



Interim Guidance for Overnight Camp Settings (May 20, 2020)

On April 23, 2020, Governor Cooper announced a [three-phased approach](#) to slowly ease restrictions while combatting COVID-19, protecting North Carolinians and working together to recover the economy.

Guidelines for Conducting Business: Any scenario in which many people gather together poses a risk for COVID-19 transmission. All businesses and agencies where groups of people gather in an enclosed space should create and implement a plan to minimize the opportunity for COVID-19 transmission at their facility. The guidance below will help overnight camps reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading in their communities.

Prevention Efforts

It is recommended that overnight camps:

- Limit participation to campers from North Carolina and neighboring states.
- If possible, have counselors and staff – particularly those coming from outside of North Carolina or neighboring states come early and quarantine in camp for 14 days before campers arrive.
- Implement staggered drop-off and pick-up times, with specific times for each group of campers, if practicable.
- Use methods that do not require contact to check campers in and out of camp.
- Require parents dropping-off and picking-up campers to remain in their vehicles or outside of cabin.
- Promote frequent use of hand washing and hand sanitizer for campers and staff. Require handwashing prior to eating meals and snacks, and before and after any activities.
- Stagger bathroom breaks during activities so single cabin cohorts are using restrooms during the same break period.
- Encourage all employees and campers to wear a cloth face covering when they may be near (less than 6 feet from) other people. An FAQ about face coverings is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
- Provide guidance to employees on use, wearing, and removal of cloth face coverings, such as [CDC's guidance on wearing and removing cloth face masks](#), [CDC's use of cloth face coverings](#), and [CDC's cloth face coverings FAQ's](#).
- Provide training for campers and staff about hand hygiene, physical distancing, and cough/sneeze etiquette.
- Prohibit outside visitors to camp activities and facilities.
- Provide a transparent weekly email of concerns/cases to parents, campers and staff. Respect the privacy of all campers and staff while offering transparency and a reason to be vigilant.

Combating Misinformation

- Provide campers, their families, and staff with education about COVID-19 strategies, using methods like videos, webinars, or FAQs prior to the beginning of the camp session. Some reliable sources include [NC DHHS COVID-19](#), [Know Your Ws: Wear, Wait, Wash](#), [NC DHHS COVID-19 Latest Updates](#), [NC DHHS COVID-19 Materials & Resources](#)

It is **recommended** that overnight camps:

- Promote informational helplines like 211 and Hope4NC (1-855-587-3463) and other [Wellness Resources](#) to campers, their families, and staff.
- Provide access to mental/behavioral health support for both campers and staff. See [Managing Overall Health](#) and [Behavioral Health Guidance](#) for more information.
- Clearly communicate criteria for when campers will be excluded from camp activities.

Monitoring Campers and Staff for Symptoms

It is **required** that overnight camps:

- Conduct daily [symptom](#) screening (use this standard interview questionnaire, [English](#) | [Spanish](#)) of staff.
- Immediately isolate sick campers and staff away from others.
- If a camper or staff member has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or is presumed positive by a medical professional due to symptoms, the camper or staff member should be isolated away from other campers and staff until they meet the CDC criteria for release from isolation:
 - No fever for at least 72 hours since recovery (without the use of fever-reducing medicine) AND
 - Other symptoms have improved (e.g., coughing, shortness of breath) AND
 - At least 10 days have passed since first symptoms
- Have a plan to work with local health departments to identify close contacts of confirmed cases in a camp setting.

It is **recommended** that overnight camps:

- Have a plan in place for immediately isolating employees or campers if symptoms develop.
- Conduct symptom and temperature screening for campers and staff upon arrival to the camp, before joining their cabin group.
- Conduct daily [symptom](#) screening (use this standard interview questionnaire, [English](#) | [Spanish](#)) of campers.
- Send any staff or camper with symptoms immediately to isolation area to be assessed by onsite medical professionals.
- Encourage sick staff to stay home and isolate and practice social distancing whenever possible.
- Support staff who stay home due to sickness with liberal use of sick leave policy.
- Require daily temperature screening of staff before they interact with campers.
- Have a designated area ready (in health services area of camp) for isolation with designated staff. The staff/camper should remain in the designated area until they can be taken home. Afterwards the area must be properly disinfected in accordance with CDC's [Cleaning and Disinfection for Community Facilities](#).

Protecting Vulnerable Populations

- Enable staff to self-identify as high risk for severe disease and reassign work to minimize their contact with campers and other staff.

