

Safely reopening youth camps

Youth Camps/ Revised Memo 18

REV. JUNE 29, 2020

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The top priority is to safeguard the health and safety of children & employees



Guiding principles for the state's school re-opening plan

Protect the people of Connecticut

- Implement safety measures to prevent spread
- Anticipate potential re-emergence of the virus - and have a plan to stop it

Ensure children continue to be engaged during the summer

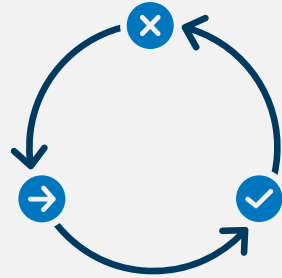
Engage the full community in path forward

- Seek and incorporate input from camp coordinators and parents
- Communicate transparently and often

Youth camp plan developed in coordination with array of stakeholders



Day camps can open as of June 22nd



Camps that were operating as of May 5, 2020 may continue to operate and shall implement the guidelines contained in this document.

Resident camps may not operate until permitted to do so by order of the Governor.



Day camps not currently operating may begin operation on June 22, 2020.

As of June 22, 2020, all operating day camps shall comply with the guidelines in this document.

Additional considerations

Staff training may begin before June 22, 2020.

All schools are encouraged to permit youth camps to use their facilities, provided cleaning and modifications can be arranged in time.

Safety measures

Pre-requisites to opening

- ☆ Sharing a **notice of risks** with all parents and staff (slide 6)
- ☆ Sick room set up (slide 7)

Required daily safety practices

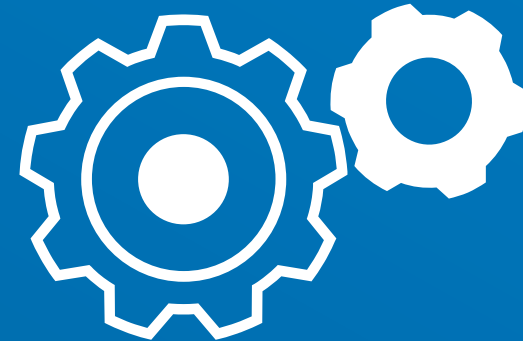
- ☆ Face masks worn by all staff (slide 9)
- ☆ Group sizes limited and **physical distancing practices** implemented (slides 10, 11)
- ☆ Protocols for responding to, and **reporting, a case of COVID19** (slides 12, 13)
- ☆ Thorough **cleaning and hygiene** (slides 14)
- ☆ New **transportation protocols** (slides 15)
- ☆ Several **waivers of licensing requirements** (slides 16)

Protocols to support camps

- ☆ **Fingerprint requirement suspended** (slide 17)
- ☆ **Flexible licensing fee practices** (slide 18)



Detailed Operating Guidance



Notice of risks

Camps shall inform and obtain signed consent on the form posted on the OEC website from all staff and the parent(s) of all children enrolled that they have received notice of the following:

- People who are 65 years and older and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions or are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are recommended to stay at home. A list of medical conditions associated with a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 can be found in [CDC's guidance](#)¹. Individuals and families should consult their healthcare provider to determine whether they have medical conditions that place them at risk.
- Staff and children living in households with individuals who are 65 years and older OR have higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are recommended to stay home



Sick room

Camps shall identify, per licensing requirements, a plan for a child or children who develop an elevated temperature or who may become ill, i.e. a “sick room.”

You are encouraged to develop and review this plan with the Camp Physician or Camp APRN prior to the start of camp. Input from your local health department is also advisable



Health screening



All staff and children are required to be screened for any observable illness, including cough or respiratory distress.

- Staff shall wash hands and wear face coverings.
- Staff shall stand at least 6 feet away from the child and parent/guardian or stand behind a physical barrier, such as a glass or plastic window, or partition that can serve to protect the staff member's face and mucous membranes from respiratory droplets that may be produced if the child being screened sneezes, coughs, or talks.
- Ask the parent/guardian to confirm that the child does not have a fever, shortness of breath, or cough.
- Make a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness.



In consultation with DPH, the OEC is not requiring temperature checks. However, programs may choose to continue this practice as part of their health screening. Temperature checks may increase the risk of exposure and/or transmission due to the closeness during checks and contact of individuals waiting in line.

Should the program decide to conduct temperature checks, please visit the [CDC website](#) for information on temperature screening methods.

Face masks & other protection

Use of a mask or cloth face covering for each employee at all times while in the workplace as directed by the [Department of Economic Development Safe Workplace Rules for Essential Employees](#) per [Executive Order 7BB](#) is required. Instructions for [use of cloth face covering](#) are available from the CDC.

Executive Order 7BB does not require the use of face masks by:

- Anyone for whom doing so would be contrary to his or her health or safety because of a medical condition;
- A child in a child care setting;
- Anyone under the age of 2 years, or an older child if the parent, guardian or person responsible for the child is unable to place the mask safely on the child's face

Camps shall comply with the requirements listed in the [Department of Economic Development Safe Workplace Rules for Essential Employees](#) per Executive Order 7V.



Group size

Group size shall be limited to no more than 14 children.



Distancing

Appropriate social distancing strategies shall be implemented.

Social distancing is required, and may take many forms as outlined by CDC with a dedicated section for “social distancing strategies” in its guidance for child care programs that remain open.



