Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Asa Hutchinson
Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health

Effective May 21, 2020

Directive Regarding Summer Residential Camps

The Secretary of Health, in consultation with the Governor, has sole authority over all instances of quarantine, isolation, and restrictions on commerce and travel throughout Arkansas, as necessary and appropriate to control disease in the state of Arkansas as authorized by Ark. Code Ann. §20-7-109--110. Based on available scientific evidence, it is necessary and appropriate to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents and visitors in Arkansas remain safe.

This directive of the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) addresses the operation of overnight camps throughout the state this summer. This directive is intended to cover organized, residential camp group activities for children that may be outdoors or indoors., This directive excludes band or choir camps, which remain prohibited from operating. It is not intended to cover summer day camps, which are covered under the Directive for Summer Day Camps.

As restrictions on social gatherings are gradually eased, summer residential camps may begin to operate as long as they follow the measures below to protect the health of attendees and staff. Due to the close sleeping, dining and activities of residential camps, extra precautions are necessary as ADH requires for other congregate settings. Taking these proactive measures will help limit the spread of COVID-19 and help safeguard children and their families.

- All staff and campers are strongly encouraged to self-quarantine at home (do not leave home for any purpose) for 14 days prior to arriving at camp, and strongly encouraged to have a -PCR COVID-19 test performed within 4 days (96 hours) prior to being admitted to camp.
    - If the test is positive, camper shall not be permitted to enter the camp.
    - This requirement does not apply to community-based staff, including maintenance, kitchen and any others who do not stay overnight at the camp, who will not have direct contact with the campers or staff.
- Staff and campers 10 years of age and older shall wear cloth face coverings to diminish potential spread from people who might be asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic for COVID-19. For safety reasons, under no circumstances should a mask be placed on a child under 2 years of age. Face coverings are not required for children under the age of 10, as many children in this group will have difficulty consistently wearing a mask. However, if a child older than 2 but younger than 10 is able to consistently wear a face covering, it is encouraged. Face coverings are not required while exercising, eating, bathing, or sleeping.
- Camps may require all staff and campers to self-quarantine for 14 days and a PCR COVID-19 test performed within 4 days (96 hours) prior to being admitted to camp. Camps that require both quarantine and test will be exempt from the requirement for staff and campers to wear face coverings.

- Counselors may arrive for training no earlier than May 24, 2020.
- Campers may arrive no earlier than May 31, 2020.
- Camps are discouraged from using volunteers. If this is not possible, camps shall ensure the volunteers adhere to all the rules in place for staff and should be treated as staff.
- Summer Overnight camps shall prohibit persons from the facility except:
    - Camp or facility staff;
    - Children enrolled at the camp;
    - Parents or legal guardians who have children enrolled and present at the facility with a legitimate need; and
    - Professionals providing services to children.
    - Parents or professionals shall sign in and be masked on entry
- Providers of essential camp services, including, but not limited to, food suppliers and delivery drivers, shall be screened for symptoms prior to entry. To ensure that their contact with campers and staff is restricted, they shall use designated entry points into any camp facility and be physically segregated from campers and staff. They shall wear a face covering/mask at all times while on the premises.
- The camp shall require children to be picked up outside the facility, unless there is a legitimate need for the parent to enter a facility. Children should preferably be dropped off outside the facility as well, but parents may drop off children within the facility as long as they do not exit their cars under any circumstances and shall wear a face covering while in the camp facility, even within their cars. Stagger drop-off and pick-up times if possible.
- As much as possible, maintain physical distancing of 6 feet (space seating, etc.).
- Do not allow sick children to be cared for in the facility.
    - Any person who becomes ill while at the camp shall be immediately isolated.
    - Make arrangements for the individual to be returned home.
    - If symptoms include fever above 100.4°F, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell, notify the Arkansas Department of Health.

Screening

- All staff and campers shall receive a pre-screening questionnaire that is reviewed upon entry to camp. This could include an agreement signed by the parent or staff member affirming they have followed the 14-day self-quarantine. Advise campers and families in advance about COVID-19 symptoms and exclusions, and place signage at all entrances. These signs shall inform campers and staff that those who have any of the following characteristics shall NOT be allowed to enter:
    - Have had a fever of 100.4°F or greater in the last 2 days;
    - Have a cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell;
    - Had contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 in the previous 14 days
- Advise campers and staff/volunteers that some people may wish to refrain from entering. Place signage at all entrances alerting campers and staff that it may not be safe for the following people to enter:
    - Individuals who are 65 years of age or older.
    - Individuals of any age with underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, severe obesity, asthma or weakened immunity.
- Camps shall check temperatures and ask the above screening questions of all who enter to ensure no one who is ill or exposed enters the camp. A screening tool is available here: https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/pdf/Screening_Tool4.27.20.pdf

Daily Activities

- Ensure student and staff groupings change as little as possible by having the same group of children stay with the same staff (all day for young children and as much as possible for older children). Limit mixing between groups.
- When possible, separate campers into groups of 10 or fewer.
- Promote gatherings, events, or extracurricular activities which allow for proper social distancing and support proper hand hygiene.
- Prohibit all field trips and events with outside groups or other camps.

Hygiene

- Hand sanitizers shall be available in as many places as possible, including every bunk house, room, and dining facility.
- Hand washing is required before and after every meal.
- Areas that are frequently touched—such as playground equipment, shared objects, door handles, drinking fountains, and sink handles—**shall be cleaned and disinfected multiple times daily**

Sleeping and Showering Arrangements

- Arrange cabins so that physical distancing can be achieved to the extent possible, with 6 feet between camper's heads while in bunk. Bunk beds could be arranged head to toe to aid in achieving this.
- Reduce the number of campers in each bunk house to allow for spacing of beds
- Shower times should be staggered.

Ongoing monitoring

- Monitor staff for fever, cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat or loss of taste or smell daily and exclude from work all who are ill.
- Temperature checks and symptom screening of all campers shall be done daily.

Medical Plan

- Identify a medical evaluation team.
- Identify a testing facility the camp would use in the event of an ill staff or camper.

Meal Service

All meals shall be provided in accordance with the Directive of Resuming Restaurant Dine In Operations**.**

- Meals shall be plated by staff and access to single-service items such as plastic silverware, condiment packets, and napkins should be provided individually.
- Consider increasing meal shifts to space out meals
- Consider serving meals in cabins or classroom to further segregate groups.

ADH will continue to closely monitor the evolving novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. These measures will remain in place until data on the severity of the local COVID-19 epidemic indicate it is safe to further relax measures.

For a sign warning who should not enter:
https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/pdf/COVID-19_No_Entry.pdf

General Protection Guidelines for settings caring for children:
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html

Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations:
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/disinfecting-building-facility.html

CDC Camp Decision Tree
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/Camps-Decision-Tree.pdf

ACA Camp Operations Guide Summer 2020
https://www.acacamps.org/resource-library/coronavirus/camp-business/camp-operations-guide-summer-2020?utm_source=email&utm_term=cdc&utm_content=may-14&zs=ID9PX&_zl=XwI62