

# NJ Youth Camp Guidance 2021

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# NJCGAP Advocacy Timeline

- ▶ **Fall 2020:** NJCGAP post-mortem with NJDOH on youth camp operations/success.
- ▶ **November 2020 - Present:** NJCGAP meeting regularly with NJDOH Youth Camp Safety Staff on drafting anticipated guidance
- ▶ **January 2021:** Jonathan Gold and Claudine Leone meet with Governor Murphy and top staff on the need for camp opening announcement immediately and Camp Guidance issued no later than May 1, 2021
- ▶ **February 2021:** Claudine Leone meeting with Governor's Chief staff and Legal Counsel on 2021 camp opening announcement
- ▶ **March 3, 2021:** Governor Murphy announced day and resident camps will open for Summer 2021
- ▶ **February 2021- present:** NJCGAP collaborating with NJDOH on draft proposed guidance and offering amendments/comments
- ▶ **March 2021:** ACA-NY/NJ and NJ Y Alliance established an internal resident camp working group and meet with NJDOH to review proposed guidance
- ▶ **April 2021:** Governor releases Executive Order and [Camp Guidance](#)

# 2021 Camp Guidance Overview

- ▶ The NJDOH Camp Project staff held a [webinar](#) on the details of the 2021 Camp Guidance on Wednesday, April 28, 2021.
- ▶ We are going to highlight the broad outlines of the guidance for our purposes today.
- ▶ Just know . . . Camps need to have written plans and procedures (COVID Operational Plan) in place to cover every topic in the guidance. Camps that opened last year likely need small tweaks to their plans.
- ▶ Camps must contact LHD to schedule pre-operational inspections.
- ▶ Like last year, I expect NJDOH will post FAQs on their site to help interpret the guidance.

# 2021 Camp Certification Application

- ▶ 2021 Youth Camp Certification application has been amended this year to incorporate questions related to 2020 operations. This will be emailed directly to camps and uploaded to <https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/sanitation-safety/youthcamps.shtml> *the Week of May 3<sup>rd</sup>. No separate Attestation form.*
- ▶ **ACA camps don't forget to include your ACA certificate**
- ▶ The application process will be fully automated this year and the turnaround time is expected to be quick PROVIDED you follow instructions and submit as ADOBE document and title your document correctly.
- ▶ Municipal Camps must submit application and comply with the 2021 NJDOH Camp guidance and can apply for a waiver of the fee
- ▶ Youth Camps must develop and implement a COVID Operational Plan that, at minimum, includes written policies and procedures as outlined in the Guidance (same requirement as 2020)

# 2021 Camp Operational Policies and Procedures - Key Areas

- ▶ Training - Camper and Staff
- ▶ Promote health Hygiene Practices
- ▶ Screening and Admittance
- ▶ Face Coverings and Social Distancing
- ▶ Infection Control and Monitoring
- ▶ Plan for When Staff, Camper or Visitor Become Sick
- ▶ Cleaning, Disinfection, Facilities and Ventilation
- ▶ Attendance and Cohorting
- ▶ Transportation Services
- ▶ Food Service
- ▶ Sports and Recreational Activities
- ▶ Additional Requirements for Resident Camp Activities
- ▶ High Risk and Special Needs Populations
- ▶ Violations and Enforcement

# Key Policies and Procedures

## Staff and Camper Training

- ▶ Camps must conduct staff training and update staff on the basic principles of emergency first aid, infection control, hand washing practices, personal protective equipment (PPE) and COVID-19 signs and symptoms.
- ▶ **Change for 2021:** NJDOH is not dictating logistics (virtual/in person) of staff training as it did in 2020.
- ▶ Camps must document how age-appropriate instruction is provided to campers and their families on safe practices while attending camp, including face coverings, hand hygiene and staying home when ill.

# Attendance and Cohorting (Groupings)

- ▶ Camper: Staff Cohorts - **Change for 2021 - group sizes**
  - ▶ Staff to camper ratios of 1 adult:1 counselor: 20 campers (ages 5-17 yrs.).
  - ▶ Staff to camper ratios of 1 adult: 1 counselor: 14 campers (ages 2.5 through 4 yrs.)
- ▶ Restrict mixing between groups.
  - ▶ Ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that groups include the same group of children and staff each day. Camp operators should minimize staff/camper movement between groups.
  - ▶ If the above cannot be avoided, masking of all floating staff and campers should be implemented.

