

JUNE 2021 MASK UPDATE

This section provides an update to the Field Guide regarding adjustments to current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidance for Operating Youth Camps. Updates issued by CDC on May 28, 2021, provide guidance on outdoor mask usage and mask usage for camps where people are fully vaccinated.¹ Camp staff should review this CDC update along with updates provided by CDC on Mask Guidance for Unvaccinated People² and Guidance for Fully Vaccinated People.³ Guidance published by CDC should be reviewed throughout the camp season as updates are provided by CDC as new information becomes available. The following provides a summary of the May 28, 2021, CDC mask guidelines.

CDC YOUTH CAMP MASK USAGE SUMMARY

- For Day or Overnight Camps Where Everyone is Fully Vaccinated—Staff and campers who are fully vaccinated do not need to wear masks at camp, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance. Although fully vaccinated persons do not need to wear masks, camps can be supportive of staff or campers who choose to continue to wear a mask.
- For Day or Overnight Camps Where Everyone is Not Fully Vaccinated—Camp programs should encourage people who are not fully vaccinated and those who might need extra precautions to wear a mask consistently and correctly when **indoors**.
- For Day or Overnight Camps Where Everyone is Not Fully Vaccinated—In general, people do not need to wear masks when **outdoors**. However, particularly in areas of substantial to high transmission, people who are not fully vaccinated are encouraged to wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated.
- Day Camp Cohorts—Campers and staff in the same cohort who are not fully vaccinated should continue to wear masks indoors, in crowded outdoor settings, during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated, and in areas of substantial to high transmission.
- Overnight Camp Cohorts—Household cohort members do not need to wear masks when they are together without non-household cohort members nearby.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/summer-camps.html>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>

- Out of an abundance of caution, CDC recommends continued masking for people with weakened immune systems.
- Masks should not be worn when doing outdoor activities that could get masks wet, like using boats and watercraft or swimming at the beach or pool.
- Masks should not be worn when sleeping.
- No child under the age of 2 should wear a mask.
- Camps may choose to continue to require masks for vaccinated and not fully vaccinated campers and staff in order to adhere to prevention strategies when it is difficult to tell who has been vaccinated or to set an example for not fully vaccinated campers.
- Camps should be supportive of campers or staff who choose to wear a mask.
- Camps may consider requiring mask use indoors by all people present including vaccinated campers, staff, and other people such as visitors.
- Heat-related illness is a long-standing health concern. Many camps have heat policies in place to help ensure that staff and campers do not experience heat-related illness and, if they do, camp staff know how to properly respond.
- Campers who are fully vaccinated no longer need to wear a mask while participating in sports, except where required by laws, rules, or regulations. For campers who are not fully vaccinated—camps should review prevention strategies for youth sports and local laws, rules, and regulations.⁴
- Campers and staff, who are not fully vaccinated, should wear masks during activities that have the potential to produce respiratory droplets including singing, chanting, shouting, or playing a wind instrument.
- Camps with universal mask policies, regardless of vaccination status, should make exceptions for the following categories of people:
 - Children under the age of 2 years.
 - A person with a disability who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.
 - A person for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by the relevant workplace safety guidelines or federal regulations.

⁴ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html>

LIMITATIONS

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