

GNAG Licensed Childcare Program Covid -19 Policies & Procedures

Policy Established: June 2021

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Synopsis

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a novel coronavirus that can result in acute respiratory illness. In general, these viruses are spread when a person who is ill coughs or sneezes. It may also be possible for a person to contract COVID-19 by touching contaminated surfaces and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes. The majority of people with COVID-19 develop a mild illness, which may include fever, cough, aches or pain, runny nose, shortness of breath, loss of smell or taste, sore throat, and/or headaches. Participants may have milder or asymptomatic infections of COVID-19.

Notice of Risk

When children from multiple families attend a single day camp, there is an increased risk of the COVID-19 virus coming into the camp. Children who are infected with the COVID-19 virus are more likely than adults to have a very mild infection, or to have no symptoms at all. Nevertheless, these children can still transmit the infection to other children and to adults in the camp. This means that children can bring home an infection acquired in the camp and put other persons at risk.

The risk of serious COVID-19 infection increases with age, which older day camp staff should consider in terms of the risk to themselves, particularly if working in camps with children from multiple families. This caution also applies to those persons of any age who have chronic medical conditions that may put them at increased risk for serious illness with COVID-19 infection.

Signs and Symptoms

It can take up to 14 days after exposure to COVID-19 for symptoms to appear, these include:

- fever (feeling hot to the touch, a temperature of higher than 37.8 degrees Celsius)
- chills
- cough that's new or worsening (continuous, more than usual, not related to asthma or another condition)
- barking cough, making a whistling noise when breathing (croup)
- shortness of breath (out of breath, unable to breathe deeply)
- sore throat
- difficulty swallowing

- runny, stuffy or congested nose (not related to seasonal allergies or other known causes or conditions)
- loss of sense of taste or smell
- pink eye (conjunctivitis)
- headache that's unusual or long lasting
- digestive issues (nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain)
- muscle aches
- extreme tiredness that is unusual (fatigue, lack of energy)
- falling down often
- for young children and infants: sluggishness or lack of appetite

Please note: If the camper/staff received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and is experiencing mild fatigue and/or mild muscle aches/joint pain; or a mild headache that only began after vaccination, they are permitted to attend camp. If the symptoms worsen, continue past 48 hours, or if the individual develops other symptoms, they should not attend camp until they are no longer symptomatic.

Additional information:

- Symptoms may be different depending on age. Children and older adults with COVID-19 may also have non-specific symptoms such as: disorientation, confusion, sleeping more than usual, muscle aches, dizziness, weakness or falls, chills or headaches.
- Symptoms need to be "**greater than normal**". If a participant and/or staff has a runny nose/watery eyes consistent with allergies, and an additional symptom presents itself, such as lethargy or fever, they would be asked to leave the program/work.
- Inflammatory Condition – On rare occasions, children can get an inflammatory condition that impacts the blood vessels. This is called vasculitis. It can present with; rashes, prolonged fever, red eyes and swelling in hands and feet that requires medical attention. A COVID-19 test is not required to return, only a doctor's note.

Procedure for a camper displaying symptoms of illness:

- If a staff member identifies a camper exhibiting any of the COVID-19 symptoms, the camper must be isolated in a designated isolation room or outdoors whenever possible.
- Staff should immediately notify the Supervisor on Duty.

- Camper will be asked to wear their mask.
- Staff who stay with the camper will ensure they are wearing a 3 layer medical mask. Goggles or a face shield will also be available to the staff should they choose to wear it. Parents will be notified and asked to pick up their child immediately.
- Camper will be supplied with tissues and encouraged to proceed with proper respiratory etiquette.
- In the event of serious illness, call 911 and follow appropriate emergency procedures.
- Children in isolation may become anxious or fearful, staff need to manage their anxiety however it manifests itself.
 - Encourage the child to talk about their feelings
 - Soothe without dismissing feelings
 - Practice belly breathing
 - Talk to the parent
 - Distract with a book or game so long as the child does not feel you are dismissing their feelings.

Procedure for a staff displaying symptoms of illness at work:

- Staff who experience symptoms will immediately put on PPE and remove themselves from the group.
- They will inform their manager and go home.
- They will not be permitted to return to work until their symptoms are gone.

Returning to Camp

A staff or participant may return to the program for the following reasons:

- The staff/camper's symptoms are not new and have not changed. The participant/client was previously seen by a doctor or nurse practitioner and was diagnosed with a chronic condition such as allergies or asthma, with the exact same symptoms as the participant/client has now.
- The staff/camper visited a doctor or nurse practitioner during the time since they were sent home or denied entry to a program or facility. The doctor or nurse practitioner told the camper that another diagnosis (medical reason) other than COVID-19 explains their symptoms (why the participant/client was feeling sick).

- The staff/camper has not developed any new symptoms, and their symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours.
- The staff / camper should be symptom free for 48 hours prior to returning if their symptoms include vomiting / diarrhea.

Child and/or staff who have a positive COVID-19 test result:

- The child and/or staff with a positive COVID-19 test should self-isolate and not attend the camp. Please refer to the Self-isolation instructions on the OPH website.
- The child may return to camp when their symptoms have been improving for 24 hours.

Expectation for the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) by staff and adults

- Staff and children are not required to wear a mask while in the program, however, any individual may wear a mask if they choose to do so.

Respiratory Etiquette

- When coughing or sneezing, cover your nose and mouth with either a tissue or into your sleeve or elbow.
- Dispose of used tissues into the garbage immediately after use
- Practice proper hand hygiene immediately after coughing or sneezing