

PATHWAY TO ADVENTURE COUNCIL, BSA SUMMER CAMPS COVID-19 GUIDEBOOK



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INTRODUCTION

The Pathway to Adventure Council (PTAC) is committed to providing safe and fulfilling summer camp experiences for Scouts, units, and families. Our collective camp and council leadership utilized the resources referenced on page 4 to prepare for summer by incorporating best practices, guidelines, protocols and program structures into our camp planning.

The information surrounding COVID-19 is constantly changing as more data and research is reviewed and published. This guide organizes that information into actionable plans for our camp staff. This guide also is a tool for families and Scout units to review and utilize as they plan for summer camp. As information changes and evolves, this guidebook will be revised to reflect current best practices in COVID-related risk mitigation.

STATEMENT OF INHERENT RISK

While we are preparing for a safe and fun summer camp experience, there is no way to eliminate risk entirely. In fact, there is a high likelihood that COVID-19 will be present in our camps. We intend to operate summer camp while mitigating the risk of exposure and transmission as much as possible. Families and units should consider the risk of any activity, including summer camp, and must make the decision for themselves regarding acceptance of risk when participating in any activity.

PTAC SUMMER CAMPS PLANNING/LEADERSHIP TEAM

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PTAC Summer Camp Health Officers

REFERENCES and RESEARCH SOURCES

Multiple resources have been utilized in developing this guidebook and our camps' protocols and procedures regarding COVID-19 mitigation. This information is publicly available for review. Special acknowledgement is due to North Star Camp for Boys, which developed the framework of the information listed in this guidebook.

Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/summer-camps.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/symptom-screening.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/science-and-research/surface-transmission.html>

American Camps Association (ACA)

<https://www.acacamps.org/resource-library/coronavirus-information-camps>

2020 Summer Camps COVID Data Review (Effectiveness of Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions)

<https://www.acacamps.org/news-publications/blogs/camp-connection/research-study-2020-summer-campcounts-survey>

Boy Scouts of America (BSA)

<https://www.scouting.org/coronavirus/covid-19-faq/>

State of Michigan

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/Day_Camp_Guidelines_-_06.02.20_-_FINAL_TO_PUBLISH_692694_7.pdf

State of Illinois

<https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/>

State of Wisconsin

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/schools.htm>

COVID MITIGATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Guiding Principles

The Pathway to Adventure Council camps will utilize the following Guiding Principles regarding COVID-19 mitigation:

- Being Outdoors
- Social Distancing
- Mask usage
- Screening
- Cleaning and Hygiene
- Communicating

Protocols for Fully Vaccinated Persons

Current CDC guidance should be followed regarding protocols for fully vaccinated persons, such as recommendations regarding travel, quarantine, and COVID-19 exposure, that may be different than guidance for non-vaccinated persons.

Before Camp

In order to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 being brought into camp, we will ask all campers and staff to take additional safety measures in the two weeks prior to their arrival. We may change these procedures at any time as we continue to review the latest data and guidance from public health officials.

Self Quarantine

All campers and staff are encouraged to self-quarantine/limit outside-the-household contact for ten days prior to the start of their arrival to camp. During quarantine, campers and staff should restrict contact to members of their household. Physical contact with anyone outside of the household should be limited.

Temperature and Symptom Monitoring

During pre-camp voluntary self-quarantine, parents, campers and staff members should self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms. Pre-camp screening tool will be provided to units and participants prior to summer camp.

Avoid Non-essential Travel

All campers and staff are encouraged to avoid any non-essential travel for the ten days prior to arrival at camp. If travel outside of the home is necessary, a face mask should be worn at all times.

Before Camp (continued)

Pre-Departure Screening

At the departure location but prior to departure, campers and staff should be screened for COVID-19 symptoms and exposure. Campers/staff who have a temperature over 100.4 degrees fahrenheit, show COVID-19 symptoms, or have been exposed to COVID-19 in the previous 14 days must not be permitted to travel to camp. A departure screening tool will be provided to units and participants prior to summer camp.

