

## Day Camp Frequently Asked Questions

The frequently asked questions (FAQs) listed here are intended to supplement the [Ministry of Health COVID-19 Safety Guidelines for: Day Camps](#).

Please visit [WDGPH Camp Providers webpage](#) for additional resources for day camp operators, including links to Provincial regulations, as well as checklists and videos from Public Health Ontario.

### Programs and Activities

#### **Are campers permitted to go on day trips out to splash pads, adventure walks, etc., where no transportation is required?**

Field trips are permitted if 2 metres distancing can be maintained. If distancing from the public cannot be maintained, field trips should not be permitted. Keep in mind that if visiting a community playground or splashpad/wading pool, facilities may already have a posted capacity limit that must be adhered to in order to ensure the health and safety of all users.

#### **Are day camps permitted to bring campers to a public pool to go swimming?**

All public pools are bound by the requirements outlined in both the Public Pool Regulation 565/90 as well as the Reopening Ontario Act, specifically the [Rules for Areas in Step 3 Regulation 364/20](#). Public pools are required to post maximum capacity limits. If distancing from members of the public cannot be maintained, trips to a public pool should not be permitted. Camp operators should be aware of these restrictions prior to arriving at a public pool, camps could reach out to the operator of the recreational water facility to inquire about restrictions, as they may not be able to accommodate a large group.

#### **Is singing or the playing of brass wind instruments permitted in Step 3 of the Road Map to Reopening?**

Activities that involve singing or the playing of brass or wind instrument must be: outdoors with physical distancing of at least 2m; or, indoors with only camp participants of the same cohort, with physical distance of at least 2m and adequate ventilation. Note that the indoor requirements for camp participants to wear face coverings and staff to wear masks continue to apply during such activities (exceptions permitted when face covering needs to be removed to play an instrument).

#### **Can sport facilities offer indoor camps in Step 3?**

Sports facilities can offer indoor sport camps in Step 3 of the Road Map to Reopening. The day camp must implement all public health measures as outlined by the [Ministry of Health COVID-19 Safety Guidelines for Day Camps](#).

#### **Are outdoor sports camp cohorts limited to 10 persons as outlined in the Reopening Roadmap for Step 1?**

Day camps have permitted cohort sizes, based on age, as outlined in the [Ministry of Health COVID-19 Safety Guidelines for Day Camps](#) document.

## **Can campers play scrimmages within their cohorts without masks outside for non-contact sports in Step 3 (i.e., soccer, ball hockey, basketball)? Or are masks required?**

Yes, campers are permitted to scrimmage within their cohorts and masks are not required when outdoors. Any day camp where children participate in sports and recreational fitness activities, participants must adhere to applicable requirements set out in subsection 16(1) of Schedule 2 of Ontario Regulation 364/20.

## **Operations**

### **COVID-19 symptoms and heat-related illness symptoms are sometimes similar. How should camps respond to campers they suspect are experiencing heat-related symptoms that could also be COVID-19 symptoms?**

Staff should know the signs of heat illness and how to respond to signs of heat illness (see [Health Canada's guidance for symptoms of heat illness and how to respond](#)). Moreover, precautions should be taken in the summer months to [be prepared for heat](#) and protect children during periods of heat (see [Health Canada's guidance for protecting children from extreme heat](#)).

If symptoms are suspected to be heat-related, staff should wear full PPE and treat camp participant for heat-related illness (see [Health Canada's guidance](#)). Camp participant should still be isolated as per camp protocols for responding to a symptomatic camp participant. If symptoms have not subsided after 30 minutes of rest, hydration and cooling strategies, then the camp should proceed as though the symptoms may be COVID-19 symptoms.

For additional information about managing heat risks during COVID-19, see [Global Heat Health Information Network - Heat and COVID-19 Information Series](#)

### **If I operate a licensed day camp program and am inspected by the Ministry of Education, should I follow the Day Camp Guideline provided by the Ministry of Health or should I continue to follow the Operational Guidance for Child Care During COVID-19 Outbreak provided by the Ministry of Education?**

According to the Ministry of Health Day Camp Guideline: *“licensed child care centres must follow the COVID-19 related health and safety requirements set out in O. Reg. 137/15 under the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 (CCEYA). Additional operational guidance is provided in the Ministry of Education’s document entitled [Operational Guidance During COVID-19 Outbreak: Child Care Re-Opening, as amended from time to time](#).”* All licensed facilities remain bound by the CCEYA and its applicable regulations and guidelines. Please note that if there are any discrepancies between what is required as per the MOE Guideline and the MOH Day Camp Guideline, the most restrictive guideline should be followed.

### **Can a camp run part time throughout the week?**

Day camps must run for a minimum of one week of consecutive days. If the day camp decides to shorten the week, they are free to do so as long as they maintain the cohort and do not run another camp within the same week. For example, a day camp cannot have one cohort run from Monday to Wednesday, and

then another new cohort from Thursday to Friday, within the same calendar week. The new cohort would have to begin the following week.

