



# PRPS Virtual Roundtable

## April 23, 2020

### Summer Camp Discussion

#### Google Doc –

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1q8Ob1Z\\_zcWcAjT5gM0XQS7Vazxg172icb3lQPR7pfY0/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1q8Ob1Z_zcWcAjT5gM0XQS7Vazxg172icb3lQPR7pfY0/edit?usp=sharing)

#### Chat Discussion

##### What is the status of your summer camp program?

Tom Steines: Cheltenham Township canceled all pool and camp programs.

Keith Kurowski: West Chester has canceled everything thru end of May.

Devon Serena: South Park Township is cancelling summer rec and doing an all virtual program with the ability to do pop up events if the summer allows.

Kate D: We're really waiting for the ACA/CDC guidelines to come out to see if we are able to adhere to those guidelines before talking with our health department and then will make a decision from there.

Mike Petkov: Ditto ACA/CDC

##### Beth Bachman, Dormont: Is your virtual program free?

Craig Merkey: Penn State canceled all in-person summer camps through June 19

Gregory E. Kriner: We are looking for how to handle the social distancing. We accept 80 children.

Lauren Irizarry: Conshohocken Borough - I received the green light this week to move forward with summer as is while creating contingency plans, i.e. canceled trips, number restriction, etc.

MARA Recreation: Middletown Area is on hold. Hopefully a clearer guideline next week

Michele: If you're planning to have Camp - My biggest concern is how do we keep (6-10) social distancing? In masks? Cleaning Legos, crayons, markers, play equipment???

##### Jessica Tholey: Eloise, are you still doing field trips?

Ken: Has anyone been in touch with your local (county) health department?

Tom Steines: How can you ensure participant and staff safety?

##### Poll question: What is the outlook for your summer camp program?

Cancel 6% Delay 19% Modify 48% Stick to schedule 26%

Missy Stimer: For those that are planning to host camp, what do you plan to do in order to keep kids at distance and follow within COVID guidelines? Do you anticipate cleaning in a specific manner, small groups, or plan to have campers wear masks?

Mike Petkov: <https://victorycomplete.com/product/professional-cordless-electrostatic-backpack/>

LKonecky: I have many of the same questions as Michele - we begin camps for 3-5 year olds. We normally work with 20 kids per session, with 2 sessions a day. It is an outdoor nature camp; we go indoors if weather is very wet/rainy.

Mandy: Centre Region Parks and Recreation made the decision to cancel or postpone all programs until the end of June. This includes 2.5 weeks of camp. Some of our camps are completely canceled. The Boating Camps are cancelled while some of the others have been postpone or modified.

Jennifer Bracken Fean: This morning I registered for "Camp Preparedness 2020- Discussing the essentials for COVID-19: Quarantine Operations, and Emergency Planning for this Summer" which is ACA - not until May 7 at 2 PM, wish it was sooner. <https://www.acacamps.org/staff-professionals/events-professional-development/events/webinar-camp-preparedness-2020-discussing-essentials-covid-19>

Mike Petkov: perhaps rethink the 16/17yo's - they may step-up and impress you... Just a thought

Greg Calbeck: Disney is expected to be closed until 2021

Lisa S: We are canceling all field trips (Moon Township, West Hills Pittsburgh)

Michele: If we hold Camp am I NOT taking my kids on field trips. (Bethel Park Rec)

Eloise: We cancelled all Friday field trips.

KKurowski: Could still do trips to state/county parks...still doesn't solve the bus issue

Mike Petkov: we are trying not to use any absolute language... We are strongly considering canceling all out of camp trips.

**John Hrebik: Will parents feel safe sending their children to any camp this summer?**

Eloise: We are going to try to bring people in from the Aviary, Zoo, etc. if we can.

Lisa S: We will be having assembly style programming once a week in place of field trips.

Kelly S (Venture Outdoors): We cancelled field trips due to the logistics and potential expenses of social distancing and cleaning with transportation.