Travel to Camp

Campers and staff should limit contact with others during travel to camp. Avoiding restaurants and other public places is encouraged. It is suggested that snacks and bag lunches are utilized to limit the need to enter public places during travel to camp.

Arrival at Camp

Health Screening

Upon arrival at camp, campers and staff will be screened for COVID-19 exposure/symptoms prior to exiting their vehicle. Campers/staff who have a temperature over 100.4 degrees fahrenheit, show COVID-19 symptoms, or have been exposed to COVID-19 in the previous 14 days will not be permitted to remain at camp.

During Camp

In order to create as safe an environment as possible and mitigate the risk of COVID-19 in camp, we will be making adjustments to camp procedures and policies in a variety of areas. We may change any or all of these procedures at any time as we continue to review the latest data and guidance from public health officials.

When possible (and weather permitting), camp activities will be held outdoors or in open-air facilities, such as pavilions. All modified camp rules and procedures will be announced to all campers during the first day of camp, including hand washing/sanitizing procedures, when masks will be required, etc.

Outside, Masked, and Distanced

The most important practices to mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19 at camp are to be: Outside, Masked & Distanced. Campers and staff must observe at least two of the three following rules: wear a mask, be outdoors, be socially distanced (at least 6 feet apart). There will be moments when doing all three is not possible -- but in that event, it is critically important that the other two options are observed.

During Camp (continued)

Research from summer camps operating in 2020 demonstrate that these three practices were most effective in reducing the risk of the spread of COVID-19, Not all three options are created equal. Being outdoors is the most important mitigation practice and we will be outdoors as much as possible.

Troop Pods/Small Groups

Some camps/programs may be structured using small group “pods”, such as patrols or families, with the intent of reducing the mixing of pods as much as possible. While we await final guidance on this format, troops and Scouts should be prepared to utilize the pod format for activities and operations around camp, including merit badge programs, food service, trading post, etc. Each camp will communicate the format being utilized prior to the start of camp.

Mask Policy

In order to contain possible exposure and spread of COVID-19, we are requiring face masks that cover both the nose and mouth be worn at all times when campers and staff are in public non-outdoor areas. Masks will also be required any time campers are in contact with members of other pods/units or unable to maintain 6 feet distance from any other campers/staff.

Masks will NOT be required when:

Campers and/or staff are located inside their own tents/cabins.

Campers and/or staff are outdoors and able to maintain six feet of distance from others.

Campers and/or staff are seated and eating.

Campers and/or staff are taking showers.

Campers and/or staff are taking part in waterfront activities (swimming, waterskiing, canoeing, etc.)

Cleaning and Sanitation

CDC guidance indicates that surface transmission of COVID-19 is a relatively low risk concern. However, PTAC Camps will significantly increase cleaning and sanitation procedures this summer. Cleaning supplies will be readily available for campsite usage. Program equipment and high-touch surfaces will be cleaned frequently. Hand sanitizer will be readily available throughout camp, with particular focus on program and food service areas. Shared spaces will be cleaned frequently.

Hand Washing/Sanitizing

Campers and staff will be encouraged to wash hands/use sanitizer frequently, including before and after: activities, handling shared equipment, eating, and toilet usage.

Meals and Food Service

Pathway to Adventure Council camps offer a variety of food service options, depending on camps. Each camp is referenced below with regards to specific details of summer camp food service.

Camp Betz Family Camp

Camp Betz Family Camp meals are served cafeteria-style out of a dining facility. This method will be utilized in 2021, however meals may be served in two shifts to allow for ample seating space. Additionally, extra seating will be provided outside which will include dining tents when the weather allows. Some meal features may be modified, such as the salad bar, to limit participants' handling of shared food items.

