



DES MOINES Y CAMP

2021 COVID-19 OPERATIONAL RESPONSE

Updated: 1.26.2021

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2-0-2-1 in our Y Camp... No other year the same!

Greetings! If you're reading this, hopefully it means you or someone close to you is considering registering for Overnight, Day or Family Camp for summer 2021! We want to thank you for joining us in being a part of something special this summer. After making the choice to suspend these programs last year, we recognize how important it is that kids and families get the opportunity to reconnect with nature, others and themselves after a long year of many personal sacrifices. We're getting ready for the best summer yet at Y Camp!

With that optimism also comes caution and due diligence. We know that the Covid-19 pandemic will still be a factor this summer in some way, shape or form. That is why we're committed to working with our health officials, the CDC and local schools to design the best plan of action in order to keep our camp a safe, healthy and rewarding environment for all.

The following is a summary of the policies and procedures that we've developed (and borrowed from other organizations, camps and schools) in preparation for the summer. This document is designed as if camp were starting *tomorrow!* Because of this, we will be regularly tweaking and adding to this document as we see it necessary. We thank you again for taking the time to review these policies with us!

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please email our Summer Camps Director at trevor.schmitt@dmymca.org.

Happy adventures!

- Y Camp Staff

Purpose:

This plan is designed to position Y Camp to be safe and successful in 2021 with regards to overall camper health and prevention of spreading COVID-19. It is designed using resources from YMCA of the USA, Overnight Camp Cabinet and CDC as well as guidance from Des Moines-area and Boone-area school administrators.

Cleaning Products:

Y Camp will continue to use cleaning products that are both anti-viral and anti-bacterial. The Housekeeping Supervisor will ensure that all hand soaps, cleaning solutions, sanitizers and solvents meet this criteria and that all campers have access.

PRE-CAMP

COMMUNICATION

- **Parent Information**
 - The Parent Guide will be updated with check in/out procedure changes, operational changes and policies regarding exposure management while at camp.
 - The updated Parent Guide will be uploaded to the camp website *June 1st* to ensure the information is up-to-date and accurate.
- **Email Reminders**
 - Emails will be sent from the Executive Director near the end of May with COVID-19 prevention practices being employed during summer 2021. It will also prepare families for the uploaded Parent Guide to be sent soon afterward.

PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

- **Physical Distancing / Self-Quarantine**
 - We highly encourage campers and camper families to practice responsible physical distancing and mask-wearing whenever possible.
 - Here are some ways we suggest living responsibly in the week leading up to camp:
 - Choose to eat meals at home instead of going out to eat.
 - Physically distance and wear a mask around anyone who may work with others and thereby risk exposure.
 - Keep a small bubble of people to remain in close contact with. If they're willing, ask those close to you to adhere to a similar level of caution in the days leading up to camp.
 - Wash your hands regularly.
 - Stay hydrated and get plenty of rest!

CAMPER ADMISSION PROCEDURES

- **Check In**
 - All campers must be fully screened before admission to Y Camp. This screening process will include a questionnaire about contact tracing and symptoms, as well as a temporal temperature check *before* proceeding with the check in process.
 - Our check-in process will be a **Drive-Thru Experience!** All components of check-in will be conducted road-side by our staff, including screenings, head checks, trading post deposits, etc. Parents/guardians will be asked to sign in their camper(s) at the car, say "See ya later!" and allow their Leader to escort them up to their cabin from there with their luggage.
- **Bus Procedures (Day Camp)**
 - Before signing in at Day Camp pick up, all campers must complete a temperature screening with a temporal thermometer as well as a Covid-19 health questionnaire.
 - All passengers will use viral hand sanitizer when they board the bus. A supply will be provided at the door and each camper will receive a dose before seating.
 - Campers will sit every-other seat to maximize distancing between each other. Siblings and family members will be able to sit together.
 - In order to maximize room on the bus, we will offer on-camp check in and check out for Day Camp and will encourage anyone who has the ability to do so to utilize this option.
 - At the end of each day all seats, railings, handles and window mechanisms on the bus will be sanitized with antiviral and antibacterial wipes.