# Screening and Admittance

## Day Camps

- ▶ Develop a policy for staff/camper/visitor daily screening
- ▶ **Change from 2020** - - NJDOH will allow daily self reporting/screening for staff and campers for day camps and for resident camp staff assigned to campers are encouraged to monitor children for signs of illness every day.
- ▶ Day camps must have a plan in place if camper shows up without being screened by parents prior to arrival at camp or choose to do it themselves like 2020.
- ▶ Create a communication system for staff and camper families for self-reporting of symptoms, notification of exposures and closures, and reasons for absences.
- ▶ Require staff and campers who are sick or have recently had a close contact with a person with COVID-19 (not vaccinated staff/campers) to stay home.



# Screening and Admittance

## Resident Camps - **New for 2021**

- ▶ COVID-19 Testing requirements for Unvaccinated staff/campers
  - ▶ Resident camps must document policies and procedures for testing. No home tests allowed - - must be a laboratory recorded test: Rapid or PCR test.
    - ▶ Camp operators should communicate to staff, campers and parents the continued accessibility of free COVID-19 testing in areas across the country.
  - ▶ Staff/campers strongly encouraged to quarantine prior to arrival
  - ▶ Prearrival- documented negative test for staff/campers within 72 hours of arriving on-site the youth camp
    - ▶ Documented procedure for any exception
  - ▶ Post arrival- documented testing is required of staff/campers within 3-6 days of arrival at youth camp.
- ▶ Long term camp lasting >14 days
  - ▶ When on-site testing, quarantine and routine monitoring are implemented by long term resident camps “stable cohorts” would be developed by day 15 allowing for larger group activities to take place.

# Face Covering and Social Distancing

- ▶ Camps must supply their staff and campers with face coverings
- ▶ Campers: It is understood that face coverings may be challenging for campers in an all-day setting (this gives you cover) . . . therefore no mandates
  - ▶ Indoor: campers “should” wear face coverings indoors, but particularly when social distancing is difficult.
  - ▶ Outdoor: campers do not wear face coverings except they “should” when Cohorting social distancing of 6’ between assigned groups cannot be maintained.
- ▶ **Staff: Change for 2021**
  - ▶ Indoor: staff must wear face masks at all times except when not practicable, such as when eating or drinking, sleeping, or swimming.
  - ▶ Outdoor: staff must wear face masks when within 6 feet of other staff or campers, except when not practicable or when in extreme heat.

# Face Covering and Social Distancing

## Exceptions

- ▶ Resident Camps- no masking for staff/campers in assigned sleeping quarters and among bunkmates/cohorts. Only needed when those outside those groups are present and cannot maintain 6 feet.
- ▶ EXCEPTIONS for staff/camper face coverings
  - ▶ Eating, drinking, swimming, sleeping, campers in their own cohorts (outside), cohorts more than 6 feet from other cohorts, anyone 6 feet from anyone, health conditions, under 2 years old, “not practicable” OR extreme heat, and sports (see below)
  - ▶ Sports Guidance: Face masks are not required indoor or outdoor when persons are engaged in high intensity aerobic or anaerobic activities. Face masks should not be worn when engaged in activities that may cause the cloth face covering to become wet, like when swimming, or when doing so may endanger the individual’s health.

# Transportation

- ▶ During bussing/transportation, social distancing must be maintained by maximizing space between riders and maintaining space between the driver and the passengers. *(no mention of 6 feet on bus or every other seat or other limitations)*
  - ▶ Consider seating campers who are part of a cohort or family members together to maximize limited space.
- ▶ Face covering must be worn by all onboard transport vehicles.
- ▶ Open windows, if safe to do so except during inclement weather, to encourage ventilation.
- ▶ Vehicles must be cleaned and disinfected between uses.

# Off Site Activities and Field Trips

**New for 2021**

- ▶ Are encouraged to be minimized, **but not prohibited**.
- ▶ Offsite activities should minimize prolonged contact with others outside the camp.
- ▶ Day/resident camps who elect to participate in field trips and off-site activities must keep in mind that venue capacities remain impacted by Executive Order limiting their on-site capacity and gatherings limits.

