

Overnight Group Summer Camps and Similar Activities COVID-19 Requirements

Summary of June 21, 2021 changes:

- Requires overnight group and family camps to follow CDC guidance for operating youth camps
- Removes guidance related to these issues, which are covered by CDC guidance:
 - o Out of state campers
 - o Outdoor programming
 - o Cleaning and handwashing
 - o Off-site trips
- Adds employer requirements
- Revises safety and health requirements
- Revises pre-arrival quarantine and testing for unvaccinated campers and staff
- Specifies how to verify vaccination status
- Removes arrival and departure cohort overlap restrictions, as these should be understood as part of effective cohorting
- Removes overall camp capacity restrictions
- Modifies maximum cohort size
- Modifies facial covering requirements
- Simplifies eating requirements, including alignment with CDC
- Specifies following CDC ventilation guidance
- Revises guidance for staff and counselors leaving camp during time off
- Adds information on what to do if someone gets sick at camp
- Adds information on contact tracing and cooperation with public health
- Modifies requirements for overnight family cohort camps

Included Here:

- Overnight group camps
- All other activities substantially similar in operation and equally able to meet the requirements in this memorandum.

Not included here:

- Outdoor recreation

COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

For employers:

1. Adopt a written COVID-19 procedure at least as strict as the requirements of the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries available [here](#) and in accordance with Washington State Department of Health guidance for businesses available [here](#). Businesses must comply with [Washington State Department of Labor & Industries guidance, requirements, and policies](#).

2. Designate a site-specific COVID-19 supervisor to monitor and enforce the COVID-19 safety plan. A copy of the plan must be available at all locations and available for inspection by state and local authorities.

Safety and Health Requirements

All employers have a general obligation to maintain a safe and healthy workplace in accordance with state and federal law and safety and health rules for a variety of workplace hazards. Employers must specifically ensure operations follow the main Labor & Industries COVID-19 requirements to protect workers. COVID-19 workplace and safety requirements can be found [here](#).

Additional information is available at [Novel Coronavirus Outbreak \(COVID-19\) Resources](#) and [Paid Leave under the Washington Family Care Act and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#).

Specific guidelines for overnight group summer camps and similar activities:

1. Camp operators must follow CDC [Guidance for Operating Youth Camps](#) and the following Washington State guidelines.
2. All campers and staff must do one of the following before arriving at camp: 1) be fully vaccinated, OR 2) quarantine for 72 hours prior to arrival at camp and receive a negative COVID-19 test no more than 72 hours prior to arrival at camp. Public health recommends conducting a rapid antigen test of all unvaccinated campers and staff upon arrival if resources permit. Check with local public health to determine if such resources exist. Details on quarantining can be found at the [Department of Health's website](#). Anyone unable to meet one of these two conditions is not allowed to participate in camp. For the purposes of this guidance, people are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 ≥ 2 weeks after they have received a second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or ≥ 2 weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson (J&J)/Janssen). Verification of vaccination or test results is required. Documentation of COVID-19 vaccination must be an official record, such as COVID-19 vaccination record card, documentation from a healthcare provider electronic health record or state Immunization Information System.
3. Camps are responsible for locating free COVID-19 testing opportunities for campers who may not otherwise have access.
4. Facial covering guidance depends on vaccination status and indoor versus outdoor setting. Vaccination status must be verified before arriving at camp.

Indoors: All campers must wear facial coverings indoors regardless of vaccination status unless eating or sleeping. Unvaccinated staff must wear facial coverings indoors unless eating or sleeping. Vaccinated staff must wear facial coverings indoors if children under the age of 18 are present, but they do not need to wear facial coverings indoors if no children are present and vaccination status has been verified. Any person who chooses to wear a mask should be supported in doing so.

Outdoors: Masks are not required outdoors, regardless of vaccination status. Masks are strongly recommended for unvaccinated individuals when outdoors in crowded places or when in close contact with people from outside their household for a sustained period of time, as the risk of COVID-19 infection increases with the duration and closeness of contact between individuals. A place might be considered crowded when individuals are unable to maintain physical distance from each other. Programs, organizations, or businesses can choose to require masks, and individuals can choose to wear masks, regardless of vaccination status.

- Masks may be recommended or required for public health protection in certain circumstances, such as outbreaks or areas with high rates of transmission.

