

COVID-19 Return to Day Camp Guidelines

These guidelines are meant to support organizations in their delivery of day camps. The following must be demonstrated in your organization's operational plan:

Illness

- How you will communicate to staff, campers and visitors that they must stay home if:
 - They are sick or [symptomatic](#).
 - They travelled outside of Nova Scotia in the previous 14 days.
 - They are a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19.
 - They are awaiting a COVID-19 test result.
 - They have been told by Public Health that they may have been exposed and need to self isolate.
- How you will communicate to families and staff that some individuals are considered at higher risk of severe illness with COVID-19 (including those over 65 and those with compromised immune systems or underlying medical conditions) and that parents, guardians and staff are encouraged to consult their health care provider if they have concerns about their own health, their child's health, or the health of other household contacts.
- How staff and campers will be monitored for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. (The most up to date list of symptoms can be found on the [811 website](#)).
- How you will ensure that staff are kept informed of the most updated list of signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and how they are monitoring for those symptoms daily.
- How you will clearly communicate to families the need to monitor their camper daily for symptoms identified on the [811 website](#). This list of symptoms should be posted at drop off and pick up locations and parents and guardians should be asked daily to confirm that their camper has no symptoms and is not otherwise required to self isolate.
- How you will ensure that visitors will be strictly limited and that all visitors are monitored for symptoms identified on the [811 website](#), and confirm that they have no symptoms, and have not been required to self isolate, before entering the day camp setting.
- How you will ensure that staff will not work while ill, even with mild symptoms, and how staff absenteeism will be tracked by your organization.
- How a staff member who becomes symptomatic while they are working will immediately wash their hands, avoid contact with other staff and children, go home to isolate and call 811 for an assessment to determine if they need to be tested.

- How you will immediately isolate an unwell camper from the group while maintaining supervision of the camper, at a safe physical distance, until the parents or guardians arrive to pick them up. How you will ensure careful personal hygiene and protective precautions are encouraged for both camper and staff. Masks should be available in cases where physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- The use of non-medical masks (cloth or home-made masks) within the day camp setting is not required where physical distancing can be maintained. However, some staff and children may choose to bring and wear a non-medical mask while at camp. Those that choose to wear a non-medical mask should consider the information found [here](#).

Cohorting and Physical Distancing

- How many cohorts you will have, considering [physical distancing](#) in the context of the size and layout of your indoor facility and available outdoor space.
- How you will ensure that cohort sizes do not exceed the maximum gathering limits set out in the Health Protection Act Order (currently 10, including both campers and staff, but subject to updates). The most current information on gathering limits can be found [here](#).
- How you will assign campers and staff to a cohort to ensure that they stay together throughout the day, and that they do not intermingle with other cohorts. Siblings should be assigned to the same cohort when reasonable (i.e. siblings are within the same age range). Siblings are not required to physically distance from each other, even if they are not in the same cohort.
- How physical distancing will be maintained within a cohort, and between cohorts, while indoors and outdoors.
- How physical distancing will be maintained during pick up and drop off.
- How cohorts will move through the facility, and the outdoor space, ensuring that only one cohort at a time is in a shared space (including hallways, entrances, foyers, etc).
- How, and where, signage and visual cues (e.g. floor markings) will be posted to support physical distancing within the facility, in outdoor space, and at drop off and pick up locations.
- How camp registration and administration will be managed to maintain physical distancing (e.g. no touch payment options, staggered drop off and pick up times, staggered staff breaks etc.).

- Where physical barriers would need to be used when physical distancing cannot be maintained (considering the need for additional cleaning and sanitizing of any barriers or dividers).
- How you will program the day to include more outdoor activities (including use of nearby outdoor green spaces and trails where physical distancing can be maintained), how you will ensure that campers do not use playground equipment while in nearby outdoor parks and green spaces, and how you will avoid field trips that require transportation or entry into another facility/building.

