

Youth Camps Guidance

Updated June 19, 2020

The below guidelines are intended to assist youth camp coordinators across Nebraska to help protect campers, staff, and communities and to slow the spread of COVID-19. *Please note that this guidance is for day camps and does not include camps where youth stay overnight.* For camps where youth stay overnight please utilize the “Camp Operations Guide Summer 2020” provided by the American Camp Association at <https://www.acacamps.org/resource-library/coronavirus/camp-business/camp-operations-guide-summer-2020>.

It is important for the camp coordinators to work with their local health departments to institute changes to slow the spread of COVID-19 among their campers and staff. All counties in Nebraska have been issued a Directed Health Measure (DHM) which can be accessed at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/COVID-19-Directed-Health-Measures.aspx>. When planning for your camp/event, please reference your local county DHM. Public gatherings are limited under each DHM, for locations/venues that have capacity to hold 500 or more individuals (1,000 or more in counties over 500,000 population) plans for reopening must be submitted to the local health departments and approved prior to the event (your local health department can be found at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Documents/LHD-COVID-19-Response-List.pdf>). If a plan has been submitted previously and your location/venue is expanding capacity, the plan must be re-submitted to the local health department. Additionally, each DHM has requirements for number of children per room/space that should be followed, refer to your county DHM for more details.

The CDC has four (4) main guiding principles to keep in mind; the more people that a camper or staff member interacts with and the longer that interaction occurs, the higher the risk for COVID-19 spread.

- **Lowest Risk:** Small groups of campers stay together all day, each day. Campers remain at least six (6) feet apart and do not share objects. Outdoor activities are prioritized. All campers are from the local geographic area (e.g., city, town, county, community).
- **More Risk:** Campers mix between groups but remain at least six (6) feet apart and do not share objects. Outdoor activities are prioritized. All campers are from the local geographic area.
- **Even More Risk:** Campers mix between groups and do not remain spaced apart. All campers are from the local geographic area.
- **Highest Risk:** Campers mix between groups and do not remain spaced apart. All campers are not from the local geographic area.

Additional guidance from the CDC can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/summer-camps.html>.

General Considerations

- Staff and campers showing signs/symptoms of COVID-19 (including fever over 100.4F, sudden onset of cough or sudden onset of shortness of breath, new loss of taste/smell, unexplained headache, etc.) shall not participate and should stay home. A full list of symptoms can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>.
 - Prepare a plan for if/when someone gets sick.
 - All staff and children should be screened at least once daily.
 - Consider using stickers after fever/symptom check.



- Communicate daily with staff that they must immediately inform their supervisor if they feel sick or experience any symptoms listed above.
- Identify small groups of campers and keep them together with dedicated staff. Make sure they remain with the same group throughout the day, each day. Limit the mixing between groups as much as possible.
- Stagger arrival and drop-off times or locations by small group or put in place protocols to limit contact between groups and with other campers’ guardians as much as possible. For example, parents must remain in their cars or drop off and pick campers up afterwards.
- **Cleaning and disinfection:**
 - Shared equipment and objects should be limited as much as possible. When shared items are needed to be used, they should be disinfected between each use.
 - Develop a schedule for increased, routine cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces including door handles, tables, counters, etc. (at least every four (4) hours with an EPA registered product).
 - Do not use toys or other items that cannot be cleaned and sanitized/disinfected, such as sensory play items, playdough, etc.
 - Ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing as much as possible (e.g. art supplies or equipment) or limit use of supplies and equipment to one group of campers at a time and clean and disinfect between use.

Equipment in this section does not include playground equipment.
- Campers’ personal belongings should be separated from others’ and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas.
- Provide ample opportunities for staff members and children to wash hands with soap and water. Consider providing additional hand sanitizer or hand washing opportunities throughout the event such as portable sanitizer or hand washing stations.
- All staff should be wearing face coverings at all times except when eating. It is recommended that children over the age of two (2) wear cloth face coverings when possible. Avoid face coverings at naptime and laundry daily. For more information, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/cloth-face-coverings-information.pdf>.
- **Modify layouts to increase and reinforce social/physical distancing:**
 - Space seating at least six (6) feet apart.
 - If nap times are scheduled, naptime mats should be assigned to individual children, sanitized before and after use, and spaced out as much as possible. Consider placing children head-to-toe to ensure distance between their faces.
 - Prioritize outdoor activities where social distancing can be maintained as much as possible.
 - If transportation is needed, create distance between campers (e.g. seat children one child per row and skip rows) when possible. The CDC has released additional guidance for transport vehicles for further information at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/bus-transit-operator.html>.
 - For bathrooms, stagger use when possible.
 - Anywhere there is a potential for staff or children to stand in a line, queue lines should be set up to control distancing and should be either a straight line or an “L” shaped line. six (6) feet distancing should be marked in those queue lines (using tape, spray paint, flag rope and cones, etc.) Directional arrows can also be used to direct the flow throughout the event.
 - ◆ Areas to consider include: restrooms, etc.
 - Consider closing shared spaces such as dining halls and playgrounds with shared playground equipment, if possible. Otherwise stagger use and clean and disinfect between use.



- **Food:**

- If feasible, have campers bring their own meals and eat in separate areas or with their smaller group.
- Use disposable food service items (utensils, dishes), if possible. If not feasible, ensure that all non-disposable food service items are handled with gloves and washed with dish soap and hot water or in a dishwasher.
- Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces regularly (at least every four (4) hours with an EPA registered product) while campers are present.
- Staff must serve food directly to campers and remove self-serve condiment stations (e.g. provide campers with condiment packets upon request).
- Whenever possible, practice social distancing among staff
- All staff directly interacting with campers should wear face coverings.
- All food code regulations must still be followed.
- Staff should wash hands frequently; provide hand sanitizer for campers when feasible.
- No shared drinking fountains or coolers.

- **Gatherings, Visitors, and Field Trips:**

- Avoid group events, gatherings, or meetings where social distancing of at least six (6) feet between people cannot be maintained. Limit group size to the extent possible.
- Limit any nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations as much as possible – especially with individuals not from the local geographic area (e.g., community, town, city, or county).
- Avoid activities and events such as field trips and special performances.
- Pursue options to convene sporting events and participation in sports activities in ways that minimize spread of COVID-19 to players, families, coaches, and communities.

- **Swimming pools:**

- All swimming pools are required to follow the Gathering requirements in the Directed Health Measures for each county found at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/COVID-19-Directed-Health-Measures.aspx>.

For sports camps or camps including sports activities please follow guidance provided in the “June 1st Statewide Sports Reopening Guidelines” (can be found at DHHS Coronavirus website at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/COVID-19-Nebraska-Guidance-Documents.aspx>). Both Limited-Contact and Non-Contact team sports are allowed under this guidance.