# Bunking/Sleeping

## Resident Camps - **New for 2021**

- ▶ Try to align mats or beds so that campers and staff sleep head-to-toe and at least 6' apart.
- ▶ Ensure adequate ventilation within sleeping quarters.
- ▶ Cross ventilation with a minimum of 2 windows open when/where available
- ▶ Consider portable air filters in the sleeping quarters
- ▶ Consider the use child-safe fans to increase the effectiveness of open windows. Safely secure fans in a window to blow potentially contaminated air out and pull new air in through other open windows and doors.
- ▶ Set HVAC systems to bring in as much outdoor air as your system will safely allow. Reduce or eliminate HVAC air recirculation, when practical and with expert HVAC consultation.
- ▶ Document the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting of bathrooms (e.g., in the morning and evening, after times of heavy use) and use EPA-registered disinfectants
- ▶ Encourage staff and campers to avoid placing toothbrushes or toiletries directly on counter surfaces.

# Plan for When a Staff, Camper or Visitor Becomes Sick

- ▶ Camp administrators must document/implement a policy to prepare for when someone tests positive with COVID-19 or gets sick while on site with COVID-19 symptoms that include, at minimum:
  - ▶ Camp must immediately separate the impacted staff/ campers in established COVID isolation area
  - ▶ If the camp becomes aware of an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19, the ***camp must immediately notify the local health authority*** where the camp is located along with staff and families of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality.
  - ▶ ***Notification to the NJDOH-Youth Camp Safety Project is required within 24 hours at [youthcamps@doh.nj.gov](mailto:youthcamps@doh.nj.gov).***
  - ▶ Document procedures detailing the safe transportation of implicated staff/camper.
  - ▶ Document procedures for contact tracing which include maintaining records of groups/cohorts, assigned staff and daily attendance logs. And help LHD with contact tracing.

# Plan for When a Staff, Camper or Visitor Becomes Sick

- ▶ Document policies that detail camper/staff readmittance which follow **NJCDS COVID Youth Camp Guidance**
- ▶ Document policies and procedures for closure due to outbreak as determined by the LHD in consultation with CDS epidemiologists, who will provide direction to the camp if a closure is warranted and duration.
- ▶ ***Notification of a recommended closure to the NJDOH-Youth Camp Safety Project is required within 24 hours at [youthcamps@doh.nj.gov](mailto:youthcamps@doh.nj.gov).***
- ▶ Staff/campers are discouraged from attending another facility if the camp is closed due to an outbreak.
- ▶ Close off areas used by a sick person and do not use these areas until after cleaning and disinfecting them (for outdoor areas, this includes surfaces or shared objects in the area, if applicable). Follow CDS guidance on reopening after a closure.



# Sick Campers/Staff

## Resident Camps - **New for 2021**

- ▶ Staff and campers with symptoms of COVID-19 at resident camps should immediately be separated. Individuals who are sick should be cared for following CDC Guidance for caring for oneself and others who are sick.
- ▶ Staff and campers who have had close contact with a person who has symptoms should be separated and follow CDS Youth Camp Guidance. If symptoms develop, individuals who are sick should be cared for following CDC guidance for caring for yourself or others who are sick.
- ▶ If a person becomes sick and needs to be transported, establish procedures for safely transporting them. If you are calling an ambulance or bringing someone to a healthcare facility, try to call first to alert them that the person may have COVID-19.
- ▶ Parents/guardians may choose to allow campers to stay at the camp or to take their child/ren home. Parents/guardians who choose to pick up a sick child should be provided with educational material regarding isolation, quarantine and the care of someone sick with COVID-19.