Personal Hygiene & Protective Precautions

- How frequent and enhanced [handwashing](#) (with soap and water for at least 20 seconds) among staff and campers will be taught, reinforced, and monitored.
- How you will ensure hand washing or hand sanitizing by campers and staff, throughout the day including, but not limited to, immediately upon entry to the facility, between activities, moving from indoor to outdoor space and vice versa, before and after eating, drinking and handling food, after cleaning, toileting, handling bodily fluid, sneezing, coughing, blowing your nose.
- How staff and campers will be taught and reminded to [cover coughs and sneezes](#) with a tissue.
- How you will provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer throughout the facility, at entry points, and outside of rooms, while ensuring that these products cannot be accessed by campers without supervision.
- How you will communicate to campers and staff that they must avoid touching their mouth, nose, and eyes and where you will post signage to encourage hand hygiene and proper cough etiquette.
- In what circumstances non-medical face masks will be used (e.g. where physical distancing is not possible, where a staff member must supervise a child that has been isolated for exhibiting symptoms etc.)
- How you will increase ventilation by opening windows, if it is safe to do so, and ensuring that ventilation systems operate properly and are routinely maintained.

Cleaning

- How frequent and thorough environmental [cleaning and disinfection](#) will be managed within the facility.
- How enhanced cleaning (twice daily or more often as needed) of high touch surfaces (e.g. doorknobs, railings, bathrooms, tables, light switches, etc.) will be managed.
- How you will implement additional environmental cleaning if a staff member or a camper has been identified as symptomatic (focusing on high touch areas and areas where the staff or camper spent time).
- How waste will be managed and disposed of safely and regularly, ensuring that hands are washed after waste removal. No touch waste receptacles should be used.
- If the day camp facility has a designated outdoor play space, how the outdoor play equipment will be cleaned and disinfected between use by different cohorts.

Equipment

- How equipment will be managed and cleaned with appropriate disinfecting cleaner before and after use, and between use by different cohorts.
- How the necessity of shared equipment will be limited. (If possible, each cohort should use designated equipment.)
- How equipment that cannot be easily cleaned will be removed from use.
- How you will ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing (e.g. art supplies)
- How you will limit and label items from home to essential items only that cannot be shared with others.
- How you will ensure campers and staff do not share personal items (e.g. backpacks, hats, hair pieces, lip chap, etc.)

Food & Drink

- How you will teach, reinforce, and monitor a “no food sharing” policy and ensure all campers have their own, labeled, water bottles.
- How physical distancing will be maintained during snack or mealtime.

- How you will ensure that children will not be involved in the preparation or serving of food.
- How you will ensure if there are meals during camp, meals will be served rather than have family style eating (e.g. where children are involved in serving themselves).

Communication

- How parents, guardians, campers and staff will be informed of the safety precautions that must be followed at camp.
- How your operational plan will be communicated to parents, guardians, campers and staff.
- What signage will be posted, and where, to communicate safety protocols and expectations.

Outbreak Management

- Day camps must keep daily attendance records of all staff and children (within their designated cohort) as well as a registry of all people entering the facility (e.g. couriers, guardians etc.). The registries must be kept and managed by the camp administrator and must include confirmation of daily screening for symptoms.
- In the event that a case of COVID-19 is confirmed to be connected to a day camp setting, Public Health will provide additional guidance including ensuring that appropriate supports are in place to coordinate the response. One confirmed case of COVID-19 in a day camp setting would be considered an outbreak. Public Health actions and directions may include, but are not limited to:
 - Contact tracing, which involves identifying contacts of a positive case and contacting those individuals
 - Requesting records that identify cohorts/groups of staff and children in the day camp setting for a specified time frame
 - Testing of staff and children that may have been exposed to a positive case
 - Enhancing environmental cleaning
 - Assessing need for facility closure
- Day camp settings are expected to work with Public Health to ensure a prompt response to cases of COVID-19 that may have been exposed in, or may have attended, a day camp setting.

Link to the PHAC Risk Mitigation Tool for Outdoor Recreation Spaces and Activities:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/guidance-documents/risk-mitigation-tool-outdoor-recreation-spaces-activities-operating-covid-19.html>