- [L&I directives](#) to protect worker safety still apply.
 - Employers cannot prevent employees from wearing a face mask if they choose ([SB 5254](#)).
 - It is important for individuals at [higher risk of becoming severely ill](#) from SAR-CoV-2 infection to take preventive measures for COVID-19 such as vaccination, wearing a mask, social distancing, practicing hand hygiene.
 - While vaccinations and ongoing precautions have helped reduce the infection rate, it is important to remember that children under the age of 12 are not yet able to be vaccinated.
 - Any person who chooses to wear a mask should be supported in doing so.
5. No visitors to camp are allowed; parents or guardians are allowed to enter camp only in the case of medical emergencies or when needed to bring home a camper early.
 6. Guidance for leaving camp depends on whether staff live on the property during camp and vaccination status. All staff should follow L&I guidance.
 - Unvaccinated counselors and staff who live on the camp property during camp are not permitted to leave camp on days or nights off. If unvaccinated staff leave in between camp sessions, they must repeat the entry requirements by quarantining for 72 hours prior to arrival at camp and receiving a negative COVID-19 test no more than 72 hours prior to arrival at camp. Public health recommends conducting a rapid antigen test of all unvaccinated staff upon arrival before interaction with other staff and campers if resources permit.
 - Unvaccinated staff who don't live on the camp property during camp should follow L&I guidance, including all prevention measures (e.g., facial covering, distancing).
 - Vaccinated staff may leave the camp on time off as long as camps make them aware of the best practices they can independently follow to mitigate spread during time they spend off camp property.
 7. "Activity Pods" are defined by the number of individuals sleeping in a cabin or tent. Activity pods may be combined for outdoor activities, not to exceed 30 individuals. These should remain constant for daytime activities.
 8. All campers must have at least 6 feet physical distance from other camper's heads in sleep facilities, such as beds, bunks, cots or tent sleeping areas. Bedding should be arranged head-to-toe. The addition of partitions between beds is not an acceptable substitute for 6 feet of physical distance between head and toe
 9. If indoor eating is necessary due to poor weather, facilities are encouraged to maximize ventilation and follow [CDC distancing guidance](#).
 10. For transportation to and from camp: Encourage only those in the same household to travel together, and if not in the same household, travel in separate vehicles if possible. For travel groups, (groups that include more than one household in the same vehicle whether in a carpool or on a bus) all members of the travel group, including the driver, must wear a face covering and spread out as much as possible within the vehicle. Encourage family members to sit together. Maximize ventilation in the vehicle by opening windows.
 11. Bus or shuttle transportation to or from camp or transportation within camp sessions for activities must follow the [childcare transportation guidance](#). Note: masks are required of all people, regardless of vaccination status, when using public transportation.
 12. Daily symptom screenings are required for campers and staff. Refer to [childcare guidance](#) section on health screening for details.
 13. Camps must follow guidelines such as [sporting activities](#), [performing arts](#), and [water recreation](#)

when campers engage in these activities.

14. Camp operators should follow CDC guidance for ventilation in the [Guidance for Operating Youth Camps](#).
15. Follow [CDC Guidance for Operating Youth Camps](#) when someone gets sick. When a camp operator learns of a camper or staff member with COVID-19 or an outbreak of COVID-19 at the camp, the camp operator or COVID-19 designated supervisor should notify the local health jurisdiction. A [list of local health jurisdiction \(LHJ\) contacts](#) can be found on the DOH website.
16. Cooperation with public health in the investigation of cases, suspected cases, outbreaks, and suspected outbreaks of COVID-19 is required ([WAC 246-101-425](#) and [Governor's Proclamation 20-25.13](#)). In order to assist with contact tracing in the event of a possible exposure, keep a roster of staff, campers, and visitors in attendance at camp overall and at individual activities, including transportation if individuals were transported anywhere together. Records should include contact information for all individuals. Records to assist with contact tracing must be kept on file for 28 days after each camp session. In order to assist with case investigation and contact tracing, be prepared to provide local health jurisdictions with information for all campers and staff with COVID-19. This information about campers and staff may include, but is not limited to name, date of birth, role (camper, staff), parent or guardian name, phone number (or phone number of parent or guardian), home address, sleeping location and areas visited at the camp, dates of camp attendance, type of COVID-19 test, date of positive test, date of symptom onset, medical conditions, preferred language spoken, and information about any close contacts of the camper or staff with COVID-19.

Guidance for overnight family cohort camps

1. Camps who operate with only family cohorts of family members and caregivers must follow CDC [Guidance for Operating Youth Camps](#) and the following Washington State guidelines.
2. Overnight family cohort camps must treat family/caregiver groups as cohorts with only a single cohort per cabin or sleeping quarters.
3. Overnight family cohort camps must follow the above guidance for overnight group summer camps and similar activities, with the following modifications:
 - Campers and staff are not required to either be fully vaccinated or quarantine and receive a negative COVID-19 test before arrival at camp.
 - Facial coverings for campers and staff not required outdoors. Outside of their family cohort all campers must wear facial coverings indoors regardless of vaccination status unless eating or sleeping. Campers are still subject to the [exemption from face coverings for a medical condition or mental health condition](#). When campers are within their family cohorts indoors, masks are not required, regardless of their vaccination status.
 - Unvaccinated staff must wear facial coverings indoors unless eating or sleeping. Vaccinated staff must wear facial coverings indoors if children under the age of 18 are present, but they do not need to wear facial coverings indoors if no children are present and vaccination status has been verified. Any person who chooses to wear a mask should be supported in doing so.
 - Camp operators should limit the number of family cohorts in any indoor facility at any one time. If not feasible, for example due to inclement weather, appropriate distancing and masking in accordance with the above indoor masking guidance for overnight family cohorts must be used, unless campers are unable wear face coverings for health reasons.
 - Sleeping cohorts cannot be combined to create daytime cohorts.