

# STAGE 3: GUIDANCE FOR CAMPS

## Overview

Good public health practices can minimize transmission of respiratory infections, including COVID-19, influenza and common colds. These practices include: proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, enhanced cleaning and disinfecting and staying home when sick.

This document has been developed to support operators/organizers of day and overnight camps in reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among attendees (including workers, campers, volunteers and the general public) by providing options to integrate good public health practices into ongoing operations. The strategies included are built on lessons learned and strategies that were successful throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Businesses and entities should promote COVID-19 vaccination to staff, volunteers and attendees and other eligible persons as part of their public health strategy.

All Albertans are required to follow all applicable Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) orders.

## COVID-19 Risk Mitigation

<b>General Guidance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Operators are encouraged to review and incorporate measures from this guidance and the General Guidance for COVID-19 and Other Respiratory Infections into their operating procedures, where appropriate.</li><li>• Operators should notify families of attendees of the steps being taken to prevent the risk of transmission, and the importance of their roles in these measures.</li></ul>
<b>Camps for Children Aged 11 And Under</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children aged 11 and under are not currently eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine, and as a result are at greater risk for infection and disease transmission.</li><li>• Due to this, it is strongly recommended that camp operators who work with children aged 11 and under implement additional measures, which may include:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ the precautions outlined in this guidance;</li><li>○ limiting activities which produce more respiratory particles, especially indoors; and</li><li>○ using a group-based approach to limit close contacts, strictly limiting the size of each group and ensuring that there is no interaction between groups of children.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Spacing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wherever possible, allow for 2 metres spacing between individuals, particularly in indoor settings, communal dining halls, and communal accommodation.</li></ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operators are encouraged to plan activities and schedules that allows camp participants to spread out in their groups and to have distance between groups. This can include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Moving activities outdoors or into larger venues;</li> <li>○ Limiting the number of campers who can participate in an activity at a time;</li> <li>○ Setting up staggered meal and shower times for groups of campers; and/or</li> <li>○ Expanding the number of accommodation options available.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Limiting Close Contacts</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If Alberta Health Services determines a COVID-19 case attended the camp during their infectious period, all campers and staff who had interactions with the infected person will be considered close contacts, and be required to quarantine as per current <a href="#">quarantine requirements</a>.</li> <li>• Options to limit the number of close contacts a camper would have could include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Organizing campers into groups that eat, sleep, and do activities together for the duration of the camp;</li> <li>○ Assigning camp staff to a specific group or limited number of groups for the duration of the camp;</li> <li>○ Limiting the number of people who can participate in an activity at a time;</li> <li>○ Moving activities to larger facilities or outdoors, where possible; and/or</li> <li>○ Encouraging parents and guardians to limit the number of camps in which their children are enrolled.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Contact Tracing</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operators are encouraged to collect the names and contact information for all attendees and visitors (e.g., participant caregivers) to assist in contacting close contacts, in the event that an attendee tests positive or an outbreak is identified.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Hand and Respiratory Hygiene</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraging staff and campers to practice frequent and thorough hand hygiene can help prevent the spread of respiratory disease. Consider measures such as:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Providing hand washing stations or hand sanitizer in convenient locations around camp, and particularly in dining areas and washrooms.</li> <li>○ Incorporating hand washing into camp schedules and routine.</li> <li>○ Training staff to practice proper hand hygiene and to encourage campers to do the same.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Programs should adhere to handwashing guidelines outlined in the <a href="#">AHS Health and Safety Guidelines Child Care Guidelines</a>.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operators offering hand sanitizer should ensure that it contains at least 60% alcohol.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If hand sanitizers are being used with younger children, safety protocols should be in place to prevent ingestion hazards.</li> <li>○ If parents have questions about their child using alcohol-based hand sanitizer they should discuss potential alternatives with the operator.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Inform children and staff of expectations for proper respiratory etiquette (e.g., sneezing into the elbow or a tissue, discarding the tissue immediately into a lined bin, performing hand hygiene).