Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DIRECTIVE AND ORDER REGARDING YOUTH CAMP PROGRAMS

Pursuant to Executive Order 20-05-27-01

No. MDH 2020-05-27-02

I, Robert R. Neall, Secretary of Health, finding it necessary for the prevention and control of 2019 Novel Coronavirus ("SARS-CoV-2" or "2019-NCoV" or "COVID-19"), and for the protection of the health and safety of patients, staff, and other individuals in Maryland, hereby authorize and order the following actions regarding the operation of youth camp programs for the prevention and control of this infectious and contagious disease under the Governor's Declaration of Catastrophic Health Emergency.

1. Limitations on Youth Camp Programs

A. Conditional Opening

Subject to the following conditions, all outdoor youth camps may open as of 5:00 p.m., May 29, 2020:

I. Residential and overnight camp programs are not permitted.

II. No group of campers and staff may exceed 10 individuals at any time.

III. Out of state campers are not permitted.

IV. Each youth camp program shall implement appropriate social distancing protocols as enumerated in 2.A of this Order.

B. Daily Monitoring for COVID-19 Symptoms

I. Each youth camp program shall create a plan for monitoring the health of staff and the health of campers.

II. Each youth camp program shall implement a process to screen all staff and campers daily for symptoms and possible exposure to COVID-19, using questions recommended by CDC. Staff or children who have tested positive for COVID-19, are symptomatic, or who have had a known exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19 shall be excluded according to CDC guidance.

III. The youth camp program shall keep a log of temperature and symptom screening for campers and maintain confidentiality of these records.

2. Youth Camp Operations

A. Social Distancing and Face Coverings

Each youth camp program shall create policies and implement procedures to ensure that:

- Individuals shall maintain 6 feet of physical distance, wherever and as often as possible.
- Staff should wear face coverings.
- If they can be worn safely and consistently, children age 9 and older should wear face coverings.
- Staff, children and parents shall wear face coverings when campers are arriving and leaving.
- Individuals from outside the camp are limited in their interactions with staff and campers, including parents during camper drop off/pick up.

B. Infection Control Strategies:

All youth camp programs shall implement the following prevention and mitigation strategies to slow and limit COVID-19 exposure and spread:

- Cover Your Cough
- Practice recommended regular and routine handwashing practices
- Avoid use of items that are not easily cleaned and disinfected
- Practice proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings
- Post signs with COVID-19 prevention and control practices
- Provide policies and education on COVID-19 symptoms and response
- Ensure adequate supplies of tissues, hand soap, alcohol-based hand sanitizer, household cleaning products suited for the facility

C. Campers and Staff

All youth camp programs shall implement the following:

- The group size for youth camps shall be limited to 10 individuals.
    - If a youth camp has one group, the group is 2 adults and 8 children.
    - If a youth camp has two or more groups:
        - Each group may be 1 adult and 9 children.
        - Do not mix campers or staff among groups.
- Arrival and departure times of campers shall be staggered to prevent crowding.
- Keep each group separate from other groups using physical distance or by using shared areas at different times. (like separate meal times or separate bathroom times for each group)

- If different groups share areas (bathroom, lunch tables, craft room), clean high touch surfaces in the shared area between groups and keep a log of the cleaning date, time and individual who does the cleaning.

- Obtain clearance from the individual's primary care physician to attend or work at a youth camp for:
    - children under age 5,
    - staff above age 64, and
    - Individuals of any age with underlying medical conditions that are considered to be higher-risk for severe illness if they contract COVID-19.

- Staff should be alert for heat-related signs and symptoms and consider additional protective measures for hot and Code Red days.

D. Response and Management for COVID-19

- Any staff or child exposed to a person diagnosed with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 may not work or attend camp until they have completed self-quarantine following the CDC guidelines. Persons who have recovered from COVID-19, must be cleared for release from isolation according to CDC guidelines.

- If a group has a staff member or a child that is found to have a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 at the facility:

    - The group shall quarantine following the CDC guidelines.
    - Individuals may not work at or attend until completing self-quarantine and obtaining clearance from the individual's primary care physician.
    - Follow exposure control plans in the camp's health program.
    - Communicate with the local health department and parents.
    - Based on consultation with the local health department, the entire facility may be closed based on level of contact and potential exposure.
    - Wait 24 hours, then complete extra cleaning/disinfection of the facility, all areas not just high touch surfaces, and wait at least 5 days to bring in the next group.

- If a staff member or a child develops symptoms of COVID-19 during camp, safely isolate the person and place a mask or face covering. Contact the youth camp's health supervisor and the parent/guardian and arrange for safe transportation to a healthcare facility or home.

E. Food Service Operations

All youth camp programs shall:

- Not use shared items such as serving utensils or condiment containers;
- Eliminate self-service (buffet-style) food options; and
- Ensure physical distancing for campers waiting for food service.

F. Youth Camp Programming and Training

I. Field Trips and Camp Transportation

- All transportation provided by camps should follow social distancing guidelines for occupants and should prevent mixing of camp groups.
- Staff and campers shall use face coverings during transportation and when in public areas.
- Clean and disinfect vehicles after each use.

II. Sports activities

- Groups may not exceed the limit of 10 participants, including staff. Groups should not mix.
- Physical distancing rules apply. No close physical contact during sports activities.
- Clean and disinfect equipment after each use.

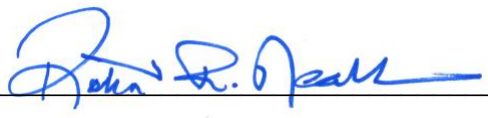
III. Staff Training

- Encourage as much staff training as possible by online means. For in person training, follow appropriate CDC and MDH guidelines regarding social distancing and COVID-19 prevention.

3. **Severability**

If any provision of this Directive and Order or its application to any person, entity, or circumstance is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions or applications of this Directive and Order shall remain in effect to the extent possible without the invalid provision or application. To achieve this purpose, the provisions of this Directive and Order are severable.

THIS DIRECTIVE AND ORDER IS ISSUED UNDER MY HAND THIS 27TH DAY OF MAY 2020 AND IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.



Robert R. Neall

Secretary of Health