



## **Keeping safety in mind as we open camp in 2021**

Commissioner Beth Bye, of the State of Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC), has stated that it's important for camps to continue to meet their mission to assist children and families by providing 'critical childcare for frontline workers' and 'critical experiences for children' during this public health crisis.

Under the guidance of the OEC, we have made this decision to open our camp doors for our traditional weekly residential camp and new this year, day camp! We will continue to follow the state regulations and currently follow the guidance provided in the most recent memo from the OEC. [COVID-19-Memo-36-OEC-DPH-Joint-Memo-Child-Care-Youth-Camps](#)

### **Prior to attending HC4-H Camp**

All campers, staff and volunteers will be required to participate in a health screening before coming to camp. This will include the following questions:

1. Has your family traveled out of state in the last 14 days?
2. Have you been in "close contact" with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days? "Close contact" is defined as closer than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes.
3. Do you have any of the following symptoms: cough, sore throat, fever, shortness of breath, diarrhea or loss of sense of taste or smell?
4. Have you had a fever within the last 72 hours?
5. Have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days?

If a camper, staff, teen counselor, or board volunteer answers yes to any of the above questions they will be asked follow up questions and may not be allowed to participate, attend or work at Hartford County 4-H Camp.

If you have any reason to believe that your child has a greater health risk due to a medical condition or underlying health concern you should seek medical advice before considering sending your child to camp. Parents/Guardians of campers that are at higher risk you must consult your medical provider to determine if attendance is acceptable. For full details on Higher Risk people visit the CDC website [here](#).

You need to make the right choice for your family. If you have someone in your home that is in an 'at risk' category, you should carefully consider whether sending your child to camp is the best choice at this time.

The state has required Youth Camps to have all campers and staff sign an Informed Consent. [Click here to view the Informed Consent Form](#). You will be required to sign this form when you register your camper on Campsite.

## **Symptoms & Understanding the Spread**

All staff will be trained to understand the symptoms and understand the spread of COVID-19. People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of reported symptoms – from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms or combinations of symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Cough
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle Pain
- Headache
- Sore Throat
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Or at least two of these symptoms
  - Fever
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Chills

Children have similar symptoms to adults and generally have mild illness. This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

### **Person-to-person spread**

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet)
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- Some recent studies have suggestions that Covid-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.
- Maintaining good social distance (at least 6 feet) is very important in preventing the spread of Covid-19.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol based hand rub. Also, routinely clean frequently touched surfaces.

### **Spread from contact with contaminated surfaces or objects**

It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes. This is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads, but we are still learning more about this virus.

## **Screening & Preventing COVID-19 Infections**

### **Overnight Check In**

On Sunday parents should check in at a designated registration location. There may be staggered registration times to increase social distancing. We ask that only 1 parent/guardian come to camp for registration. You will receive a 'Check In' email a few days prior to your session that will direct you exactly when and where to drop off. All parents and campers are required to wear appropriate face coverings during drop off. We ask that parents do not linger on the property after setting up their camper in the cabins.

### **Day Camp Check In *\*New Program\****

On Mondays parents should check in at a designated registration location. You will receive a 'Check In' email a few days prior to your session that will direct you exactly where and when to drop off. Depending on how many campers there may be staggered arrival times.

On Tuesday - Friday parents should never have to get out of their car during check in and check out. It is recommended that the same person picks up and drops off each day, and are asked to wear a face covering.

Every day parents will be asked to confirm their answers to the [Covid-19 Screening Questionnaire](#). At drop off a staff member will highlight who is dropping off/picking up the child from the list of 'Authorized Adults' provided by the parent. The child will be required to take a 'pump' of hand sanitizer on the way to meet their group.

### **Sick children and staff are to stay home.**

We are required to communicate to parents the importance of keeping children home when they are sick. We are required to communicate to staff the importance of being vigilant for symptoms and staying in touch with camp leadership if or when they start to feel sick.

While attending Camp, families and staff are encouraged to limit their interactions with others outside of camp in the evenings. This is in an effort to minimize the number of individuals which children are coming in contact with and thereby reducing the risk to other children in their group at camp. Also it will help in the case of having to conduct contact tracing.

## **Preventing Infections**

### **Hand washing & Face Masks**

All children, staff and volunteers should engage in hand hygiene at the following times:

- Arrival, and after breaks
- Before and after preparing food or drinks, eating or handling food
- Before and after administering medication
- After using the toilet, coming in contact with bodily fluid
- After playing outdoors, handling garbage
- After blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing

## **Face Masks**

Face masks or cloth coverings worn over the mouth and nose by all staff and campers, both inside and outside (unless they can maintain 6 feet distancing while outside). We ask that day campers wear a clean mask every day and that residential campers bring at least 6 clean masks to camp.

Face masks should:

- fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- be secured with ties or ear loops
- include multiple layers of fabric
- allow for breathing without restriction

Bandanas, gators, and masks with vents are not appropriate face coverings.

## **Cohorting**

This year campers will be cohorted to reduce risk of infection. Cohorts are the groups of campers that your camper would interact with during the week. Activities, programs, meals and cabin assignments will all be based on cohorts. The size of cohorts will depend on the current guidelines from the OEC (as of Feb 16th, groups of campers should be limited to 16-18)

## **Sick Campers and Quarantining**

OEC and the CDC have recommended a "Sick Room" for campers exhibiting symptoms Covid-19. Hartford County 4-H Camp has taken the necessary precautions to limit infection by adding an additional entrance to the Grant House. Staff will be living in cabins with campers, and therefore the Grant House will have rooms available for sick campers to isolate if necessary.

If a camper is suspected of having COVID-19 during their week a parent/guardian will be notified and they will be sent home. If your camper or counselor comes into contact with a camper, counselor or staff who tests positive for COVID-19 you will be notified and they will be sent home to quarantine for 14 days. We are still developing our refund policy for campers unable to attend their full week due to illness or exposure.

## **Food Service**

We will be following the Chatham Health Guidelines for food distribution. More information to follow.

## **Cleaning of Facility**

Frequently touched hard surfaces will be routinely cleaned with soap and water and disinfectant spray. The dining hall will be cleaned between use by different cohorts. Bathrooms will also be cleaned multiple times per day. Cleaning supplies will be available to staff around camp to clean areas before and after use by campers. Activities will be altering to reduce the use of shared supplies. Any communal supplies will be cleaned between use by campers. All cleaning supplies will be stored in designated areas out of reach from children.

All camp sessions end on Friday this year to allow for a deep clean of camp on Saturdays before the next session begins.

**Questions?** Fill out a help desk ticket [here](#). We have qualified staff, board members and registered nurses available to answer further questions.

\*All Protocols are subject to change based on the most current regulations from the CDC, STATE, DPH and OEC.

## **Additional Resources**

- [State of Connecticut's Office of Early Childhood Memo #36 Youth Camp Guidance](#)
- [CDC Suggestions for Youth & Summer Camps](#)
- COVID-19 Information Connecticut offers its most updated information at [ct.gov/coronavirus](http://ct.gov/coronavirus), as well as on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/Covid19CT](https://www.twitter.com/Covid19CT) and Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CTCovid19Response](https://www.facebook.com/CTCovid19Response).