**Do parents have to complete the screening daily, even if they are just dropping off their children?**

No. Parents are not required to complete the daily screening. Only campers attending camp must complete the daily screening.

**Can parents enter the building during drop off?**

No. Parents are not permitted to enter the camp setting, except for emergency purposes.

**Do we need to provide designated washrooms to each cohort?**

No, this is not a requirement. However, if multiple washrooms are available and it is feasible and reasonable to designate certain cohorts to use specific bathrooms (*i.e.*, cohorts A and B use washroom 1 and cohort C uses washrooms 2), that is preferred.

Ministry of Health Safety Guidelines do require that *“Plans should be made to prevent mixing of cohorts in washrooms/ changerooms. Signage should indicate maximum capacity and a cleaning log be recorded.”* Consequently, members of different cohorts should not be in a washroom together at the same time; capacity limits should be followed; and, as much as possible, washrooms should be cleaned between cohorts.

**Do we need to provide designated water fountains to each cohort?**

No, this is not a requirement. Ministry of Health Safety Guidelines do require that operators ensure *“water fountain use is for refilling camp staff and participants’ personal water bottles and disposable cups only”*. Consequently, water fountains should be used to fill bottles and individuals should not drink directly from the fountains.

**Can a support staff person, director or other staff not normally part of the cohort provide support to a cohort on an occasional basis? For example, to cover washroom breaks and other staff breaks? Or to help a camper requiring additional support?**

Any crossover between different cohorts should be avoided. If coverage is needed for staff breaks, an operator should have designated float staff who are not part of another cohort of campers. Float staff should limit the number of cohorts they provide coverage for as much as possible. When a staff person, who is not part of the cohort, needs to provide coverage/support to a cohort, that staff should:

- Maintain distancing
- Wear a medical mask and eye protection (see below for additional details on PPE)
- As much as possible, this coverage should occur during outdoor activities

**Can camps use whistles (indoors and/or outdoors)?**

Yes, whistles can be used by staff when outdoors, and when 2m distancing can be maintained indoors; however, alternatives that do not require the use of whistles are recommended. If whistles are used, a whistle must be designated to a single staff person and every effort should be made to ensure that a different individual does not accidentally use the whistle (*e.g.*, label with name, keep whistle on designated person at all times during the camp, etc.)

## Personal Protective Equipment

### As a staff member, when am I required to wear PPE? What PPE am I required to wear?

MEDICAL MASK must be worn:

- When indoors at all times regardless of the ability to maintain physical distance of 2m (6ft) from others unless the individual:
  - Has a medical exemption
  - Unable to put on or remove mask without assistance
  - Is eating/drinking
  - Is at their desk or workspace (for staff)
  - There is a barrier in place (for staff)
  - Is accommodated in accordance with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities act, 2005*
  - Is accommodated in accordance with the *Human Right Code*
- Outdoors when physical distancing of 2m (6ft) cannot be maintained.
- When staff conducting screening are separated from those being screened by a physical distance of 2m and/or use of a physical barrier (e.g., Plexiglas)

MEDICAL MASK AND EYE PROTECTION must be worn:

- When physical distancing cannot be maintained with an individual who is unmasked, or mask use is inconsistent.
- When providing care to a sick camper or staff member
- When staff conducting screening are NOT separated from those being screened by a physical distance of 2m or by a physical barrier (e.g., Plexiglas)

### When are campers required to wear PPE? What PPE are campers required to wear?

Campers are required to wear a non-medical mask:

- When indoors at all times regardless of the ability of maintain physical distance of 2m (6ft) of others unless the individual:
  - Has a medical exemption
  - Unable to put on or remove mask without assistance
  - is eating/drinking
  - Is at their desk or workspace (for staff)
  - There is a barrier in place (for staff)
  - Is accommodated in accordance with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities act, 2005*
  - Is accommodated in accordance with the *Human Right Code*
- Outdoors when physical distancing of 2m (6ft) cannot be maintained between two different cohorts. Masking is NOT required for camp participants within the same cohort when outdoors.

### What is considered approved eye protection?

Approved eye protection worn by staff includes safety glasses, safety goggles or a properly fitting face shield. Prescription reading glasses or side attachments for reading glasses are not approved forms of eye protection. Please note that when putting together your isolation kits to be available in your

isolation rooms, only goggles or a proper fitting face shield are permitted to be included in the isolation kit. Safety glasses are not permitted to be used when a staff member is caring for an ill individual.

### **When should staff wear gloves and gowns?**

Gloves and gowns are not routinely used or needed in camp settings. Gloves are not needed if touching frequently touched surfaces (e.g., door handles, light switches). Gloves and gowns should only be used in specific situations for specific tasks:

- A gown to protect clothing from contamination when helping ill camper or staff.
- Gloves to protect the hands from contact with body fluids and contaminated environmental surfaces when camper or staff is ill, and for cleaning purposes as per manufacturer's instructions.