Camp Napowan

Camp Napowan meals are served cafeteria-style in an open-air dining pavilion. This method will be utilized in 2021, however meals may be served in two shifts to allow for ample seating space. Additionally, the seating area at the dining pavilion will include additional tables outside of the pavilion which can be utilized when the weather allows. Some meal features may be modified, such as the salad bar, to limit participants' handling of shared food items.

Owasippe Camp Wolverine

Camp Wolverine has two food service options: Prepared food delivered to campsites (hot pack) and an open-air dining tent. Both of these options will be offered in 2021. Units choosing hot pack campsite meals must provide their own personal eating gear (plates, bowls, cups, utensils) as well as cleaning supplies (dish bins, soap, sanitizer tablets, camp stove for heating dish water, etc.). Units may choose a combination of both food service options, as well. Lunches at Camp Wolverine will be "brown bag" grab and go lunches, allowing the option for units to either eat in their site or around camp, such as on a hike or at other locations.

Owasippe Camp Blackhawk

Typically, Camp Blackhawk meals are served cafeteria-style in a dining hall. In order to limit indoor gatherings, dining hall service will not be offered in 2021. For Breakfast and Dinner, meals will be served either cafeteria style with outdoor seating or "hot pack" style, where prepared food is delivered to campsites. Units must provide their own personal eating gear (plates, bowls, cups, utensils) as well as cleaning supplies (dish bins, soap, sanitizer tablets, camp stove for heating dish water, etc.). Lunches at Camp Blackhawk will be "brown bag" grab and go lunches, allowing the option for units to either eat in their site or around camp, such as on a hike or at other locations.

Around the Campsite

Troop/Unit Cohorts

A troop at camp will be considered to be its own pod/family unit due to the likelihood of sustained close contact of its members, such as during travel to camp, sharing of campsite bathroom facilities, during in-campsite activities, eating together as a unit, (possibly) sharing tents, etc. Each troop may develop its own practices and rules regarding mask usage within the campsite when other units/pods/staff are not present, determine shared vs solo tenting, etc. This follows guidance of the ACA and CDC.

Tenting

Campers are encouraged to tent solo or restrict the sharing of tents to family members, such as siblings. BSA policy restricts parents tenting with scouts to Cub Scout programs only. Scouts BSA program policy does not permit parents to share a tent with a Scouts-BSA child. If a unit chooses to permit shared tenting, tent mates should sleep in opposite directions, “head to toe and toe to head” and tent windows/screens should be opened to allow for maximum ventilation.

Each of our PTAC camps has different procedures for tents (eg Camp Betz-families bring their own tents, Camp Napowan-units bring their own tents, Owasippe-camp tents are provided). Due to limitations of inventory, Owasippe cannot provide camp tents on a 1:1 basis. Instead Owasippe will provide tents at a 2:1 ratio for your unit. Units must provide their own tents to reach the 1:1 tent ratio.

Mask usage

Campers and staff are required to wear masks any time social distancing cannot be maintained. However units may determine that scouts within the same pod may not be required to wear masks within their pod when in their own campsite. This is at the discretion of the unit. ACA guidance typically refers to campers of the same group (troop or patrol, in the BSA’s case) as a family unit, with whom continual close-contact is likely, expected, and somewhat unavoidable.

Showers and bathrooms

PTAC Camps have a variety of shower facilities, from individual room to group showers. Any non-individual shower usage should be limited to single pod usage at one time. Each camp may develop schedules to allow for safe usage of shower facilities, based on the camp’s specific needs and facilities.

BSA policies require adequate privacy for shower usage, with regards to adult-youth and male-female campers and staff.

Around the Campsite (continued)

Personal spaces/tents/housing

A camper or staff members personal space, such as a cabin or tent, can be a mask-free area. Therefore, no camper or staff member is permitted to enter or congregate in another camper/staff members tent or housing area that is not their own.