- Provide accommodations for high risk individuals (minimize interaction with campers, more spacing, wear face covering).

Recommendations for Specific Areas/Activities

Recommendations for Cabins/Sleeping Areas:

- Arrange cabins so that physical distancing can be achieved to the extent possible, with 6 feet between camper's heads while in bunk.
- Overnight adventure camps, primitive experience camps, or other camps with overnight tent camping should provide adequate alternatives for handwashing for the duration of the excursion.
- Require handwashing before preparing or eating meals, before and after activities, and other times when hands may be contaminated.

Recommendations for Daily Activities:

- Keep campers and staff in groups by cabin and minimize interactions of groups from different cabins. Campers should minimize interactions with other cabin groups.
- Reduce the size of groups for all activities and increase transportation frequency or routes to accommodate reduced group sizes.
- Permit only activities that allow social distancing. Do not hold large group activities, full camp assemblies, and team sports or relays where physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- Stop the practice of drinking directly from water fountains and provide cups or water bottles for use by campers and staff.
- Assign individual equipment for the duration of camp and label with camper's name to minimize sharing equipment.

Recommendations for Meal Service:

- Stagger meal service so that physical distancing between different cabin groups can be maintained.
- Meal service lines should have floor markings 6 feet apart. Counselors should oversee family style meals and self-service to assist campers. Remove any contaminated food or utensils, and utensils should be switched out to be cleaned and sanitized between cabin cohorts.

Recommendations for Cleaning Your Camp

It is **required** that overnight camps:

- Perform ongoing and routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas (e.g., doors, doorknobs, rails) with an [EPA approved disinfectant for SARS-CoV-2](#) (the virus that causes COVID-19), and increase disinfection during peak times or high camper density times.

It is **recommended** that overnight camps:

- Provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) at the entrance to cabins, cafeterias, and other high-volume areas when available. Systematically and frequently check and refill hand sanitizer stations; and provide soap and hand drying materials at sinks.
- All shared equipment such as sports equipment (e.g., balls, racquets, archery equipment, helmets, kayaks or canoes, paddles, life jackets), art supplies, and camping gear must be properly disinfected after use by each camper. Provide adequate contact time for disinfectant as required by the manufacturer before shared equipment is used by another camper.

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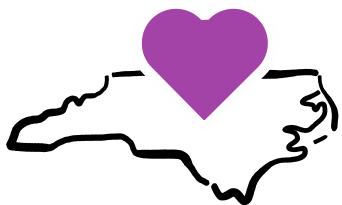
- ❑ Promote frequent use of hand washing and hand sanitizer for campers and staff. Require handwashing prior to eating meals and snacks, and before and after any activities.
- ❑ Disinfect all areas of buses and other transportation between trips.

Additional Actions Camps Can Take

- ❑ Post signage reminding campers and staff about social distancing (staying at least 6 feet away from others). [Know Your Ws](#) sign templates are available in English and Spanish on NC DHHS COVID-19 response site.
- ❑ Post signage requesting that campers or staff who are or recently have been symptomatic with fever and/or cough not remain at camp. [Know Your Ws/Stop if You Have Symptoms](#) flyers (English - [Color](#), [Black & White](#); Spanish - [Color](#), [Black & White](#))
- ❑ Provide additional signage and messaging on physical distancing, hand hygiene, and symptoms in common areas like cabins, restrooms, and dining halls.
- ❑ Clearly provide 6 feet floor markings in waiting areas and check-in points and modify transportation to and from camp so that individuals can maintain social distance.
- ❑ Provide cloth face coverings to staff per CDC guidance and strongly encourage use of cloth face coverings for campers and staff when social distancing is not possible, with education on how to properly wear, remove, and wash face coverings. An FAQ about face coverings is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
 - ❑ Provide guidance on use, wearing, and removal of cloth face masks, such as [CDC's guidance on wearing and removing cloth face masks](#), [CDC's use of cloth face coverings](#), and [CDC's cloth face coverings FAQ's](#).
- ❑ Cloth face coverings should NOT be put on babies and children under the age of 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

Additional Resources

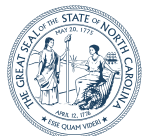
- NC DHHS: [North Carolina COVID-19](#)
- CDC: [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#)
- CDC: [Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#)
- CDC: [Reopening Guidance](#)
- EPA: [Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2](#)
- FDA: [Food Safety and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- HHS/OSHA: [Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#)



#StayStrongNC

**Staying apart brings us together.
Protect your family and neighbors.**

Learn more at nc.gov/covid19.



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