

PARD On-Site Programming Participation Guidelines COVID-19 Events

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) will offer modified summer programming in accordance with the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Austin Public Health (APH), and State guidelines for operating youth programs and services camps to assist them in protecting children participants from COVID-19.

This document covers COVID-19 modifications to the existing PARD Youth Programs Parent Handbook. Please review the Youth Programs Parent Handbook for more detailed information regarding PARD program responsibilities and guidelines.

The program schedule may be **changed or cancelled** at any time based on the business need of the City of Austin/PARD or public health safety concerns.

Risk for Exposure

While precautions will be taken and guidelines followed, this cannot eliminate the inherent risks for exposure to COVID 19 that are associated with being around other individuals who are outside one's household. The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages. While the risk of serious illness or loss of life is greatest in those 65 years of age or older with pre-existing health conditions, persons in every age group can become infected with COVID-19 and some may become seriously ill or even die.

Modified Programming and Schedule

Modified summer programming will include indoor and outside activities, physical activities, arts and crafts, games, nature education and various other fun activities. Physical activities will include but not be limited to running, jumping, changing directions quickly, throwing, catching and climbing activities. Please note the need for program modification on the registration waiver so that PARD-Inclusion Services can be notified. Per the guidelines of Austin Public Health, CDC and both local and state authorities, all participants will be required to thoroughly sanitize or wash their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds prior to entering the program area. Participants will be required to wash/sanitize their hands throughout the day as well prior to eating, after visiting the restroom, after returning indoors from playing outside, and following any exposure to respiratory droplets such as coughing or sneezing. Social distancing will also be required of all participants throughout the program. Participants will be placed in one small group, or cohort, and stay with that group throughout the day/week. Cohorts and their assigned staff will not be mixed throughout the day/week.

Behavior Guidelines

PARD reserves the right to remove any participant from a program or facility without warning when it is determined that the participant's behavior poses a direct threat to other participants, themselves and/or staff. Practicing and maintaining social distance and hygiene is an expected behavior and any disregard or inability to follow will result in removal from the program.

Registration Waivers

It is imperative that parents/guardians fully complete the program registration/waiver form for each participant and include any medical conditions that will impact participation in the program. To ensure safety of the participant, please provide notification of any modification that the participant may require under the Americans with Disability Act (ADA).

Prescreening Prior to Participation

All On-Site Programs

- If you have someone at home who is considered high risk (heart condition, elderly, lung issues, etc.) consider the risk prior to participating.

- **Parents/guardians must answer general COVID-19 Health Question each day to satisfy admission into the program. If the answer to any of these questions is “yes”, you and/or your child(ren) will not be able to participate.**
- It is strongly recommended that all youth program participants over the age of six (6) wear cloth face covering (mask) and must be provided by parent/guardian.
Face covering should not be worn by someone who cannot remove it without assistance or if it inhibits breathing freely while engaging in activities.
- All program participants must wash/sanitize hands at a designated station(s) upon entering the program area or facility each day.
- All program participants must maintain and practice social distance and hygiene while participating in the program.
- All program participants should bring their own water bottles.

Indoor Youth Camp Programs (Stay Playful!)

- Parents/guardians are required to pick up and drop off youth participants outside of the facility. Entry will only be granted in a legitimate and/or emergency basis. Youth program participants will be escorted into the facility by PARD staff.
- All youth programming participants will have their temperature checked prior to entering camp. **Should their temperature exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit, they will not be able to participate.**

Illness within the Program

Any participant who is sick, has a positive confirmed case of COVID-19, or showing signs of sickness such as a fever, cough, or shortness of breath, to stay home and not attend programming. Individuals experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should contact their health care provider for immediate assistance. All positive confirmed cases of COVID-19 should be reported to PARD program staff immediately.

Should a participant start to feel ill, or begin to show symptoms of COVID-19 during PARD programming, the following steps will be taken:

- Participant will immediately be separated from the group and moved to a designated isolated area away from others
- Parents/Guardians will be contacted immediately and asked to pick up the ill individual
- All individuals will be provided APH contact information for assistance with health monitoring and access to COVID-19 testing

If a participant has symptoms of COVID-19, or is a close contact of someone with COVID-19, they may be permitted to return to PARD programming only when the following conditions are met:

- If the participant has had a fever, cough, or shortness of breath and has not been around anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, they should stay home and away from others until 72 hours after the fever is gone and symptoms resolved. If symptoms worsen during that time, contact your healthcare provider to determine if they should be tested for COVID-19.
- If a participant is diagnosed with COVID-19, they must remain out of the facility for a minimum of ten (10) days after the onset of first symptoms. The participant may return under the following conditions:
 - If they had a fever, 3 days after the fever ends AND they see an improvement in their initial symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath); or
 - Ten (10) days after symptom onset
- If a participant believes they have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 but are not currently sick or showing symptoms, they should monitor their health for fever, cough or shortness of breath during the 14 days after they last had contact with the sick person with COVID-19. Public gatherings, such as camp and participation in programs, should be avoided for 14 days.

If Positive Case is Confirmed with a Program Participant or Staff

PARD staff will follow guidelines set forth by the CDC, APH, local and state authorities. If a COVID-19 exposure or risk occurs in any of our programs, health authorities will be notified and PARD will follow their directives which may include cancelation of programs and closing the facility immediately for deep cleaning, quarantine of staff and participants in their own homes and other steps as required. All parents/guardians will be notified of any confirmed COVID-19 exposure and recommendations to follow at the time PARD receives confirmation.