Water

As always, staying hydrated on a warm summer day is imperative to staying healthy and avoiding dehydration. Campers and staff are encouraged to utilize refillable water bottles. Campers and staff should not drink directly from any water fountains, spigots, or water jugs without use of a water bottle/cup.

Camp Programs

Pods/Patrols

Some camps/programs may be structured using small group “pods”, such as patrols or families, with the intent of reducing the mixing of pods as much as possible. While we await final guidance on this format, troops and Scouts should be prepared to utilize the pod format for activities and operations around camp, including merit badge programs, food service, trading post, etc. Each camp will communicate the format being utilized prior to the start of camp.

Mixing of Pods/Patrols

If small groups/pods are implemented, camp programs may be modified or restructured to limit mixing of pods as much as possible. But there may be times where multiple pods share the same location or program at camp. During these times, masks are required.

Program Supplies

Research from 2020 summer camps, as well as CDC guidance, indicate that surface transmission of COVID-19 is a relatively low risk concern. However, increased cleaning of shared materials will be implemented at PTAC summer camps. Additionally, hand washing or sanitizer usage before and after handling program equipment will be encouraged, and sanitizer will be readily available for use.

Aquatics Programs

There is no current evidence that COVID-19 can be spread to people through water in a pool or lake. Masks/face coverings will not be required during aquatics activities. PTAC Camps will implement additional safety measures this summer, including:

Campers and staff should follow social distancing and proper hand hygiene practices prior to/following using any small crafts (canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, etc.).

All shared use equipment (paddles, lifejackets, boats, fishing poles) should be cleaned and disinfected regularly.

Camp Programs (continued)

Aquatics Programs (continued)

All life jackets will be regularly sprayed with disinfectant or soaked in a bucket of soap solution. While at a swimming/aquatics area, the waterfront buddy system will still be enforced. All buddies must be from the same pod.

More than one pod may be at swim point at a time, but will be required to maintain social distance.

Additional aquatics practices regarding facemask usage when not in the water, guidance for safety for lifeguards during rescue situations, and other area-specific situations, will be developed as appropriate and relevant to the specific camp.

Gatherings/Group size

Large-group gatherings during camp will be limited or eliminated if social distancing cannot be maintained. This includes campfires, all-camp events, worship services, etc.

Health Services

Arrival Screening

Upon arrival at camp, campers and staff will be screened for COVID exposure/symptoms prior to exiting their vehicle. Campers/staff who have a temperature over 100.4 degrees fahrenheit, show COVID-19 symptoms, or have been exposed to COVID-19 in the previous 14 days will not be permitted to remain at camp.

Daily Screening

Each day at camp, unit leaders, staff and families will complete a self-screening regarding COVID symptoms. Unit leaders will be responsible for daily screening of Scouts. Temperature checks may be utilized, as well. Logs of daily screenings will be kept and submitted to the camp.

Campers/staff who have a temperature over 100.4 degrees fahrenheit or show COVID-19 symptoms will be required to follow isolation procedures (listed below).

Daily screening logs will be provided to units upon arrival at camp.

Suspected COVID Case

Should a camper or staff member begin to exhibit COVID-19 symptoms, they will be immediately isolated and quarantined. Parents will be contacted immediately and Camp Health Office staff will coordinate with parents and unit leaders regarding next steps. This may include a tele-visit with the person's primary care provider. It is very likely that the primary care provider will order a COVID-19 test during the appointment. At time of publication, it is unknown whether our camps will possess rapid testing equipment or whether a camper will be required to leave the camp to secure a test.

Health Services (continued)

Suspected COVID Case (continued)

Isolation of a suspected COVID case will continue until guidance from an authorized medical professional approves reintegration or the camper/staff member departs the camp (under the care of parent or authorized adult, if under age 18).