Reporting COVID-19 Cases

If a child or staff member who has been present in the program is diagnosed with COVID-19, the camp must notify families and staff of the program about the exposure

In February 2020, COVID-19 was added to the List of Reportable Diseases. Those required to report such diseases must report cases of COVID-19 infection immediately to the Connecticut Department of Public Health **Epidemiology and Emerging Infection Program (860-509-7994)** and to the local department of health in the town of residence of the case-patient by telephone on the day of recognition or strong suspicion of the disease. **Contact information for the local health department can be found at <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Local-Health-Admin/LHA/Local-Health-Administration---Site-Map>**

Specific situations and exposures can be discussed with the local health department or the Department of Public Health (860.509.7994).



Additional considerations if COVID19 case is detected

If a child or staff member who has been present in the program is diagnosed with COVID-19, additional practices to those below may be recommended in consultation with the local health department or the CT DPH:

- Contact your local health department.
- Determine the date of symptom onset.
- Determine if the child/staff member attended/worked at the program while symptomatic or during the two days before symptoms began.
- Identify what days the child/staff member attended/worked during that time.
- Determine who had close contact with the individual at the program during those days.
- Exclude those who are determined to have had close contact with the affected individual for 14 days after the last day they had contact with the affected individual.



Cleaning and disinfecting

- Close off areas used by the sick person.
- Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the areas.
- Wait up to 24 hours or as long as possible before cleaning or disinfecting to allow respiratory droplets to settle before cleaning and disinfecting.
- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as offices, bathrooms, and common areas.
- If more than 7 days have passed since the person who is sick visited the facility, additional cleaning is not necessary.
- Continue routine cleaning and disinfection.



Closing

Depending on program size and the number of people affected, closure of a room in the program (for larger programs) or the entire program might need to be considered.

Cleaning & Hygiene



Hand washing

Regular hand washing by staff and children with soap and water for at least 20 seconds should be done

- Before coming in contact with any child;
- Before and after eating;
- After sneezing, coughing or nose blowing;
- After using the rest room;
- Before handling food;
- After touching or cleaning surfaces that may be contaminated; and
- After using any shared equipment like toys, computer keyboards, mouse

If soap and water are not available, alcohol-based hand sanitizer shall be used. Use of hand sanitizers should always be supervised by adults.



Respiratory hygiene

All staff shall cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or the corner of the elbow.

Children shall be encouraged, when appropriate to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or the corner of the elbow, and soiled tissues shall be disposed immediately after use



Cleaning

Protocols for intensified cleaning and disinfection shall be implemented.

Transportation

Prior to providing transportation at the start of the day to any child, such children shall be screened for any observable illness.

While transporting children in care, the current guidance regarding group size, the wearing of a mask or cloth face covering and social distancing apply.

The groups of children shall not mix while transporting. Camp planning may consist of neighborhood groupings to allow the same grouping of children throughout the entire camp day.



Licensing waivers

To support programs that choose to remain open, several waivers of licensing requirements have been granted. These waivers will cease when the declared state of emergency ends.



Licensed youth camps may extend their operating days under the terms of their current license to operate during the period of the declared state of emergency provided such additional operating dates are reported to the OEC. For example, if schools do not reopen, a camp may decide to begin operation earlier than normal. A program may report such additional operating dates by submitting a General Report of Change form found on the OEC website



Staff training including first aid, CPR, C4K health and safety, and administration of medication training that expire during the declared state of emergency will fulfill the training requirements.



Health records on file prior to the declared state of emergency for children enrolled in youth camps which expire during the declared state of emergency are acceptable. Health records for children that have been attending a legally operating child care program or school that has temporarily closed due to COVID19 are not required provided the parent attests in writing that the child is up-to-date with physical examination and immunizations and provides information regarding any disabilities and/or special health care needs.



Staff physicals for youth camps that expire during the declared state of emergency are acceptable.

Fingerprints

Executive Order NO. 7E included a provision suspending required fingerprinting. Accordingly, new prospective employees in youth camps that receive Care 4 Kids subsidy are not required to submit fingerprint cards for the purposes of criminal history records checks.

When individuals are unable to access fingerprint collections services, the comprehensive background checks performed by the OEC are modified to remove fingerprint-supported state and national criminal history records checks for the duration of the declared state of emergency. Youth camps that receive Care 4 Kids subsidy will be required to submit a DCF Authorization form to the OEC for all staff members so that background checks based on name and date of birth may be completed.

The submission of fingerprints at a later date may be required upon request by the OEC when the declared state of emergency ends. This modification applies to youth camps that receive Care 4 Kids subsidy.

There is no current requirement to submit background checks through the OEC for youth camps that do not receive Care 4 Kids subsidy.



Licensing fees

Many camp licenses are due for renewal during the spring and the renewal fee is substantial. During this declared state of emergency, a camp may decide to delay the submission of their renewal application allowing their license to expire and then seek to reinstate such license if a decision to operate is made at a later date. Please note that it takes several days to process a reinstatement application; however, an inspection is not required as part of the reinstatement process provided the camp operated at the same location within the past year

Youth camps that have submitted an application and fee to cover the 2020 summer season (June 22, 2020 through September 7, 2020) but then determine that the camp will not operate at all during the 2020 summer season, may submit a request from August 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020 for an application fee refund. Due to the fluid nature of this emergency, many camps have not yet made a decision or may modify a previously made decision on whether to operate. Therefore the OEC is asking that refund requests not be submitted before August 1, 2020. Such requests may be sent to Youthcamps@ct.gov and must include a statement that the camp has not and will not operate during the 2020 summer season. Such requests will be processed by the OEC after August 31, 2020.



A background of a dark night sky filled with bright, golden sparks from a sparkler, creating a festive and celebratory atmosphere.

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