

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

Summer 2021 - COVID-19 Health and Safety Practices

Should I Send My Camper?

We are committed to a safe summer camp environment in 2021. Despite every effort, we cannot guarantee your camper will not be exposed to COVID-19. We believe in our setting, with the mitigation efforts that are being put into place, that the riskiest opportunity for the spread of COVID-19 is sleeping in the same room with an infected cabin mate. If you feel uncomfortable about that risk, which is unavoidable with the exception of Day Camp, then this is not the summer to send your child to Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca.

However, we at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca believe this is the summer to send your child to camp. Children have been isolated much over the past year and are starving for unabashed fun, fellowship, and Christian learning.

Staff Considerations

Though camper safety is at the center of our health and safety plan, protecting our camp summer staff, who will interact with campers and parents from week-to-week is also of utmost importance. A COVID-19 outbreak on staff would shut Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca down for up to several sessions of summer camp. Not only is that bad for Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca in terms of mission and finances, it would be devastating to those campers who would miss out on a much needed summer camp experience. Our staff will be abiding by additional safety measures not included in this document so that their safety, and the well-being of the program, are better-protected from the possibility of a shut-down.

We'll Be Outside.

From a COVID-19 standpoint, being outdoors is significantly safer than high volumes of time spent indoors, especially in the context of generally conducting camp activities within cabin groups. Upon examination of our programs and activities, any activity we engage in outdoors is seemingly safer (from COVID-19) than sleeping in the same room with one's cabin mates. Our goal is to prioritize physical distancing from other cabin groups when outdoors as is appropriate.

What about face coverings and masks?

Recent guidance from the Iowa Department of Public Health leads us to conclude that campers will not generally wear masks while on-site. We support any family's decision to request their camper to wear a mask by default while at camp, but please understand that other campers in the same cabin group will likely not be wearing masks. We will continue the model of doing activities in our cabin groups (as much as possible) this summer. You may have recently seen that the CDC recommends campers always wear

masks by default, even outdoors, with the exception of certain activities such as swimming or sleeping. But upon closer examination, cabin groups (household cohorts) are exempt from this because they are in the same living unit/room. This guidance was issued prior to the Iowa Department of Public Health's more-favorable requirements in that were released in May.

However, we do ask that all campers bring masks for possible use in the likely event we need to gather indoors for large events such as meeting in the storm shelter or an indoor cross-cabin group rainy day game. Again, we support any family's decision to require their camper to wear a mask by default while at camp.

Before Camp

We need your help to ensure safety this summer. We're asking all campers to complete a 2 week health check before coming to camp. This is simple, and it merely involves taking temperatures and noting any symptoms. Campers **ARE NOT REQUIRED** to produce a negative COVID-19 test before coming to Camp. However, if your camper has symptoms within the two week period leading up to their camp session, or upon arrival, we ask that your camper get tested. We also hope to have free, on-site rapid testing available.

Within 2 Weeks of Camp: Close Contact Quarantines and Positive Tests

A child who tests positive for COVID-19, or is symptomatic, before coming to summer camp must isolate for 10 days and be at least 24 hours fever free before attending summer camp. If the COVID-19 infection is within the two week period of attending Camp, we recommend getting tested to ensure the safety of our camp community. Actively symptomatic campers will not be able to attend camp unless they provide a negative test.

Close contact exposures within two weeks of summer camp are not required to quarantine and are eligible to attend camp so long as they are not symptomatic/ill. However, please inform the Camp staff if there has been a close contact exposure within two weeks of the start of the camp session.

Full refunds will be given to any camper who cannot attend due to COVID-19 infection.

Check-In

Campers will wait at their vehicles upon arrival until they are escorted by staff to begin check-in so that registration is not a congested line. We request that limited persons be brought in dropping off your camper and prefer that only one adult drop-off a camper(s). We also encourage mailing in health forms and canteen deposits prior to reduce check-in wait times. Whether for Day Camp or Overnight Camp, a temperature check will be conducted at the start of their camp session in addition to the basic health screening that Camp has conducted for years.

Day Camp Drop-off, Pick-up, and Transportation

Day Camp drop-off and pickup will occur at the Gazebo near Alpha Lodge. As this is an outdoor scenario, parent/guardians are welcome out of their vehicles to register their campers. We ask that families doing so not interact with campers and staff that are in the on-going overnight program. While in their camp session, we ask that Day campers minimize other activities throughout the week where they may contract COVID-19.

During Camp

We'll see a return to previous norms with regards to cabin group size, and we don't see a need to restrict any of our regular outdoor activities this summer. Cabin groups will have 1 counselor. We're actively avoiding congested indoor areas throughout the Camp week, and likely avoiding shared bathroom/shower house situations as much as possible. That being said, we expect campers to have interactions with other campers who are not in their cabin group while outdoors while physical distancing as appropriate. At orientation (The O-Show) campers will learn the general safety expectations that will be implemented by our staff for them to be mindful of while at camp. Orientation for Day Camp will happen within their cabin groups.

What if my camper becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms while at summer camp?

Cabin groups are the most likely scenario for COVID-19 to spread to others, as these are the people who they will interact with on an indoor basis. That means their cabin mates and counselor are most susceptible to infection.

Campers who become ill with symptoms of COVID-19 will be isolated in a high comfort room under the supervision of a camp staff member. The camper's parent/guardians will be contacted, and next steps will be determined. When COVID-19 symptoms are present, a camper must be tested or go home, and a pro-rated on-file credit will be given if the camper tests positive or the parent/guardian wishes to pick up their camper. Upon a negative test, a camper may stay, and the parent/guardians of the other campers in the cabin group will be notified that someone has exhibited symptoms but tested negative. If a camper tests positive for COVID-19, all parent/guardians in the cabin group will be contacted and they may determine if they would like their camper to come home. The rest of the camp community will see their parent/guardians contacted about a positive test, but are not eligible for a pro-rated credit.

Closing Program and Check-Out

The closing program will be for campers only this year, and pickup/check-out will function in very much the same way drop-off does, where parents will wait until a Camp staff person escorts a camper to the parent/guardian. A key reason for this is we are not able to accommodate an indoor space we are comfortable using in the event of rain for parents & families.

Post-Camp

If a camper experience symptoms or is diagnosed with COVID-19 within 14 days of the last day of their camp experience, please contact Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca so that it can be reported and documented. Additionally, campers in the cabin group and their families will be contacted to be alert for any symptoms and to report it as well.