



May 4, 2022

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 from 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:

Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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](#) 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.