

Fairfax County Park Authority Camps Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) In Response to COVID-19

Frequently Asked Questions- Camps & COVID-19

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CAMP COHORTS

1. Will there be daily health screening each day?

Upon arrival, staff will ask a series of questions to determine whether the camper can be admitted to the program for the day.

Before leaving home, parents must look for these signs of illness and refrain from bringing children to camp if they have any of these that are NOT related to another health condition:

- Have or had a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher
- Have new cough
- Have new shortness of breath
- Have chills

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- Have a new sore throat
- Have a new loss of taste and smell
- New muscle ache

Children must be kept at home if they:

- Tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 10 days
- Been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days and child is showing symptoms of COVID-19

2. How is FCPA following guidelines for social distancing in groups / cohorts?

Camps are considered childcare and like schools, children generally stay in the same groups or “cohorts” throughout the day. Camp cohorts are based on the physical capacity of the smallest room or space the group will occupy provided that campers and staff can maintain any required social distancing for sedentary activities and exertional activities when breathing is heavy. We have measured each of our facilities and program areas and calculated how many persons can be in each area based on current standards.

3. What if my child needs assistance (such as a leisure coach, personal assistant, help with clothing/changing, etc.) or needs medication administered?

Leisure coach's step in to assist in behavior and care issues and are considered only “transient contact.” This is acceptable if masks are worn, and close contact does not exceed 15 minutes cumulative per day. Be sure to make the camp director aware if your child will need assistance or medication during the camp day.

Personal assistants who attend camp with the child are not required to maintain social distancing from the camper they came with but are required to maintain any required distance from staff and other campers.

4. Are children and staff required to be vaccinated before attending camp?

Vaccinations (or weekly testing) is required for staff, but not for campers. Vaccinations are strongly encouraged for children attending to camp.

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5. When do masks have to be worn and what kind of masks are not permitted?

Indoors: Masks are required for all camp staff and participants regardless of vaccination status at all camp facilities (Rec Centers, parks, nature centers, schools, historic sites, golf courses)

Outdoors: Masks are not required for camp staff and participants as long as physical distancing can be maintained. For programs held at Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) locations, masks are required on school grounds per FCPS policy.

Masks must be worn over nose and mouth. Masks may be removed briefly during these times only while distancing is maintained:

- While eating
- While swimming/wading in the pool
- During brief supervised water/mask breaks while maintaining required distancing

Single-layer gaiters are not permitted per Health Department recommendations as they do not provide multiple layer protection and should not be allowed as a face covering in camp. Masks should fit over the nose and mouth according to these CDC guidelines:

[Your Guide to Masks | CDC](#)

Please review the CDC illustration at the end of this document for further information.

6. What should my child bring to camp?

We recommend all campers bring their belongings in a closable bag of some sort such as a backpack. To avoid confusion, LABEL all belongings with child's first and last name. Leave electronics and valuable items at home. It is important for campers to bring extra masks in case one is misplaced or broken. Campers will need to bring a water bottle. We recommend a lightweight bottle with at least 32 oz of water. Sites will have water available for refilling. Depending on the length of the camp, it may be suggested you pack snacks and lunch for your child. To help better prepare campers, our staff will email you a few days before camp begins with a list of items your child will need.

7. What if my child displays symptoms of COVID?

While a runny nose or cough could be many things, for the safety of all, if your child displays any of the symptoms of COVID, you should stay home and not come to camp. You should have your child tested on day 5 after initial exposure (if known).

8. What if someone in my child's camp has tested positive for COVID-19?

If someone in your child's camp has reported a positive COVID-19 test result, the child will

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not be permitted to return to camp and the affected areas will be cleaned. The FCPA Safety Office along with the Fairfax County Health Department will conduct an investigation and take the lead on contact tracing. The Safety Office will contact other families if any further action is needed.

9. What happens when someone shows symptoms during the camp day?

If someone is showing signs of illness during the camp day, they will be taken to a comfortable area away from camp groups until they are able to go home. Staff will continue to supervise children during this time. Appropriate personal protective gear will be available in this area. Everyone must wear a mask in this area at all times. Staff will attempt to notify children's parents/guardians immediately to come pick up their child.

