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Public Health Director

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CAMP OPERATORS IN SULLIVAN COUNTY COVID-19 GUIDANCE

June 24, 2022

Dear Children's Camp Operator,

The New York State Department of Health strongly encourages children's camps to ensure all staff and eligible campers are vaccinated. CDC recommends that everyone aged 12 years and older is vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as possible to keep from getting and spreading COVID-19. Camps can help increase vaccine uptake among campers, their families, and staff by providing information about COVID-19 vaccination, promoting vaccination, and establishing supportive policies and practices that make it as easy and convenient as possible for staff and others to get vaccinated.

Given New York's progress and the diminished risk of COVID-19 within the community, New York State has lifted most COVID-19 restrictions, except the mask requirement for unvaccinated individuals and in certain settings (e.g., health care) as advised by the CDC. With the removal of the State's minimum standard for operating, children's camps are free to choose to lift all or some restrictions, continue to adhere to the State's COVID-19 guidance archived at <https://forward.ny.gov/archived-industry-guidance>, or implement other health precautions for their employees and patrons.

Masks remain strongly recommended, not required, for children in child care settings and camps when indoors, consistent with CDC guidance. In accordance with CDC guidelines, at overnight camps, campers and staff who are staying together in a cabin, bunk, or similar defined space do not need to wear masks when they are together without members from other cabins/bunks nearby. At all other times, unvaccinated staff should wear face coverings indoors in accordance with CDC guidelines. Any mask requirements that the camp implements must adhere to all applicable federal and state laws and regulations (e.g., Americans with Disabilities Act).

Camp operators should consider the impacts of a positive case on contacts with unvaccinated campers and staff when determining the camp's policy for cohorts/stable groups. A positive case would require all contacts who are unvaccinated to quarantine individually at home or onsite for overnight camps. CDC recommends that "campers should be assigned to cohorts that will remain together for the entire camp session without mixing, to the largest extent possible." For more information see CDC's Guidance for Operating Youth Camps.

What to report to the District Office (NYSDOH) vs. the local health department

Please see the attached flyer below designed specifically for camp operators in Sullivan County who may be confused about what types of incidents must be reported, and to whom. Because the Sullivan County Public Health Department is partial service, we do not provide environmental health services, inspections or operating permits. **Any concerns about reportable communicable diseases or rabies must be reported to us by phone within 24 hrs. (See flyer).**

Reminder (Issued to all camps in May 2022):

Sullivan County Public Health Order No. 1, 2022, adopted May 19, 2022 requires all Camp Owners/Operators in Sullivan County, New York to be in compliance with the Order and to have documentation available upon demand to show proof of immunity to measles for ALL campers and camp staff, whether hired or volunteer, or residing on the premises where children are present. If your camp is found to be out of compliance with this Order, violations may be issued. See detailed order on our website: <https://sullivanny.us/Departments/Publichealth/measles>

Questions can be directed to:

SULLIVAN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

845-513-2249, during business hours / leave a message and it will be returned

Monday – Friday, 9 am – 5pm

Or by emailing us at SullivanCountyPublicHealthOrderCamps@sullivanny.us

After hours, our main number will go to answering service (845) 292-5910 and you will receive a call back only if it is urgent and time sensitive.

Additionally, you may call the NYS Department of Health District office in Monticello which regulates summer camps, and issues camp permits, to answer related questions at 845-794-2045.

Sincerely,

Nancy A. McGraw

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Public Health Director
Sullivan County

Cc: District Office, Monticello
NYS Dept. of Health

Attachment: Camp flyer – where to report