# Quarantine Policies

## Day Camps

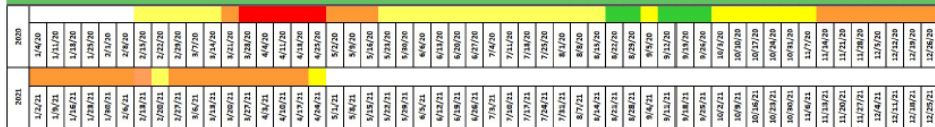
- ▶ NJ Communicable Disease determines quarantine policies for camps to follow. They are updating them still - however, generally:
- ▶ Vaccinated or individuals with a documented recovery from COVID-19 in previous 3 months do not have to quarantine as a close contact IF they do not have any symptoms.
- ▶ Quarantine policies at state level depend on the region (by county) - CALI Scores. As of this week the entire state is “moderate” which takes us out of the 14-day quarantine zone.
- ▶ Quarantine individuals:
  - ▶ 14 days
  - ▶ 10 days without negative test
  - ▶ 7 days with a negative test drawn on days 5-7

# Quarantine rules

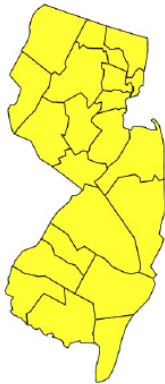


## COVID-19 Activity Level Report New Jersey Department of Health Communicable Disease Service Week ending April 24, 2021 (MMWR week 16)<sup>1</sup>

### COVID-19 Statewide Activity Level Timeline



■ Low     
 ■ Moderate     
 ■ High     
 ■ Very High



Region <sup>2</sup>	Current Activity Level
Northwest	MODERATE
Northeast	MODERATE
Central West	MODERATE
Central East	MODERATE
Southwest	MODERATE
Southeast	MODERATE
STATEWIDE	MODERATE

### COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI)

	Case Rate <sup>3</sup>	Percent CLI <sup>4</sup>	Percent Positivity <sup>5</sup>	CALI Score <sup>6</sup>
Northwest	23.34 ○	4.14 ○	7.76 ○	2
Northeast	23.77 ○	4.74 ○	7.11 ○	2

## Minimum Quarantine Timeframes by COVID-19 Regional Transmission Risk Level (CALI Score)<sup>2</sup>

Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk	Very High Risk
<i>14 days is always preferred as the best way to prevent COVID-19 transmission.</i>			
10 days without testing  OR  7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days	10 days without testing  OR  7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days	14 days for group settings and organized activities  14 days for individuals unless it causes <u>significant economic or other hardship</u>  <b>ONLY IF 14 days is <u>not feasible</u>, follow</b>  10 days without testing  OR  7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days	14 days for group settings and organized activities  14 days for individuals unless it causes <u>significant economic or other hardship</u>  <b>ONLY IF 14 days is <u>not feasible</u>, follow</b>  10 days without testing  OR  7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days

- Community Settings & Organized Activities:** School and childcare administrators, employers, and individuals or entities having control over organized groups or activities (e.g., sports teams) should have a policy that defines quarantine timeframes for their population (staff, students, athletes, etc.)<sup>3</sup>. For organized activities that take place in different regions of the state (e.g., sports team), the “home region” risk level where the group is primarily located can be used.
- Individuals:** It is preferred that individuals not working at or attending group activities quarantine for 14 days. This is the safest way to protect family, friends, and community members, particularly if individuals will be in contact with persons at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness or if the COVID-19 transmission risk is High or Very High (orange or red CALI score). If a 14-day quarantine would pose a significant economic or other hardship<sup>4</sup>, if it will result in non-compliance with quarantine, or if the COVID-19 transmission risk is Moderate or Low (yellow or green CALI score), the CDC recommended shortened timeframes are acceptable. It is the individual’s personal responsibility to determine if they can quarantine for 14-days, but they should comply with the minimum alternative timeframes. *Note: individuals who work at or attend group activities in community settings should refer to those organization’s policies.*

# Quarantine Policies

## Resident Camps - **New for 2021**

- ▶ Health directors and other health personnel on-site a resident camp must identify an isolation room or area to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-like symptoms.
- ▶ Resident camps must document policies and procedures for the isolation and quarantine of impacted staff/campers.
  - ▶ These policies and procedures must be provided to staff and to parents and guardians of all campers prior to attending camp.
  - ▶ Staff off-duty time: Camp should document policies and procedures that minimize the risk of transmission for staff concerning their permissible off-duty activities. The rules should detail expectations, training, testing, quarantine and isolation policies and procedures. Consider retesting staff upon return to camp.

# High Risk and Special Needs Populations

New for 2021

- ▶ Parents of campers are encouraged to work with their primary care provider and the camp director to determine if camp is a reasonably safe option for them.
- ▶ Camps should consider adjusting cohort ratios to ensure adequate child safety and social distancing measures may be implemented.
- ▶ For children who rely on lip reading, people in close contact can use face coverings with transparent windows. Face shields alone are not a substitute for a face covering.

