



ULSTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

239 Golden Hill Lane, Kingston, NY 12401-6441, (845) 340-3150, Fax (845) 334-8337

PATRICK K. RYAN

County Executive

CAROL M. SMITH, MD, MPH

Commissioner of Health and Mental Health

June 2021

Dear Children's Camp Operator:

The New York State Department of Health strongly encourages children's camps to ensure all staff and eligible campers are vaccinated. CDC recommends that everyone aged 12 years and older is vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as possible to keep from getting and spreading COVID-19. Camps can help increase vaccine uptake among campers, their families, and staff by providing information about COVID-19 vaccination, promoting vaccination, and establishing supportive policies and practices that make it as easy and convenient as possible for staff and others to get vaccinated.

Given New York's progress and the diminished risk of COVID-19 within the community, New York State has lifted most COVID-19 restrictions, except the mask requirement for unvaccinated individuals and in certain settings (e.g., health care) as advised by the CDC. With the removal of the State's minimum standard for operating, children's camps are free to choose to lift all or some restrictions, continue to adhere to the State's COVID-19 guidance archived at <https://forward.ny.gov/archived-industry-guidance>, or implement other health precautions for their employees and patrons.

Masks remain strongly recommended, not required, for children in childcare settings and camps when indoors, consistent with CDC guidance consistent with CDC guidance. In accordance with CDC guidelines, at overnight camps, campers and staff who are staying together in a cabin, bunk, or similar defined space do not need to wear masks when they are together without members from other cabins/bunks nearby. At all other times, unvaccinated staff should wear face coverings indoors in accordance with CDC guidelines. Any mask requirements that the camp implements must adhere to all applicable federal and state laws and regulations (e.g., Americans with Disabilities Act).

Camp operators should consider the impacts of a positive case on contacts with unvaccinated campers and staff when determining the camp's policy for cohorts/stable groups. A positive case would require all contacts who are unvaccinated to quarantine individually at home or onsite for overnight camps. CDC recommends that "campers should be assigned to cohorts that will remain together for the entire camp session without mixing, to the largest extent possible." For more information see CDC's [Guidance for Operating Youth Camps](#).

If you have any questions regarding the guidance, please do not hesitate to contact this office at 845-340-3010.