SLEEPING SPACE & CABIN COHORT MODEL

- **Sleeping Arrangements**
 - Each will be capped at 8 campers and 2 staff members per cabin.
 - All campers will be instructed to sleep head to foot
 - Good spacing will be prioritized in all sleeping spaces
- **Cabin Cohorts**
 - Each day, cabins will go to each activity and location as one cohort in order to minimize contact with others outside of their cabin.
 - During large-group outdoor activities, cabins will be paired with "buddy cabins" of their same age group. Buddy cabins will be required to wear facemasks around each other and will partake in activities that allow them to be physically distanced.
 - Day Camp Cohorts will also operate in the cohort arrangement throughout their activities at camp.

DINING HALL PROCEDURES

- **Mandatory Hand Washing**
 - Prior to entry into the dining hall, all campers must wash hands with soap and warm water. They may use the restrooms in the dining hall or additional nearby handwashing stations.
 - A staff member will be stationed to monitor and ensure that all campers wash their hands appropriately before a meal.
 - As campers enter the dining hall, they will receive a dose of hand sanitizer to kill any additional/remaining bacteria before sitting down for the meal.
- **The Meals**
 - We will be running split meals in order to minimize the amount of people in the Dining Hall at one time.
 - During the meal, campers are fed family style so as to reduce exposure to others and camp-wide food. Buffet-style food service will not be provided.
 - Everyone will be required to wear a facemask when up from their own cabin's table for any reason.
 - While the Dining Hall is normally a lively, loud place filled with singing, chanting and excited yelling, we will hold off on the singing and dancing until all are finished eating. Campers will then congregate in cabin groups outside the Dining Hall in Dahl Lawn for camp songs, music, skits and camp announcements.

ACTIVITY AREA PROCEDURES

- **Daily Program Areas**
 - Campers will use hand sanitizer prior to and after all activities involving shared equipment.
 - All program equipment will be fully sanitized by staff following each group's enjoyment of the activity.
 - We have tried-and-true, unique cleaning policy in place for every program we offer on camp, including horseback riding, canoes, target sports, climbing wall, swimming pool, fishing, sports, etc.
- **Evening Programs & All-Camp Activities**
 - Y Camp has many different evening traditions we'll be looking to bring back this summer! However, everything from our opening campfire to our weekly talent show must be carried out in a way that keeps all cabin groups distanced from one another in an outdoor environment.
 - Whenever there is an all-camp activity of any kind, everyone will be expected to wear a facemask and remain in their own cabin or buddy groups.

GENERAL SANITATION PROCEDURES

- Housekeeping staff are fortunate to have a ton of experience in effective sanitation practices from our Family Connection programming last summer! Our Housekeeping Supervisor keeps a tight schedule of sanitizing all communal areas on camp (Dining Hall and Pioneer, public bathrooms, door handles, pool house, etc.) multiple times a day with the help of other housekeeping staff, program staff and available cabin staff.
- Any surfaces that are not sanitized regularly are marked with signs or blocked off by barriers.
- Each Overnight and Day Camp group will be supplied with a bag of anti-viral and anti-bacterial cleaning supplies to sanitize programs they use as they go through a day at camp. Cleaning solutions and supplies are replenished as needed by Housekeeping Staff with assistance from the Summer Camp Director.

CAMP HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION

- The Camp Healthcare Consultant will review medical procedures in camp's Standing Orders, specifically with regards to the symptoms of and approach to COVID-19. The CDC will also be consulted in creating all specific health and safety guidelines.

STAFF EXPECTATIONS

- Y Staff will model all practices that we're asking campers to follow. This is what being a Y Camp Leader is all about!
- Staff health will be monitored throughout the summer on a weekly basis. Before joining the all-staff meeting at the start of each week, health screenings will be carried out by our Registered Nurse.

FINANCIAL POLICY

- Upon registration, there is a \$50 non-refundable deposit per camper. Should anyone be unable to attend their week of camp due to an exposure to Covid-19, we will first offer that camper a spot in a later week, should capacity allow. If this is not possible, we are happy to offer a full refund of the deposit and registration fees.
- We strive to ensure that no family is turned away due to inability to pay, especially in light of the hardships brought on by the global pandemic. If you will have difficulty paying the full registration fee, please visit www.y-camp.org/financial-assistance or call us at 515-432-7558.

AFTER CAMP'S OVER

- Following each week, there will be an electronic survey sent to the parents and guardians of all campers who joined us at camp! This survey will provide the opportunity to give feedback on how procedures were carried out, what we did well and how we can improve!