnosis for the COVID-19-like symptoms, the individual may return to camp based on the recommendations for that alternative diagnosis (e.g., influenza or strep pharyngitis).
- Camps/programs must work with the local board of health to help identify and notify close contacts and for guidance on quarantine requirements.
- **Licensed Rec. Camps** must notify MDPH Community Sanitation Program on the Recreational Camp Injury and Reporting form as soon as possible, but no later than 48 hours after notification of the positive case.

Cleaning, Disinfecting and Sanitizing

- Must develop a plan in accordance with [CDC Guidance](#) to intensify the camp/programs cleaning, disinfecting, sanitizing practices and at what frequency. Clean surfaces first and use EPA-registered disinfectants and sanitizers for use against COVID-19, as appropriate. Follow the manufactures instructions for application, including contact and dry-times, and proper ventilation. Do not spray chemicals around children.
- All sanitizing and disinfecting solutions must be labeled properly to identify the contents, stored in a locked closet or compartment, and stored separately from food items.
- Cleaning and disinfection of shared and personal equipment shall be in accordance with EEA standards on [Amateur Sports Activities](#) and [CDC Guidance](#) for Childcare.
 - Clean and disinfect PFDs supplied to campers in accordance with [US Coast Guard guidance](#).
- If a program suspects a camper or staff member was present at camp while infectious, close off and increase ventilation to the area(s) and wait 24 hours or as long as practical to begin cleaning and disinfecting area(s), frequently touched surfaces and shared equipment potentially used by the ill person. Camps/programs must plan for availability of alternative space while areas are out of use.
- Camps/programs shall follow CDC infection control guidelines designed to protect individuals from exposure to diseases spread by blood, bodily fluids, or excretions that may spread infectious disease. Camps/programs must comply with applicable OSHA standards (29 CFR 1910) and 105 CMR 480.000 (Minimum Requirement for the Management of Medical and Biological Waste) to ensure proper disposal of regulated medical waste.

Transportation and Travel

- Limited transportation to surrounding areas and recreational facilities where significant interaction with the public is not expected is permitted.

- Traveling by foot or biking is strongly encouraged where reasonably possible and safe to do so.
- While off-site, camps/programs must comply with all requirements, including social distancing and face coverings, and they must plan for how they will isolate a camper/staff who develops symptoms and arrange for separate transportation to seek medical care from the off-site location.
- Comply with applicable standards in [Reopening Transportation Guidance](#) dated February 11, 2021 from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
- Cohorts should be maintained to the extent possible during all transportation and travel.

Food Service and Safety

- Develop a plan for food service that complies with the Hygiene Protocols in the current [Workplace Safety Standards for Restaurants](#).
- When possible, snacks and meals should be brought from home, be pre-packaged or ready to serve in individual portions. Where this is not feasible, staff must prepare and serve meals. No family style meals or self-service.
- Social distance must be maintained during meals and cohorts must remain constant, extra meal shifts may be necessary. Increase ventilation by keeping windows open when possible. Kitchen staff must maintain a checklist indicating completion of routine cleaning/sanitizing of kitchen and dining areas. Avoid all food contact surfaces when using disinfectants.

Activity Limitations

- All activities must be conducted in accordance with physical distancing, masking and sanitation requirements, and should be conducted outside when possible.
- All sports activities must follow applicable [Safety Standards for Youth and Adult Amateur Sports Activities](#).
- Camps/programs can use their own swimming pools and beach front and offsite pools and beaches in accordance with current applicable [reopening standards](#). If using offsite pools or beaches, camps/programs should reserve their own dedicated time slot to prevent interaction with other camps and the general public.

Additional Requirements for Residential Camps and Overnight Programs

In addition to meeting all requirements above applicable to all camps and programs, Residential Camps and Overnight Programs must meet additional standards, below:

Staffing and Operations

- When possible, staff should remain on-site for the duration of the camp session.
- Campers must remain on-site for the duration of the session, with the exception of planned field trips within the cohort and to seek medical treatment. New campers are not permitted mid-session.
- Campers who leave during the session for other purposes may not return to camp activities.
- Documentation collected (screening documentation, surveillance/medically necessary testing, previous positive test results) must be maintained in a confidential manner and recorded in campers/staff health files.
- Staggered arrival to ensure that there is minimum overlap with campers and their families and so that individuals can complete modified quarantine pending test results (see below).

Screening and Monitoring

- **Pre-Screening:** Staff and campers should self-quarantine 10 days prior to arriving at camp/program. During this time, parents are urged to conduct documented daily screenings of their child for symptoms associated with COVID19 and staff are urged to conduct self-screenings. Camps/programs may request documentation of this screening.
- **Regular Screening:** Individuals who do not pass the daily screening must be immediately isolated and tested. Staff that do not remain on-site for the entire session must be re-screened each day.