Craig Shevchik: Cannot plan field trips...we are bringing in "special speakers/presenters"

**Tom Steines: Will parents be working this summer?**

**Beth Bachman, Dormont: Are you planning on setting limits for # of campers?**

**Ashley Broudy: If you host camp outdoors in a public park and there is a public gathering limitation set - you can limit camp numbers, including staffing, but how do you regulate the number of public people at the park? Do they play into that capacity and safety limit?**

Eloise: We usually get 120 campers, we set the limit at 80. We're not going to the pool either, because no mass transportation.

**Sara Sato: How do you guarantee the safety of your campers and counselors? Safety is a huge priority for us, and how can you guarantee that no one is bringing COVID into your camp?**

**Beth Bachman, Dormont: CDC guidelines are saying 50, when is that not feasible financially?**

Jennifer Bracken Fean: Trying to replace field trips with special guests

Melissa Kull: The CDC has guidelines for prescreening kids each day before they're allowed into a child care site and they would have to be turned away if they're exhibiting symptoms or like.. feverish

MARA Recreation: #imwithtonya

**Beth Bachman, Dormont: Melissa, is says someone medically trained - has anyone had a chance to research what that is defined as?**

Mike Petkov: regarding the field trip cancellations. There will be significant increased costs with staff/cleaning/equipment etc. Parents understand this. I would not be making concessions for lack of trips.

**Tom Steines: Will staff want to work?**

Melissa Kull: Unsure. I'm going to reach out to my DHS rep tomorrow to get more clarification on the CDC wording and how it relates to DHS guidelines

Eloise: I do have a really fun game in mind! It uses pool noodles for arms, to catch the ball!

**Mike Petkov: The next question to consider is, what will schools do. Social distancing at camp is not realistic. However, there are infection control measures that could be implemented.**

**John Hrebik: Colleges have no on campus learning thru July 31st. College athletes cannot be on campus. How can you run a summer camp with all the social gathering restrictions and feel safe for kids, staff, and parents?**

Eloise: I'm basically preparing for the most restrictive protocols, and if it doesn't need to be that restrictive, we can easily back off from it.

Mike Petkov: Having outside presenters come in... there is risk of them bringing infection into camp... Could be a concern

Beth Bachman, Dormont: Staff and guests also have to count for those numbers

Greg Calbeck: ranking kids could be problematic. Who is more deserving of a spot?

Beth Bachman, Dormont: we were planning on going in order, last one in, first one out

**astaffor5250: How is your organization staying fiscally viable with your programming currently. Because our programming has been cancelled since March we may not have enough money to keep our staff on to plan. Anyone else managing this?**

Craig Shevchik: Staffing and training could be a huge issue

Jennifer Bracken Fean: The only way to do it would be when they registered and then by age, right? Awful to call someone who registered in December and tell them "sorry"

**Kate D: What is the plan is staff parents don't want their kids to come to work or if the staff themselves don't want to come to work?**

Lisa S: Our camps are already full at 48 kids each week with a waiting list for each week. We expect some cancellations and plan to bring our numbers down to 40.

Jennifer Bracken Fean: Thought entered my mind to propose hiring a nurse at our staff meeting. No idea any answers to your questions yet

Sarah Sato: We have a staff member who is also an RN. She is going to school for her BS in nursing and is working as my assistant camp director/program coordinator.

Katie Kollar: When we opened registration, we did not require a deposit or payment. We just wanted an idea of numbers. So when a decision is made, we will notify those registrants and require payment at that time. In hopes that will allow families to make the decision to send their children or not. We do employ a school nurse on site.

Gina Tophoney: Especially with Act 47 in place

MARA Recreation: staffing is challenging to begin with for me as well. so it would be difficult adding more staff if I have to lower ratios

**John Hrebik: City of Allentown just furloughed 10% of its staff with more expected to be let go this Monday. How can you expect to hire seasonal workers for a free summer playground program?**

**astaffor5250: FBI Checks are they open currently with finger printing?**

Kristy Owens: We're still hiring staff at this point, we're fully staffed and down to substitutes. The issue of clearances getting back in time a big hurdle.

