

2022 Covid Operating Procedures for Camp St. Charles

Updated March 5, 2022, removed emphasis on masks May 2, 2022

All operating procedures noted here are subject to change based on guidance from the CDC, State of Maryland, and local health departments, covid variants, level of community spread, etc.

Our 2022 operation procedures are based on thoughtful reflection on the 2021 camp season, ACA guidance from operations from many hundreds of camps, feedback from our 2021 campers and families, input from summer camp staff and a range of public health authorities. Our operations may adjust prior to summer based on many factors. We will communicate changes as they arise and desire to provide as much planning time as possible for families.

Here are the main elements of our 2022 COVID mitigation strategy at Camp St. Charles:

Negative COVID Test for check in
Covid 19 vaccines strongly recommended
Use of Cohort groups (Cabin groups)
Masks when near other cohort groups (if a covid surge indicates increased caution)
Weekly covid screening tests for all campers and staff
Mostly Outdoor Activities
Frequent Hand Hygiene
Daily Screening of all campers and staff members
Possible return of day trips during two week camp sessions based on in camp covid testing results

Throughout this document, “cabin group” will refer to the cohort group of campers who are sharing a cabin. Each cabin will house 23-25 campers for 2022, which will be two camper teams.

Before Arrival at Camp:

- A big part of a healthy camp program is bringing your healthy campers to check-in day. Prior to arrival, families are encouraged to take the [CDC recommended steps to reduce risk of COVID exposure for 14 days prior to arrival at camp.](#)
- **ALL Campers must bring a recent negative COVID-19 test to check in at camp (must be a lab test conducted, PCR or antigen test 1-3 days before arrival at camp). Due to widespread breakthrough infections with the omicron variant, all campers will be required to test before camp.** Results should be submitted to camp prior to check in to assist us in providing a smooth and timely check in process.

Guidance for parents regarding scheduling pre-camp covid tests will be updated throughout the summer season. Most families who had difficulty with timely test results had tested at their doctor's office. Other testing locations were much more efficient with providing results.

- **Campers who are up to date on covid vaccination (including recommended boosters) should also complete a screening test and submit vaccine records.**
[What does up to date on covid vaccination mean?](#)
- Camp staff will be screened for COVID before arriving at camp, will be vaccinated and will be tested weekly
- Parents are encouraged to discuss the risks of COVID-19 with their camper's pediatrician before attending camp.
- Campers/Guests/Staff Members who have had a recent exposure to COVID-19 or have tested positive for COVID-19 should not come to camp.
- Pre-camp COVID testing of campers will allow our cabin groups to be considered households during the camp session. Within the cabin group, campers will be permitted to spend time together without masks. Since campers are sharing living space and would not be sleeping in masks, we were pleased to see that the CDC updated summer camp guidance in 2021 to allow forming of households at camp. Cohort members will not need to wear masks while spending time together, when only cohort members are present.

Arrival at Camp:

- Check in will be a drive through process. Parents will remain in the car and check in will be completed at various stops around camp. We are using the same process as in 2021, please follow the instructions of camp staff directing traffic and be patient.
- Check in will be Sunday 1-3 p.m.
- Camp staff will assist campers in moving into their cabin and bunks.
- Campers will need masks for entering and leaving the mess hall and during indoor activities when more than one cohort is present. The program is structured to limit the need for masks but masks will be needed briefly, each camp day.
- **Mail: Parents may drop off a package at check-in to be delivered on Wednesday.**
(Because our local post office has closed, we have requested that parents plan to leave a package at camp during drop off and use Bunk1 to send bunk notes. Mail will not be collected daily from the post office and is typically very slow. Additionally, we are trying to limit trips in and out of camp so please refrain from sending mail.)
- Parents will receive a folder of information, including contact information for camp staff members and information to assist with accessing Bunk1 photos and how to send and receive bunk notes.