Testing

- Residential Camps must develop a plan to test campers and staff for COVID-19 in accordance with the below requirements. Guidance for on-site testing can be found [here](#).
 - **Licensed Rec. Camps:** The Health Care Consultant (HCC) must review and approve testing policies and procedures which must be added to the camps healthcare policies.
- Parental consent required to conduct routine or medically indicated testing on minors at camp. If parental approval for testing guidelines is not granted, residential camps may not permit the minor to attend camp.
- Residential Camps/Programs must comply with all reporting requirements. COVID-19 is a notifiable disease and results **must** be reported to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health within 24 hours. Camps/Programs must work with DPH and local boards of health to ensure that all individual test results (positive and negative) are reported in an approved manner and include all appropriate demographic and close contact information.
- **Arrival Testing**
 - All campers and staff must obtain a negative PCR test within 72 hours of coming to camp. If unable to produce results upon arrival at camp, individual(s) must quarantine from all other campers and staff until result from PCR test are received.
 - All campers and staff must be tested upon arrival using either a PCR or BinaxNow test.
 - Until results of all tests are received, all campers must be in “modified quarantine” where campers and staff must stay in the smallest groups possible within their cohorts, are required to mask and socially distance except during sleep, and may not interact with other cohorts.
 - If any testing during this period returns a positive result, follow isolation and quarantine guidance.
 - Individuals who have tested positive within the last 90 days, have been cleared from isolation, and can provide lab results do not need to meet Arrival Testing requirements.
- **Symptomatic Testing:** Residential Camps and Programs must develop a symptomatic testing plan that ensures all symptomatic campers and staff are able to be tested promptly for COVID-19. If no on-site testing available, transportation to and from testing location must minimize staff exposure to the symptomatic individual.

Isolation and Quarantine

- Parents or guardians of a camper or minor in isolation or quarantine must be notified immediately.
- If a camper or staff must isolate due to positive test results or quarantine due to COVID19 exposure, they should not complete their isolation and quarantine requirements at camp.
- Develop a contingency plan in the event an isolated/quarantined individual cannot be sent home immediately by private transportation, including identifying where they will isolate or quarantine.
- Establish space(s), including separate bathrooms, for isolation and/or quarantine of:
 - Individuals that did not provide PCR test results for a test 72 hours prior to arrival;
 - Symptomatic individuals awaiting results;
 - Positive individuals until they are picked up in a private vehicle and driven to where they will isolate and quarantine;
 - Close contacts of positive individuals until they are picked up in a private vehicle and driven to where they will isolate and quarantine

Sleeping Arrangements:

- Sleeping areas/cabins are restricted to campers in the same cohort and cabin access should be

limited to only individuals who reside in that cabin.

- Bed spacing and cohort sleeping arrangements shall comply with requirements in 105 CMR 430.470 and 105 CMR 430.458, but camps are encouraged to increase bed spacing to 6 feet if possible.
- Face coverings should not be worn while sleeping.
- Increase ventilation by keeping windows open when possible.

Cleaning, Disinfecting and Sanitizing

- Showers and bathroom areas must be cleaned and disinfected frequently, particularly after periods of heavy use. It is recommended these areas be cleaned a minimum of 2 times a day.
- Ensure cabins, sleeping areas, bed surfaces and any shared items are cleaned and disinfected between sessions.
- Laundry services shall be provided in accordance with 105 CMR 430 and if necessary to ensure all campers and staff have clean personal items, including reusable masks. Laundering shall be done in accordance with [CDC Guidance](#).
- Mattresses or mattress covers, and cots or cot covers should be cleaned or laundered regularly, and must be cleaned and disinfected prior to use in next camping session in accordance with CDC guidance for soft (porous) surfaces.

Transportation and Travel

- Develop a policy for campers and staff arrival and departure from camp that limits the use of public transportation and exposure to the general population.
- Off-site travel is strongly discouraged. If off-site travel is offered, campers and staff must maintain distancing between cohorts.

Cohort Exception

- Distancing and masking **within** a cohort is not required if all campers and staff in cohort at a Residential Camp or Overnight Program have:
 - Completed all arrival testing requirements with no identified positive results;
 - Completed modified quarantine; and
 - No one in the cohort has traveled off-site, other than for medical care and planned field trips.
- Physical distancing **between** cohorts must be maintained at all times and mask use is required where there is the possibility of interacting with other cohorts or staff outside the cohort.
- Procedures and activities should continue to encourage social distancing and reduce close contact between campers in a cohort.
- If staff in a cohort have gone off site (other than for planned field trips and medical care where COVID-19 protocols were followed) the entire cohort must mask and distance. The individual who went off site must meet arrival testing requirements before cohort exemption can be applied.