

Austin Public Health Recommendations for Youth & Summer Camp Programs

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides a [decision tool](#) to help Youth & Summer Camp Programs decide whether they are prepared to open and operate safely. If open, Youth & Summer Camp Programs should operate in accordance with the [Considerations for Youth and Summer Camps](#) guidance released by the CDC.

The City of Austin and Austin Public Health (APH) have the following additional recommendations of best practices for Youth and Summer Camp programs to consider implementing. These recommendations are not intended to be comprehensive guidance. Rather, these recommendations are designed to supplement the [Minimum Standards Health Protocols Check List for Day Youth Camp Operators and Staff](#) released by Governor Abbott on May 18, 2020. Following these supplementary recommendations to the greatest extent possible will further minimize the risk of coronavirus transmission and help keep staff, children, and families safe.

APH also strongly encourages camps to consult [COVID-19 Risk-Based Guidelines chart](#) which provides recommendations related to face coverings, gathering sizes, non-essential travel, and other ways to stay safe during the pandemic based on the stages of risk. The latest local information, including local control orders, on COVID-19 can be found at this City of Austin web site: www.austintexas.gov/covid19.

Face Coverings

- It is strongly recommended that the following people wear fabric face coverings:
 - All camper staff
 - Parents and guardians dropping off and picking up campers
 - Campers over the age of 6
- A face covering should not be worn by anyone who cannot take it off without assistance.
- Staff should use their best judgement to determine if campers should remove face coverings in these situations:
 - When face coverings inhibit campers from breathing freely while engaging in outdoor physical activity
 - During extreme heat when a face covering could contribute to a greater risk of heat-related illness

Screening

- It is strongly recommended that, in addition to screening for the signs and symptoms listed in the [Minimum Standard Health Protocols for Day Youth Camp Operators and Staff](#):
 - Camps consider following the interim guidance on screening from the American Camp Association found [here](#)
 - Campers and staff be screened upon arrival to camp (daily for day camps)
 - Camps reference and implement procedures to protect staff conducting health screenings such as those detailed in the [CDC's screening method examples](#)
- **The City of Austin has updated local guidance on the screening temperature for child care and summer camps to align with the new temperature released by the state on May 18, 2020.**
 - **Deny entry to any adult or child with a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit.**

Testing

- It is strongly recommended that staff exhibiting new or worsening symptoms of possible COVID-19 seek a COVID-19 test. Enrollment for free public testing can be found at www.austintexas.gov/covid19.

Recommendations for Youth & Summer Camp Programs

Group Sizes, Gatherings & Events

- Because the [Minimum Standard Health Protocols for Day Youth Camp Operators and Staff](#), did not specify group sizes, it is strongly recommended that camps not exceed the ratio and group size limits specified in the [Minimum Standard Health Protocols for Child Care Centers](#).
- Youth and summer camp programs are strongly encouraged to further reduce group sizes beyond those protocols. Keeping group sizes as small as possible reduces the risk of coronavirus exposure and spread. Reference the [COVID-19 Risk-Based Guidelines chart](#).
- It is strongly recommended that youth and summer camp programs:
 - Not hold group gatherings, events, or assemblies
 - Not invite outside visitors or guests whose presence or service is not essential

Field trips

- It is strongly recommended that youth and summer camp programs:
 - Not take field trips to locations where campers will come in contact with large groups of people or many people crowded together
 - Consider planning walking field trips rather than trips requiring transport in vehicles
- Walking trips to nearby outdoor natural spaces are a safer option than field trips to indoor locations.

Transportation

- If transport is provided, in addition to the state Minimum Standard Health Protocols on transportation for camps, it is strongly recommended that staff:
 - Screen all passengers before they enter the vehicle
 - Follow the American Camp Association Interim Guidance on Transportation To or From Camp found [here](#) and Interim Guidance on Travel by Bus or Van found [here](#)

Sick Staff Members or Campers

- Immediately separate staff and campers with COVID-19 [symptoms](#) (such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath) at camp. Individuals who are sick should go home and or to a healthcare facility depending on how severe their symptoms are. Please refer to the CDC guidelines on Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick found [here](#).
- Call the Austin Public Health Nurse Line at 512-972-5560 to:
 - Ask questions about suspected or potential cases of COVID-19
 - Ask questions about COVID-19 exposure of staff, campers, or families
 - Report any laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 among campers or staff
- The Nurse Line staff will advise camps on next steps regarding suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- It is strongly recommended that staff keep daily logs for each stable group that conform to the following requirements to support Austin Public Health in conducting contact tracing of cases if necessary: camper name, drop/off pick up time, adult completing both drop/off pick up, all staff that interact with stable group of campers (including floater staff), hours camper was in attendance.