Melissa Kull: I'm hearing not yet re: the FBI fingerprinting locations. One of my staff has been waiting since mid-March to have her apt rescheduled for fingerprints

Lisa S: Our plan B is similar to what Tyler is saying

KKurowski: We are only hiring returning counselors. We know their clearances were good as of last year and most of these are young adults 18-22. No 16/17 yr. olds this year

Craig Merkey: It appears there are limited FBI fingerprint locations open

Gina Tophoney: FBI fingerprinting not yet around Suburbs of Philly

**Jennifer Bracken Fean: What constitutes essential child care? Don't mean to be dumb and I am sorry! Parents rely on us for child care, but we are not licensed and of course we are recreation. Where do we fall if we are in yellow???**

**Josh Green: Are we all interpreting the Gov's color system to mean that summer day camps will be allowed in the yellow tier?**

Greg Calbeck to PRPS Training(Privately): I'm based out of the Detroit Area and we were just sent a doc for one of our local group organizer on camp ideas and contingencies. What's your email? I can forward the info.

**Melissa Kull: Jennifer is it possible for you to become licensed for child care to ensure your ability to continue to function?**

Jennifer Bracken Fean: Yes Josh - that is what I am asking!

Mike Petkov: Green/Yellow/Red - <https://www.governor.pa.gov/process-to-reopen-pennsylvania/>

abroudry: There are some FBI Fingerprint locations listed as open around the Philly and suburb of Philly area on the DHS site. They also list new policies for how they are doing them.

Melissa Kull: We are licensed as a child care program

Gina Tophoney: When I worked for the YMCA we were licensed and it is a nightmare with requirements

Beth Bachman, Dormont: I would think they aren't licensing based on reduced staffing/closures now

Dave Hutner: It is a difficult process to obtain and maintain. Most of the regs are designed for things different to the needs of a recreational camp.

Mike Petkov: ACA/CDC will provide clarity on this. Yellow says: Child Care Open with Worker and Building Safety Orders. We need clarity on 'safety orders'

Gina Tophoney: I had reached out to DHS regarding Act 47...and this was the response I received....Thank you for contacting the Office of Children, Youth and Families. The topic of Act 47 and provisional hires has been discussed at the senate and house level but they will not be back in session until next week for further discussion. We can not be certain that any changes will be made regarding provisional hires but if a change is made the information will go out publicly but please know that this would be a statutory change and that can take some time. At this time, we are still not able to hire staff on a provisional basis unless you are a licensed child care center and you request and are granted a waiver.

We are sorry that we cannot be of any further service at this time but please feel free to contact us again for any updates.

Ashton Rosenberger: Quakertown Borough sent a survey out. it was very helpful to give our administration an idea of what our communities needs and expectations are. highly recommend!

**John Hrebik: Field trips to pools - how many people can be in a pool this summer?**

**Michele: Can anyone share their surveys?**

**Kate D: Is anyone who sent out a parent survey willing to share the questions you asked? I've been trying to come up with the most informative but least intrusive questions for our parents.**

Melissa Kull: Blue mountain also surveyed our currently enrolled child care families to see how many of them would be considered essential and require childcare through the summer before we presented our options to the superintendent ... it was pretty influential

Eloise: The Yellow Phase now states 25, not 50, people in one location.

Michele: I still confused as to where we fall in that "YELLOW" area. I read it that we can have Camp if we are "considered" Child Care BUT then it says cannot have gatherings of more than 25. I'm sure most of you have MORE than 25 kids register

Gina Tophoney: Cheryl, would you mind sharing those surveys?

John Hrebik: With that number, how can pools operate?

**Sarah Sato: Our Emergency Manager is being pretty strict with us in regards to programming. Is anyone else working closely with their Office of Emergency Management? How are they feeling about your municipality holding camp?**

Jennifer Bracken Fean: I just want to say that I am looking around at the faces I can see and everyone looks so exhausted! There is so much unknown it is taking its toll on us! We are all brilliant minds and we WILL figure it out together!!! Eventually...I promise :-)

Dave Hutner: We have been in contact with our camp staff weekly via email letters to all. Doing a zoom meeting in the near future with all of them to answer their questions, concerns, and to keep them in the loop on what is changing

Eloise: Yes! Jennifer we will if it can be done, we'll do it!

