SUPPLEMENT to the CDC’s Camp Opening Decision Tree Document

Reopening Youth Programs and Camps during the COVID-19 Pandemic
This PRPS prepared document is designed to assist camp and childcare directors in their camp decisions. It provides our best interpretation of the current guidelines provided by the CDC, the PA Dept. of Health, NRPA, and others. It is not meant to be the definitive source but does try to provide some additional information and resources to camp and program managers in their decision-making process.

Decision (column) One - Should you consider opening?
1. Is the youth program or camp in a community no longer requiring significant mitigation?
   - The Pennsylvania Department of Health’s FAQ document states that childcare and daily summer camp programs may open in the “Yellow” and “Green” phase. Overnight organized camps and organized team sports may not operate until the county reaches the green phase.

2. Will reopening be in compliance with state and local orders?
   - Consult all local ordinances and guidelines. Weigh whether reopening is possible with the given restrictions and guidance. See above for state guidance.

3. Will the youth program or camp limit attendance to children and staff who live in the local area?
   - In order to minimize the potential spread of the virus, the CDC recommends that all camp serve only those in a local area. The term local area is currently undefined. Consider using school districts or municipal boundaries.

4. Will the youth program or camp be ready to protect children and staff at higher risk for severe illness?
   - Do you have the necessary handwashing capabilities, PPEs, space for social distancing, cleaning supplies, program organization, and staff training to protect those who are at higher risks? People at a higher risk for severe illness

Decision (column) Two - Are recommended safety actions in place?
1. Promote healthy hygiene practices such as hand washing, staff wearing a cloth face covering
   - CDC Healthy Hygiene Practices
   - Summer programs must develop a written health and safety plan that follows CDC Guidance for Youth and Summer Camps and post the plan on the summer program’s publically available website before providing services.

2. Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation
   - Coronaviruses on surfaces and objects naturally die within hours to days. Warmer temperatures and exposure to sunlight will reduce the time the virus survives on surfaces and objects.
   - Use open outdoor spaces whenever possible
Open doors and windows, use fans for cross ventilation in indoor areas

**EPA approved disinfectants against COVID-19**

When these are not available, the CDC recommends 1/3 cup household bleach per gallon of water or 60% alcohol solution.

**CDC guidance on cleaning and disinfecting your facility**

Outdoor areas, like playgrounds, generally require standard routine cleaning but do not require disinfection. Do not spray disinfectant on outdoor playgrounds- it is not an efficient use of supplies
  - High touch surfaces made of plastic or metal, such as grab bars and railings should be cleaned routinely.
  - Cleaning and disinfection of wooden surfaces (play structures, benches, tables) or groundcovers (mulch, sand) is not recommended.
  - Have campers wash hands after using playgrounds and other hard to clean/ sanitize surfaces.

3. **Ensure social distancing such as increased spacing, small groups, limited mixing between groups**

   - Whenever possible, camps should include the same group each day, and the same child care providers should remain with the same group each day and utilize the same room/areas. Consider creating a separate classroom or space for the children of healthcare workers and other first responders. If your program is unable to create a separate classroom, consider serving only the children of healthcare workers and first responders.
   - Cancel or postpone special events and field trips, and special performances.
   - Limit the mixing of children, such as staggering playground times and keeping groups separate for special activities such as art, music, and exercising.
   - All staff should wear cloth face coverings during child care and summer program operations.
   - Children and youth do not need to wear facemasks, although face coverings, when feasible, are still recommended by the CDC- especially for older youth in indoor or crowded locations.
   - Limit nonessential visitors.
   - Consider staggering arrival and drop off times and/or have child care providers come outside the facility to pick up the children as they arrive. Your plan for curbside drop off and pick up should limit direct contact between parents and staff members and adhere to social distancing recommendations.
   - Hand hygiene stations should be set up at the entrance of the facility so that children can clean their hands before they enter. If a sink with soap and water is not available, provide hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. If possible, place sign-in stations outside, and provide sanitary wipes for cleaning pens between each use.
   - Ideally, the same parent or designated person should drop off and pick up the child every day. If possible, older people such as grandparents or those with serious underlying medical conditions should not pick up children, because they are more at risk for severe illness from COVID-19
   - The CDC’s Guidance for Childcare Programs that Remain Open provides additional information on how to screen children properly when they arrive (touchless thermometers recommended).

4. **Limit sharing of items such as toys, belongings, supplies, and equipment**

   - Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces within the school and on school buses at least daily (for example, playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains) and shared objects (for example, toys, games, art supplies) between uses.
   - Remove toys that cannot be cleaned easily such as stuffed animals or other fabric-based toys
   - Keep each child’s belongings separated from others’ and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas.
   - Ensure adequate supplies to minimize the sharing of high touch materials to the extent possible (art supplies, equipment, etc. assigned to a single camper) or limit the use of supplies and equipment by one group of children at a time and clean and disinfect between use.
   - Avoid sharing of foods and utensils.
   - Avoid sharing electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids.
5. **Train all staff on safety actions**
   - Train all teachers and staff in the above safety actions. Consider conducting the training virtually, or, if in-person, ensure that social distancing is maintained.

**Decision (column) Three - Is ongoing monitoring in place?**

1. **Check for signs and symptoms in children and staff**

2. **Encourage anyone who is sick to stay home**
   - Review attendance and sick leave policies. Encourage students and staff to stay home when sick. Use flexibility, when possible, to allow staff to stay home to care for sick family members.
   - Discourage the use of perfect attendance awards and incentives.
   - Identify critical job functions and positions, and plan for alternative coverage by cross-training staff.

3. **Plan for if children or staff get sick**
   - Keep sick students and staff, particularly those with symptoms of respiratory illness, separate until they can leave. Plan to have areas where these individuals can be isolated until they can leave.

4. **Regularly communicate with local authorities, staff, and families**
   - Alert local health officials about large increases in student and staff absenteeism, particularly if absences appear due to respiratory illnesses (like the common cold or the “flu,” which have symptoms similar to COVID-19).
   - If local health officials have determined there is substantial transmission within the community, they will provide guidance on the best course of action. These strategies may extend across multiple programs, schools, or school districts within the community, as they are not necessarily tied to cases within schools or child care facilities.

5. **Monitor child and staff absences and have flexible leave policies and practices**
   - Review attendance and sick leave policies. Encourage students and staff to stay home when sick. Use flexibility, when possible, to allow staff to stay home to care for sick family members.

6. **Be ready to close if there are increased cases**

**Sources**

- PA Dept. of Health Summer Recreation, Camps and Pools FAQs
- CDC Considerations for Youth and Summer Camps
- CDC Interim Guidance for Administrators of US K-12 Schools and childcare Programs
- CDC Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility
- National Recreation and Parks Association’s Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pages
- Process to Reopen Pennsylvania
- Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes
- American Camp Association’s Camp Operations Guide Summer 2020
- PRPS Pandemic Resource Page

**STRONGER TOGETHER!**