# Food Service

- ▶ Camps should stagger mealtimes and ensure cohorts remain intact. Consider serving meals in separate rooms if possible and avoid congregation.
- ▶ If feasible, have campers bring their own meals.
- ▶ Clean and sanitize surfaces between each meal service.
- ▶ No self-service or buffet style dining is permitted. **Facilities may operate buffet stations if food is kept behind plexiglass or a similar barrier and an attendant serves the campers and staff.**
- ▶ Encourage proper hand washing before and after meals.
- ▶ Use disposable food service items, wherever feasible, or ensure proper cleaning of non-disposable items.

# Promote Healthy Hygiene Practices

## Non-pharmaceutical interventions

- ▶ Washing hands, covering coughs/sneezes
- ▶ Proper use/removal of face coverings, where necessary
- ▶ Have adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol (for staff and older campers who can safely use hand sanitizer), tissues, and no-touch trashcans.
- ▶ Post signs on how to stop the spread of COVID-19, properly wash hands, promote everyday protective measures, and properly wear a face covering
- ▶ Provide educational materials in advance to families for sharing with campers prior to camp and reinforce awareness at staff and camper orientation and periodically thereafter for all throughout the camp experience.
- ▶ Encourage, promote and prioritize outside activity.

# Sports and Recreational Activities

- ▶ Shall be conducted in accordance with the [Organized Sports Guidance](#)
- ▶ All swimming facilities shall operate in accordance with Executive Directive 20-031 Health and Safety Standards for Pools and Aquatic Facilities.
- ▶ Sprinkler and spray park play areas which do not use recirculated water are approved for use and are not regulated via the PRB rule
- ▶ Educate campers and staff on sports etiquette regarding social distancing and hygiene (i.e. no spitting, handshakes, etc.).
- ▶ Clean and disinfect shared equipment between use (group use). Avoid use of items that are not easily cleaned or disinfected.



# Infection Control and Monitoring

- ▶ Youth camp programs shall implement the following prevention and mitigation strategies to slow and limit COVID-19 exposure and spread:
  - ▶ Stagger arrival and drop-off times or locations by cohort (group) and limit contact between cohorts as much as possible.
  - ▶ Communicate and educate staff, parents, and campers in COVID-19 safety measures including:
    - ▶ Staying home when ill;
    - ▶ Proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette;
    - ▶ Wearing, removing and discarding face coverings;
    - ▶ Reporting illnesses and symptoms to the camp Health Director or other healthcare personnel at the camp immediately.

# Infection Control and Monitoring

## Cont'd

- ▶ Handwash and/or hand sanitizers stations shall be provided in numerous areas around the camp.
- ▶ Document cleaning and disinfection procedures and frequencies for frequently touched surfaces, and high traffic areas such as restrooms, dining areas, and indoor areas prone to congregation using EPA approved disinfectants.
- ▶ Discourage sharing of items, especially those that are difficult to clean or disinfect. If items are shared, limit use of supplies and equipment by one group of campers at a time and clean and disinfect between use.
- ▶ Consider limiting non-essential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations as much as possible. **VISITORS ARE NOT PROHIBITED**
  - ▶ Visitors are required to wear face coverings unless doing so would inhibit the individual's health. If a visitor refuses to wear a cloth face covering for non-medical reasons and if such covering cannot be provided to the individual by the business at the point of entry, the youth camp must decline entry.
  - ▶ Avoid large group events, gatherings, or meetings where social distancing of at least 6' between assigned groups and/or individuals from other groups cannot be maintained.

# Cleaning, Disinfecting and Ventilation

- ▶ This section is involved and you are encouraged to read what you need to document in your operational plans.
- ▶ Greatest questions are - with CDC recognizing surfaces aren't as much of an issues - why is this the same as last year?
  - ▶ Daily cleaning of high touch surfaces
  - ▶ Cleaning of shared items between each “group” use. This is covered in two sections of the guidance.
- ▶ Again - we pushed for early guidance - and there may be changes that come along by June.
- ▶ Follow the CDC guidance links in your operational plans.

?Questions?

