COVID-19 Information for Summer Camp

Purpose

The purpose is to provide updated COVID-19 health and safety tips and resources for summer camp programs. Camps should use the CDC’s COVID-19 Community Levels as a guide to decide which level of prevention is best for their community.

Schools offering summer programs should refer to the guidance in the Pre K-12 School Outbreak Response Playbook. Child care providers offering summer programs should refer to the Child Care Outbreak Response Playbook.

- Contact Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) with any questions at RIDOH.COVIDK12Questions@health.ri.gov.

Point of Contact Survey

If you are planning to operate summer camps during the summer of 2022, please complete the short survey by May 30 found here.

- Camps who complete the survey will help enable a fast and efficient response to clusters or other support form RIDOH as needed.

Prevention Strategies Based on COVID-19 Community Levels

CDC released the “COVID-19 Community Levels” tool to help people and communities make decisions about prevention steps based on the latest data.

- The three community levels of risk (Low, Medium, High) are determined by looking at new hospital admissions for people with COVID-19, hospital beds being used by patients with COVID-19, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in communities.
- Camps should decide what level of mitigation strategies to use based on the current Community Level.
- Camps can find the current COVID-19 Community Level on Rhode Island’s data hub.
Rhode Island Department of Health recommends summer camps consider the following strategies based on CDC’s COVID-19 Community Levels:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
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| Low     | • Promote staying up to date with **COVID-19 vaccines**;  
          • Optimize ventilation in indoor settings;  
          • Have plan to **respond when campers or staff develop symptoms** while at camp;  
          • Ensure access to **testing**, including rapid tests and self-tests, for all people;  
          • Support people’s personal decision to wear a **mask**. |
| Medium  | • Promote staying up to date with **COVID-19 vaccines**;  
          • Optimize ventilation in indoor settings;  
          • Have plan to **respond when campers or staff develop symptoms** while at camp  
          • Ensure access to **testing**, including rapid tests and self-tests, for all people;  
          • Consider **screening testing**/other testing strategies; and  
          • Support people’s personal decision to wear a **mask**. |
| High    | • Promote staying up to date with **COVID-19 vaccines**;  
          • Optimize ventilation in indoor settings;  
          • Have plan to **respond when campers or staff develop symptoms** while at camp;  
          • Ensure access to **testing**, including rapid tests and self-tests, for all people;  
          • Consider **screening testing**/other testing strategies;  
          • Support people’s personal decision to wear a **mask**; and  
          • Consider setting-specific recommendations, including **universal indoor masking**, **stable groups/cohorts**, and **physical distancing**. |

All camps should develop and communicate **sick policies** that require staff and campers with symptoms to stay home and get tested.

Camps may find more information and resources to

- Promote staying up to date with **COVID-19 vaccine** in RIDOH’s **COVID-19 Community Toolkit**;
- Optimize ventilation in CDC’s guidance for **ventilation in schools and child care programs** and **ventilation in buildings**; and
- Ensure access to testing through
- Channels open to the general public on RIDOH’s page at covid.ri.gov/testing; or
- On-site testing capacity and contact ridoh.covidk12testing@health.ri.gov.

**Overnight camps** are recommended to consider extra steps to protect campers and staff. Extra mitigation and prevention steps might include

- Requiring a negative COVID-19 test result from any type of test before arrival at camp;
- Providing spaces to keep symptomatic staff and campers isolated onsite; and
- Immediately isolating people with symptoms, referring them for testing, and remaining in isolation until a negative test result.

**Cluster/Outbreak Response**

Camps should notify RIDOH of any cluster of COVID-19 cases at camp at RIDOH.COVIDK12Questions@health.ri.gov. A cluster is defined as three or more positive cases in a pod or 10% of a group.

**Face Masks**

Camps may implement their own masking policies.

- People should wear a mask if they are on days 6-10 of isolation or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.
- People may wear a mask based on personal preference and/or informed by personal level of risk.

**Close Contact Sport Activities**

When planning sport activities, please refer to the [Youth, Adult, and Sport guidance](https://www.health.ri.gov/covid-19/adult-and-sport-guidance) put forth by RIDOH and the Rhode Island Interscholastic League (RIIL) for recommendations.

**Additional Precautions for People Who Are Immunocompromised**

Camps should take extra steps to protect people who are immunocompromised/at high risk for severe disease.

- People who are immunocompromised should
  - Ask their healthcare provider about wearing a mask;
  - Have a plan for rapid testing if needed (e.g., self-tests, Primary Care Providers, and retail pharmacies); and
  - Ask their healthcare provider if they’re a candidate for pre-exposure therapeutics or monoclonal antibodies.

- People who have household or social contact with someone at high risk for severe disease should
  - Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations;
  - Consider self-testing or other types of testing to detect infection before contact; and
  - Consider wearing a mask when indoors or in close contact with them.