**Ashley Broudy: When you poll 100+ camp families and the majority anticipate needing camp and utilizing it if offered... how are you determining who will get to register if the group numbers are limited? Or if you've already reached capacity of that group limit?**

Tonya Brown: AGREE Jennifer. WE will get thru this Stronger Together!

**Gregory E. Kriner: Where do the Recreation Centers Fall into? 25 people if you take staff campers and the members of the center where do we go?**

Josh Green: If you are doing virtual camp, do you plan to charge\$\$\$?

Eric Stauffer: I don't want to get into the business of determining who "needs" camp and who doesn't. That could open an unwanted can of worms and accusations from parents.

Tyler Walker - Twp of Upper St. Clair: we have also been told that we are the green from our officials

Devon Serena: For our virtual camp, we are planning to charge \$25 instead of what camp would have cost at \$75. We are going to put together a tote bag full of camp supplies for the 7-week program.

Beth Bachman, Dormont: Tyler, are you accredited?

Mike Petkov: Check this out... 4% said they would pay for online services (pg .11)

[https://umcrm.wildapricot.org/resources/Finding\\_Direction\\_for\\_Camps\\_Report.pdf](https://umcrm.wildapricot.org/resources/Finding_Direction_for_Camps_Report.pdf)

**Gina Tophoney: For the subcontractors we are working with, they are charging a fee. We still use our rec system (MyRec) to process registration and payment.**

Tyler Walker - Twp of Upper St. Clair: we are not licensed, which puts us in the green phase

Beth Bachman, Dormont: Got it, I read that backwards. Thanks for the reply.

Devon Serena: My biggest concern with going virtual is that kids won't want to participate after doing weeks of virtual schooling.

Eloise: So I was going to shut the recreation center down for everything but summer camp. In this case, it may not fall under the 'recreation center' category as far as the restrictions go.

Beth Bachman, Dormont: Eloise, technically you have to be shut down as a Rec Center, can you really redefine that space then?

Dan Russell: Eloise - it does fall into that category because it's a facility.

John Hrebik: Kids and Parents are fed up with on line learning what I read now. Why more in the summer?

Tom Steines: Are kids receiving too much screen time as it is?

Jhane Kunkel: We decided not to go virtual based on the same as KKuroski stand point.

Michele: Beth have you heard anything in regards to opening up Dormont Pool?

Devon Serena: We are going to tell our parents that there's an option for "pop-up" events if restrictions loosen throughout the summer. I'm worried we won't be able to use our High School pool, and if we can, we will have to limit our groups of kids to smaller numbers.

astaffor5250: We are offering Arts online and possibly some other themed opportunities like design and engineering experiences but we are concerned that parents would still need to be present to support the child so it will still be difficult to facilitate

Beth Bachman, Dormont: I am hopeful to know the direction in the next week or so, sounds like most want to make a regional decision; similar to here, we don't have much guidance on what it will look like IE will lifeguards and patrons have to wear masks etc.

Mike Petkov: Obviously safety and health first, but KIDS NEED CAMP. They need to get outside, socialize, exercise, and get away from the screens. This should be a message that we promote.

Katie Kollar: Upper Moreland is considering a hybrid of old school 'summer playgrounds' (limit number of children, staff). Outside at our parkettes. Convenient locations for parents and gives them a few hours to work. Following CDC guidelines. Maybe only from 9am - Noon. And then offering an online activity for the afternoon each day...that would be available for everyone.

Devon Serena: I'm trying to make our virtual programming just something short they can watch each day, and then our rec on the go bags would include non-online activities that they could do on their own at home.

Jennifer Bracken Fean: We are with you Katie = thinking same thing

PRPS Training: PRPS Member Survey - Share your Story!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/COVIDStoriesandResources>

**astaffor5250: What is our responsibility to stop the spread?**

Kevin Sanders: Harrisburg City, looking to add a Safety portion to the program. This may replace our field trips in July if we can achieve the Green Status

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