

Guidelines for the Safe Operation of Summer Camps 2020

The Bucks County Department of Health offers the following guidelines for a safer summer camp operation. For additional information, see the CDC Interim Guidance for Schools and Day Camps (see addendum) and The American Camp Association Guidelines <https://www.acacamps.org/resource-library/coronavirus/camp-business/camp-operations-guide-summer-2020>

General Operations

Immunosuppressed children or children with serious underlying health conditions should have a note from their family doctor attesting to the individual's ability to take part in a summer camp under current conditions.

Consider: Staggering drop off times or have adults remain in their car and have a counselor retrieve the camper. All staff members and students should have their temperature taken and a parent should confirm the child has no known illness or symptoms at time of drop off. If providing transportation to and from the camp, reduce the number of students picked up at one time to maintain social distancing. Conduct temperature checks and review health questionnaire at each home. Require masks for the driver while on the bus or in the van.

There should be no non-essential visitors on site, no field trips, and no visiting guest speakers.

Counselor to student ratios should be no more than 1:10. All counselors should be masked during normal day activities. Groups should have no or limited mixing throughout the day.

Consider: Meeting points for each group at the beginning and end of the day to further limit mixing (drop off and pick up).

Consider: Smaller group activities like badminton, volleyball, races, etc., within the group with no or limited mixing.

Consider: Bad weather or rainy day meeting points. Campers should be spread out in different areas or buildings of the camp that are safe and help maintain small groups with social distancing.

Hand wash or hand sanitizing stations set up throughout the camp in a safe and sanitary manner.

Consider: Eliminating sharing of hand held electronics, games, and books. Provide art supplies to each student for their personal use. Eliminate all toys and stuffed animals that are not easily cleanable or that can't be disinfected.

Consider: Disinfecting all high touch surfaces and bathrooms multiple times throughout the day. Remember to read labels and properly use disinfectants and properly store them to prevent accidents with the children.

Overnight Camps

Camping beds should be a minimum of six feet apart or campers should sleep head to toe if six feet cannot be maintained.

Ventilation by open windows and fans should be established. Air conditioning is not recommended.

Medical

Consider: Monitoring absenteeism. This would aid contact tracing. Create a communication system for self-reporting of symptoms by staff and families. Have a plan in place in case a counselor or child within a group becomes symptomatic.

Consider: Isolation areas where children with COVID-19 symptoms can be safely kept until pickup. If possible (no difficult or labored breathing) have child wear mask. Children in isolation should not be left alone. Be sure to have sufficiently trained medical staff at each camp. Up to date medical information should be available for each camper including valid emergency numbers and up to date primary physician/pediatrician information.

Food Service

All food service must meet the BCDH and FDA Food Code requirements. As part of the COVID-19 response, this includes the wearing of masks and gloves (changed frequently) for all food handlers. Plastic screening at the registers, and six feet of separation between the customer and the food worker. There can be no buffet style food service and if providing hot lunches to campers, the food must be plated by the food handler.

Consider: Staggering lunches or providing more safe eating areas to reduce mixing of groups and maintaining social distancing.

General Statement: Many camp owners are considering additional portable buildings/pavilions or tents. These buildings should be approved by the township code enforcement officer/electrical underwriter in which the camp falls. Safety in case of strong winds and or lightning is critical.

Masks: Please read the CDC guide on camps for proper mask use and frequent hand washing policies.