Activities/General Camp Events:

- All campers and staff will be tested for covid 19 while at camp. CSC has scheduled with Capital Diagnostics to conduct testing on site for all campers and staff. These results will assist families who have other camps and travel after time at Camp St Charles. For our two week camp program, the testing will provide important data to guide decisions about allowing more interaction between cohort groups during the second week of our program.
- Campers will need to bring several face coverings/masks to camp. Campers should choose well-fitting masks that they are used to wearing. Label all masks with camper's names, just as we recommend labeling clothing. Mabel's Labels are ideal.
- Campers will wear masks when indoors, near people from other cohort groups (in the event of a covid surge) generally, we will limit close contact between cohort groups
- Campers will have daily health checks, which will include temperature checks and health screening questions
- Campers will wash their hands frequently while at camp and will use hand sanitizer at activity areas without access to a handwashing station.
- Whole camp activities will be modified to provide spacing between cohort groups with limited, interactions between cohort/cabin groups.
- When possible, campers will be outside and most camp activities are outdoor activities.
- Since we offer a wide range of specialized activities, it will not always be possible to have campers assigned with their cabin counselors.
- Some of our camp wide events will be modified so that we can continue some camper favorites with physical distancing between cohort/cabin groups.
- Sharing of equipment will be limited and high touch areas will be sanitized regularly.

Meals at Camp:

- Meals will be served in shifts in the well ventilated mess hall building
- Campers will wear masks as they walk to their tables and will sit with their cohort groups with 6+ feet of space between cohort groups.
- Camper groups will eat at assigned tables and the space will be sanitized between uses.
- Snacks (Canteen) will be served by cabin group and enjoyed at picnic tables in the cabin area. Again, cohort groups will be seated together at each cabin.

Free Time/Zone Time at Camp:

- Cabin groups will be assigned to camp areas during “free time” (dock, sports, pool, nature... on a rotation so that all campers will have opportunities at all areas).
- Pool time will be assigned to one cabin group at a time since masks will not be worn in the pool
- During our two week camp programs, outdoor events with interaction between groups may be permitted during the second week of camp. This decision will be driven by data from covid testing completed during the first week of camp

Extreme Heat:

- In the event of extreme heat, our schedule will be modified to ensure that campers can remove their masks and avoid interaction with other cabin groups.
- Campers will not be required to wear masks in extreme heat as that would present a health hazard.

Siblings at Camp:

- Siblings who are not the same gender and age group will not be assigned to the same cabin group.
- Since we must keep cabin groups together as a cohort, our cabins and teams are the same group. Many activities are adjusted for campers age, abilities, and physical size. We have opted to organize cabins by age group while cohorts are recommended for covid mitigation.
- Siblings who do not share a cabin may wish to connect during their time at camp. Counselors will assist campers in these visits. Counselors will not necessarily know that campers have siblings in other groups and campers can ask counselors to help them arrange for a check in with a sibling. Meal times are a good opportunity for camp staff to facilitate check-ins between siblings.

Illness at Camp:

- Check in Screenings and Daily health screenings will be completed at camp.
- If a child or staff member has a fever or any COVID-19 symptoms, they will be referred to the camp nurse/physician for further evaluation.
- The camp nurse/physician will identify any camper or staff member who is suspected of having COVID. The ill individual will be separated from the group and monitored until they can be collected by a parent or other authorized adult.
- In the event of an illness after camp, please notify Camp St. Charles for contact tracing purposes.
- In the event of a COVID case at camp, all members of the camp community will be notified. Following a covid exposure, vaccinated participants will continue to be monitored for symptoms. Following a covid exposure, unvaccinated participants must

leave camp for quarantine.

For the 2022 Season, based on feedback from our 2021 campers and families, we plan to reintroduce the following activities to the second week of our TWO WEEK camp sessions, Sessions II, III and IV for 2022, **pending covid testing results from in camp testing.**

- Major Trip: Major (ages 12-13 year old campers) will take a day trip s during two week camp sessions. The 2022 trips will be to a zip line park, Terrapin Adventures for a field trip. This outdoor attraction builds on the low ropes course experience at CSC.
- Mentor Service Trip: Mentors will volunteer at a local non-profit supporting homeless people in our area.
- Skull Island Camping: Minors (10-11 year old, overnight) and Middie (6-9 year old day)
- Outdoor Free Time with interaction between cohorts during the second week of camp, after review of week one covid testing results
- Opportunities for campers to opt in to earning compass award challenge patches for various camp activities. Counselors will invite campers to attempt challenge patch activities, which are outdoor skill challenges at some camp activities including archery, riflery, swimming, canoeing, challenge course

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