## **Infection Prevention and Control**

### **How often must toys be cleaned and disinfected?**

Toys used within a single cohort must be cleaned and disinfected daily or as needed. If toys are shared between two different cohorts, toys must be cleaned between use by the different cohorts.

### **Must all campers be 2m apart while eating or drinking?**

Campers within the same cohort are not required to distance or mask while eating/drinking. Masks should be worn within indoor dining areas unless eating or drinking (i.e., individuals should leave their masks on until they start eating/drinking). Physical distancing between cohorts is required while seated at tables, physical distancing within a cohort while eating/drinking is not required.

## **Outbreak Management**

### **Who should a camp operator contact under the following circumstances?**

**When a camp has been notified of a confirmed case in their camp by a parent/guardian:** Camp operators are instructed to contact the case management team at WDGPH: 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4000

**When a camp operator identifies a symptomatic camper/staff:** Camp operators are instructed to contact the call centre at WDGPH: 1-800-265-7293 ext. 7006

Please refer to the Return to Camp Protocol for Campers/Staff with COVID-19 Symptoms on our [Camp Provider webpage](#).

**When a camp operator has general questions about daily operation:** Camp operators are instructed to contact PHI intake at WDGPH: 1-800-265-7293, ext. 4753 or [PHI.Intake@wdgpublichealth.ca](mailto:PHI.Intake@wdgpublichealth.ca)

\*In general, day camps should not report all instances of illness (staff or camp participant); however, if person is showing [symptoms of COVID-19](#), they are advised to contact WDGPH for specific advice on next steps.

## **As a camp operator, what do I need to do if a camper or staff member becomes symptomatic while attending the camp?**

### **What to do if a camper develops symptoms while at day camp:**

- Symptomatic camper must be immediately separated from others in a supervised area until they can go home. In addition, where possible, anyone who is providing care to the camper should maintain a distance of 2 metres.
  - When caring for an ill camper, staff should wear a medical mask, eye protection (safety glasses, goggles, or face shield), gown and gloves and not interact with others. Staff should also avoid contact with the child's respiratory secretions.
  - A medical mask should be worn by the camper (if tolerated).
  - Parents should be contacted immediately for the ill camper to be picked up.
- All items used by the sick person should be cleaned and disinfected.
- Environmental cleaning of the space where the camper was separated should be conducted immediately after the camper has been picked up. It should also be conducted where the camper spent his/her time at the camp.
- All household members of the symptomatic camper (including siblings who also attend the day camp) are required to self-isolate until the symptomatic child:
  - Receives a negative COVID-19 test result, or
  - Receives an alternative diagnosis by a health care provider.

### **What to do if a staff member develops symptoms while at day camp:**

- Staff who develop any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 while at work, should report to the camp operator and go home immediately. Staff should follow the direction provided in the [COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening](#) which may include being tested for COVID-19. They should be excluded from work while in self-isolation.

## **When can symptomatic campers/staff members return to camp?**

Symptomatic individuals are permitted to return to camp once one of the following three conditions have been met.

1. Negative test results have been received for COVID-19; AND
  - Symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (and no fever); AND
  - Must be able to pass [screening tool](#).
2. If a health care provider has diagnosed the symptomatic camper/staff with a condition that is not related to COVID-19; AND
  - 24 hours after their symptoms start improving (and no fever)
3. Camper/staff has isolated for 10 days from symptom onset; AND
  - Symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (and no fever); AND
  - Must be able to pass [screening tool](#).

Please refer to the Return to Camp Protocol for Campers/Staff with COVID-19 Symptoms on our [Camp Provider webpage](#).

## **What happens to the rest of the campers and staff in a cohort of a confirmed positive case of COVID-19?**

If campers and staff in a cohort are exposed to a confirmed positive case, isolation of the cohort will depend on whether the confirmed case was able to properly distance from everyone else in the cohort during their period of communicability (48 hours prior to symptom onset or if asymptomatic, 48 hours prior to test collection). If 2m distance was always maintained, then the cohort may not be required to isolate. If there is any doubt in 2m distance being maintained at all times, the cohort may be required to isolate.

\*Please note that each confirmed case within a day camp setting that is received by Public Health will be individually risk assessed to determine the appropriate follow up action required by the operator of the camp and any possible dismissal or isolation of a cohort.

If a cohort is required to isolate, the camp operator will be required to provide public health with a complete cohort list. This list must contain names and contact numbers for all the campers and staff members within the exposed cohort (parents' names should be provided for each camper as a proxy).

For additional information on individuals who are identified as high risk contacts of a confirmed case please refer to the [Guidance for Children/Staff who are High Risk Contacts of a Confirmed Positive COVID-19 Case.](#)

## **What information are camps permitted to share once a positive case is confirmed?**

Once a positive case is identified, the case management team with Public Health will provide camps with instructions on how to proceed. Every effort should be made to ensure that privacy is maintained by avoiding the disclosure of details that may lead to identification of the confirmed case.