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Shared Equipment and Materials</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider increasing the frequency of cleaning and disinfection of equipment, toys or other materials that are shared by multiple campers or groups of campers.</li> <li>• Assign each group its own equipment or materials, where possible.</li> <li>• Encourage campers to perform hand hygiene before and after handling shared equipment.</li> <li>• Discourage children from bringing non-essential personal items from home.</li> <li>• Equipment or supplies that must be brought from home for a child’s day-to-day use should not be used by anyone other than the child.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Screening and Response Plan</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff and campers should self-screen or be screened for COVID-19 symptoms by a staff member, parent or guardian each day that they attend the camp, at the start of the day, using the applicable checklist for their age group (<a href="#">Child Alberta Health Daily Checklist</a> or <a href="#">Adult Alberta Health Daily Checklist</a>).</li> <li>• Operators are strongly encouraged to have policies around campers that are showing symptoms of COVID-19. These policies could include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Not allowing symptomatic individuals to attend camp;</li> <li>○ Offering rapid testing, if available; and/or</li> <li>○ If a camper becomes symptomatic onsite, keeping them apart from other attendees and arranging for them to return home immediately.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Programs are encouraged to keep records of a camper’s known pre-existing conditions.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Written confirmation by a physician that a camper’s or staff member’s symptoms are due to a chronic illness is not necessary.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>COVID-19 Testing</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapid antigen COVID-19 testing is not required for staff, campers or other attendees at camps; however, it is one strategy for reducing the risk of COVID-19 in camp settings. If offering testing, operators should:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Follow manufacturer’s instructions when completing rapid COVID-19 testing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Test at the intake portion of the camp, prior to parents/guardians leaving.</li> <li>● Any individuals who tests positive for COVID-19 must stay apart from all other attendees, and commence isolation as soon as possible.</li> <li>● Testing should not be offered to any person who has been a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 in the previous 90 days.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Operators should encourage caregivers to disclose any positive COVID-19 tests the participant has had which occurred in the 90 days preceding the start of camp.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● All COVID-19 testing is to be completed and reported in accordance with <a href="#">Guidance for Industry-Initiated COVID-19 Testing</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>Staff and Volunteers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Operators are encouraged to train staff on their camp’s policies for physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, cleaning and disinfecting, and any other updated policies or procedures related to preventing transmission of COVID-19.</li> </ul>
<b>Masking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Camp operators should assess the risk and adopt mask-wearing, if appropriate, to reduce the risk of transmission in indoor spaces.</li> <li>● Use of masks by program staff can be considered based on a staff member’s personal assessment of their risk of contracting COVID-19.</li> <li>● Children attending a child care program are not required to wear a mask while at child care but should be supported to wear one if their parent prefers.</li> <li>● If masks are worn, Alberta Health mask guidance should be followed and can be found here: <a href="http://www.alberta.ca/masks">www.alberta.ca/masks</a>.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Once a mask has been removed, it should be thrown in a lined trash bin (disposable masks) or placed in a sealed container to be laundered (reusable masks).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Transportation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Operators, staff and participants are expected to follow CMOH Orders for masking when using publicly accessible transit, taxis or commercial ride shares.</li> <li>● Children should be assigned seats and a record of this seating plan should be kept in order to assist with contact tracing should a child test positive for COVID-19. Children who live in the same household should be seated together.</li> <li>● Operators should develop procedures for loading, unloading and transfers that support physical distancing of 2 metres between all persons (except household members) when possible. This may include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Children start Loading from the back to the front of the vehicle.</li> <li>○ Children from the same household may share seats.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Children start unloading from the front to the back of vehicle.</li><li>● If a child becomes symptomatic during the trip, a face mask should be made available. The driver will contact the day home to make the appropriate arrangements for the child to be picked up (see screening and response plan above).</li><li>● Vehicle cleaning and records:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Enhance the frequency of cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces, such as door handles, child seats, window areas, rails, steering wheel, mobile devices and GPS prior to each run.</li><li>○ It is recommended that vehicle cleaning logs be kept.</li></ul></li></ul>
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This document and the guidance within it is subject to change and will be updated as needed.

Last Revised: June 2021