10. What if a family member at home tests positive? Can my child still come to camp?

If your child is vaccinated and boosted with no symptoms, he/she does not need to quarantine and can come to camp but should wear a mask for 10 days after the exposure. Immediately quarantine until a negative test confirms symptoms are not attributable to COVID-19.

If your child is vaccinated but not yet boosted or unvaccinated, with no symptoms, quarantine for 5 days followed by strict mask use for an additional 5 days.

If your child is vaccinated but not yet boosted or unvaccinated, with symptoms, get a test (rapid test) and If you test negative, stay home (quarantine) for at least 5 days followed by strict mask use for an additional 5 days.

If at any point your child tests positive for COVID-19 during this 10-day period, follow the isolation guidance.

11. When can my child return to camp?

It depends on many factors. Campers who are vaccinated must follow:

https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/04/Home-IsolationQuarantine-Release-Graphic_FINAL.pdf

12. Does my child have to have a doctor's note to return to camp?

No, a doctor's release is not required to return to camp after exposure or a positive test for COVID, only your affirmation that you have followed the appropriate protocols and time periods listed here.

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13. When will staff be requiring handwashing?

Everyone who enters the program should wash hands or use hand sanitizer (if soap and water are not available) upon arriving and frequently throughout the day. Handwashing or hand sanitizing is required:

- before and after meals or snacks
- after sneezing or coughing or other contact with bodily fluids
- after going to the bathroom or helping children in the bathroom
- after moving through high-touch surfaces
- after interaction with high-touch equipment and supplies

14. How often are the camp area and supplies cleaned?

When possible, the programs will provide each camper or group with their own supplies and equipment to minimize the sharing of items. Cleaning will take place when campers are not in the room or using the equipment. Cleaning equipment and surfaces will occur at regular times throughout the day.

15. Where will children eat snack and lunch?

Camp groups will eat with their “cohort” (same group of kids) and maintain appropriate social distancing. Masks may be removed while eating only. Campers must wash their hands before and after eating. Tables and other surfaces will be wiped down to clean between uses. Snacks and lunches must be brought from home labeled with child’s name. Campers are not permitted to share food items.

16. How will swim time be handled

Masks will be required, at all times, except for the time the campers and staff are in the water. When possible, we recommend campers come dressed in a swimsuit under their clothes, but it is not required. We recommend two-piece swimsuits where bottoms can be lowered easily for restroom breaks throughout the day. Campers will be supervised, at all times, and everyone is required to maintain required social distancing in the pool and locker rooms. Campers will not be allowed to go in water above their shoulders unless they have passed a swim test monitored by the lifeguard and camp staff.

17. What about your travel camps?

It is recommended campers and staff in travel camps maintain appropriate distancing while traveling in the van or bus. Increased ventilation such as air conditioning on and windows down should be implemented. Masks are required on the vehicle during the entire trip. Vehicles will be thoroughly cleaned after each use.

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18. Will extended care be offered?

No, extended care is not recommended during COVID where several different groups of campers come together for care and supervision. It is considered mixing of cohorts which is highly discouraged.

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CDC illustration and guidelines for masks:

Approved Face Coverings:

- An item made of two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric that fits snugly against the sides of the face without any gaps and completely covers the nose and mouth while fitting securely under the chin.
- Double masking: one disposable mask underneath with a cloth mask on top.
- Neck gaiters made of two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric, or folded to make two such layers, are considered acceptable face coverings.

Not Approved:

- Single-layer face coverings or single-layer gaiters are not acceptable.
- Bandanas
- Face shields without a face covering.
- N-95 respirators with exhalation valves. These exhalation valves do not fully contain the wearer's breath and will allow respiratory droplets to escape the mask.
- CDC does not recommend the use of N95 respirators for protection against COVID-19 in non-healthcare settings. N95 respirators should be reserved for healthcare workers.

DO choose masks that	DO NOT choose masks that
 Have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric	 Are made of fabric that makes it hard to breathe, for example, vinyl
 Completely cover your nose and mouth	 Have exhalation valves or vents which allow virus particles to escape
 Fit snugly against the sides of your face and don't have gaps	 Are intended for healthcare workers, including N95 respirators
 Have a nose wire to prevent air from leaking out of the top of the mask	