

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) Day Camps

Guidance for Day Camps during COVID-19

May 21, 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic is evolving rapidly, and this guidance is subject to change. This document provides guidance for the potential opening of summer day camps. Please note that summer day camps are subject to approval from Dr. Joyce Lock, Medical Officer of Health. Please visit the Southwestern Public Health website www.swpublichealth.ca regularly for updates and additional information.

Emergency Orders

- **Emergency orders are in effect and are subject to change. Please familiarize yourself with these orders by visiting the [Emergency Information page on Ontario.ca](#) for the current status.**
- Do not visit playgrounds, splashpads, sporting fields or other outdoor recreational areas with children if an emergency order mandating their closure is in effect. Alternatively, play outside (if able) or go for a walk while maintaining safe physical distancing (2 meters from other people).

Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water is not available.
- Hand washing stations should be stocked with hot and cold running water, soap in a dispenser, paper towel and a waste bin equipped with a disposable liner. Avoid use of cloth towels to prevent contamination of washed hands.
- Supervise young children when they use hand sanitizer to prevent swallowing.
- Incorporate additional hand hygiene opportunities into the daily schedule. Young children may require hand washing assistance.
- Cover your cough and sneezes with a tissue and put dirty tissue in the garbage. If you do not have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your sleeve, not your hands. Wash your hands after coughing or sneezing.

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- Avoid getting close to faces of all children, where possible.

Cleaning and Disinfection

- Follow standard protocols for routine cleaning and disinfection. In addition to routine cleaning, high touch surfaces like doorknobs, light switches, toys, games, and handrails should be cleaned and disinfected twice daily.
- Toys that cannot be cleaned and sanitized should not be used (e.g. plush toys). Children's books, and other paper-based materials such as envelopes, are not considered high risk for transmission and do not need additional cleaning or disinfection procedures.
- The use of water fountains is not recommended at this time. We recommend using an alternate source of water that can be used for drinking (e.g. tap water for cups).
- Common cleaners and disinfectants are effective against COVID-19. Disinfectants with a Drug Identification Number are approved for use in Canada.
- Cleaning products should not be used near children, and staff should ensure there is adequate ventilation when using these products to prevent children and themselves from inhaling toxic fumes.
- Always follow manufacturers direction for cleaners and disinfectants. Do not combine or mix cleaners and disinfectants.
- See fact sheet for [cleaning and disinfection in public settings](#).

General Safety and Physical Distancing

- Avoid close greetings like hugs or handshakes and remind children to keep their hands to themselves.
- Day camps must have procedures for staff safety, including measures for infection prevention and control.
- Encourage more physical space between children by spreading children out into different areas, limiting the number of children enrolled, alternating or staggering lunchtime and outdoor playtime, and incorporating more individual activities that encourage space between children. Keep enough toys out to encourage individual play.
- Items that may encourage group play in close proximity should be avoided.
- Reinforce "no food sharing" policies. If meals or snacks are provided, ensure each child has their own meal or snack. Multi-use utensils must be sanitized according to [Food Premises Regulations](#).

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- If food is provided, avoid the use of buffet-style service where it may be difficult to implement social distancing and children may contaminate the food during self-service. [Note: if food is provided, the camp falls under the above regulations and must be inspected by a Public Health Inspector.](#)
- Pick-up and drop-off of children should happen outside the camp setting unless it is determined that the parent/guardian needs to enter the setting. We recommend having a staff member meet the child at the vehicle while parents remain in the vehicle to reduce potential exposure.

Screening

- All individuals including children, parents/guardians, and staff must be screened upon arrival. Entry must be denied to any individual who has [symptoms of COVID-19](#).
- Screeners should take appropriate precautions when screening, including maintaining a distance of at least two metres from those being screened or being separated by physical barriers.

If Children or Staff Become Ill

- If a staff member becomes ill while at work, they must immediately go home and isolate.
- Staff should call their healthcare provider, Telehealth (1-866-797-0000), or complete the [online self-assessment](#) to determine next steps.
- The camp must have a protocol in place to notify parents/guardians if their child begins to show symptoms of COVID-19 while in care, including the need for immediate pick up.
- Symptomatic children must be immediately separated and supervised until they get picked up.
- Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette should be practiced while the child is waiting to be picked up. Tissues should be provided to the children for proper respiratory etiquette, along with proper disposal of the tissues.
- Environmental cleaning of the space that the child was separated in must occur once the child is picked up.
- Day camps within the [Child Care and Early Years act, 2014](#) have a duty to report suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 under the [Health Promotion and Protection Act](#). The camp must contact Southwestern Public Health to report a suspected COVID-

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19 case. SWPH will provide specific advice on what measures should be implemented to prevent further spread and how to monitor for other possible infected staff or children.

Personal Protective Equipment

- Personal protective equipment such as masks, gloves, and gowns are not recommended for use in this setting. They are only recommended for healthcare workers, and those with other non-infectious occupational health exposures.
 - A mask may be given to a person who is experiencing respiratory symptoms such as a sneeze or cough on the advice of a health care provider.
 - Masks are not recommended for use by young children unless advised to do so by a health care provider. Masks can be irritating to children and may lead to increased touching of the face.
 - See [information on the use of non-medical masks](#).
- The use of gloves is not recommended by the public during daily activities. Glove use does not replace the need to practice hand hygiene.
 - Disposable plastic gloves can be used instead of bare hands, but gloves will pick up microorganisms the same way hands do.
 - Make sure you wash your hands before and after using gloves, and always use a new pair of disposable plastic gloves when you change tasks or after any potential contamination. Used disposable gloves must be discarded immediately.

Additional Resources

- Visit www.swpublichealth.ca for additional information related to splash pad and pool use, children and COVID-19, and general health and safety information for workplaces.
- [Cover your Cough](#)- poster PDF
- [Wash your hands](#)- poster PDF
- [Hand Washing How-To](#)- poster PDF
- [Hand Sanitizer How-To](#)- poster PDF
- [Visitor Screening](#)- sign PDF
- [Physical Distancing](#)- sign PDF