Confirmed COVID Case

If the test is positive for COVID-19, the following steps will be taken:

- The COVID-19 positive camper's parent/guardian or staff member's emergency contact will be notified immediately.
- The camper/staff member will stay in quarantine.
- Contact tracing and notification will commence.
- Parents/guardians/emergency contacts will be given the option of daily communication with their COVID-19 positive camper or staff member.
- Isolation of a confirmed COVID-19 case will continue until guidance from an authorized medical professional approves reintegration or the camper/staff member departs the camp (under the care of parent or authorized adult, if under age 18).

Isolation/Quarantine

Each PTAC Camp will identify facilities and locations that can be utilized in cases of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection. This may include health lodges, cabins, or other facilities in which campers or staff can comfortably isolate/quarantine.

Notification/Contact tracing

Campers in the COVID-19 patient's pod will be quarantined from other members of the camp community.

Contact tracing of anyone the COVID-19 patient came in close contact (as defined by CDC) with during the previous 48 hours will begin immediately.

If rapid testing is available at camp, testing will be administered to any camper/staff determined to have been in close contact with the COVID-19 patient in the previous 48 hours.

Parents/guardians/emergency contacts of the other campers and staff in the COVID-19 positive pod/unit will be informed immediately that someone in their pod/unit has tested positive.

Contact traced campers or staff will be monitored closely by the Health Center staff.

If multiple campers or staff members are confirmed positive for COVID-19, they will be isolated together in the Health Center or separate cabin space.

After Camp

While it will be exciting to welcome home campers and staff after camp, we strongly recommend that parents and guardians limit who interacts with the returning camper or staff member for ten days. This includes anyone in a High Risk group and anyone who is not vaccinated.

14 Day Monitoring

If your camper/staff member tests positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of returning home, please contact PTAC at ptac.camping@scouting.org so we can take appropriate measures to contact trace and inform other camp families as necessary.

Staff-Specific Information

Pre-camp

In order to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 being brought into camp, we will ask all staff to take additional safety measures in the two weeks prior to their arrival. We may change these procedures at any time as we continue to review the latest data and guidance from public health officials.

Self Quarantine

All staff are encouraged to self-quarantine/limit outside-the-household contact for ten days prior to the start of their arrival to camp. During pre-camp quarantine, staff should restrict contact to members of their household. Physical contact with anyone outside of the household should be limited.

Temperature and Symptom Monitoring

During pre-camp voluntary self-quarantine, staff members should self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms. Pre-camp screening tool will be provided to staff members prior to summer camp.

Limit Non-essential Travel

All staff are encouraged to avoid any non-essential travel for the ten days prior to arrival at camp. If travel outside of the home is necessary, a face mask should be worn at all times.

Travel to Camp

At the departure location but prior to departure, staff should self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms and exposure. Staff who have a temperature over 100.4 degrees fahrenheit, show COVID-19 symptoms, or have been exposed to COVID-19 in the previous 14 days will not be permitted to travel to camp. A departure screening tool will be provided to staff members prior to summer camp.

Staff should limit contact with others during travel to camp. Avoiding restaurants and other public places is encouraged. It is suggested that snacks and bag lunches are utilized to limit the need to enter public places during travel to camp.

Staff-Specific Information (continued)

Arrival at Camp

Upon arrival at camp, staff will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms and exposure prior to exiting their vehicle. Staff who have a temperature over 100.4 degrees fahrenheit, show COVID-19 symptoms, or have been exposed to COVID-19 in the previous 14 days will not be permitted to remain at camp.

Housing

Staff members may be assigned shared housing. Members of the same cabin/housing space create a camp staff pod for the duration of their stay at camp. Since housing areas are considered non-mask areas, staff members are not permitted in the housing/cabin space of others for any reason.

Time Off

Staff members will still be provided “time off”. However, staff are strongly encouraged to remain at camp during their time off, and limit visiting high-risk facilities, such as bars and restaurants. During time off, staff are still subject to all COVID-19 protocols, whether in or out of camp.

Camp Vehicles

When in a vehicle, the driver and passengers must be masked because of the shared air in the vehicle. Windows should be open whenever possible.