



**CAMP CAPERS**  
ESTABLISHED 1947

## **2021 SUMMER CAMP COVID-19 GUIDELINES**

The following guidelines were developed based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), American Camp Association (ACA), local health officials, and the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas (DWTX). As more up-to-date information about COVID-19 emerges, Camp Capers will alter plans to adhere to any updates in guidance. This document is **NOT** a complete list of all the necessary actions Camp Capers will take to mitigate the risk of transmission and spread of COVID-19 during the Summer Camp 2021 season. It does provide an overview of the main changes to how camp operates and should provide you and your camper(s) a glimpse into how camp will look different this summer.

### **TAKING PRECAUTIONS BEFORE CAMP REGISTRATION**

For some of our camp families, this may not be the year to send your child to summer camp. The CDC has identified several conditions that put individuals or their families at a higher risk, listed below. **If your camper meets any of these conditions or their immediate household includes someone who meets any of these conditions and has not been vaccinated, consult with your family physician about summer camp participation and their specific situation.**

#### **Common Higher Risk Conditions**

- Chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- A serious heart condition
- Immunocompromised, potentially due to cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications.
- Severe obesity (BMI of 40 or higher)
- Diabetes
- Chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- Lyme disease
- 65 years of age or older

## MANDATORY PRE-CAMP HEALTH PRECAUTIONS AND SCREENING

Every year Camp Capers asks parents and guardians to fill out a 24-hour Health Screening Form to ensure your camper has not had a fever or has been sick within the 24 hours prior to arriving at Camp Capers. This year parents & guardians will be required to choose one of three pre-camp health precautions prior to their child arriving on site.

- 1) If your child is old enough and qualifies for the vaccine, you may get them vaccinated prior to camp, with enough time to be fully vaccinated on the first day of their session.
- 2) You may have your child tested for SARS-CoV-2 (novel coronavirus) using a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), such as an RT-PCR Test, 1-3 days prior to attending camp. Antigen tests will not be accepted.
- 3) You may complete a 14-day Health Screening form developed by the Association of Camp Nurses (ACN). During the 14-day period prior to the camp session, you will closely monitor your child for any symptoms of COVID-19, quarantine as best as possible (reduce exposure), and record your child's daily temperature. Reduce your household's potential exposure to COVID-19 by limiting your time in public, especially any crowded areas or places with large crowds. If you do go out in public, wear a mask, maintain physical distancing, and continue to wash your hands and abide by respiratory etiquette.

Documentation of the vaccine, a negative RT-PCR test, or the completed and signed 14-Day Health Screening form will be required at check-in.

**IF THIS DOCUMENTATION IS NOT COMPLETE AND TURNED IN AT CHECK-IN, YOUR CAMPER WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND THEIR CAMP SESSION, in order to protect the health and safety of all campers, staff, and local community.** The 14-day Health Screening form will be emailed to all registered campers and will also be available online. Resources for vaccinations and testing are provided below.

[Vaccine Information from the Texas Department of State Health Services](#)  
[Vaccine Locations in the State of Texas](#)

[CDC COVID-19 Testing Information](#)  
[Testing Locations in the State of Texas](#)

## OPENING DAY AT CAMP

Camp Capers' Check-in procedures will be different this summer. Staff will send out cabin assignments with corresponding check-in times prior to your camper's opening day. All the normal stations will be set up along the main road into camp so that you can check-in your camper, drop off any medicine, turn in your pre-camp health screening documentation (see above), and drop off your camper at their respective cabin.

**All family members will need to stay inside their vehicle during check-in.** A staff member will assist your camper unloading their belongings and get them situated in their cabin. Please pack your camper's medicine separately from their other camp belongings for a more efficient check-in process.

This year, if you are a Senior High camper who is planning on driving yourself to camp, you may only provide a ride to camp for those individuals within your household. **Please do not** carpool with your friends to camp this year.

## CAMPER'S ROLE IN A SAFE AND HEALTHY CAMP CAPERS

Campers will play an important part in keeping our camp community safe. On the first day of camp, staff will go over our guidelines for proper hand hygiene (handwashing), respiratory etiquette (covering coughs and sneezes), physical distancing, proper times to wear masks, and daily health screenings.

## MANDATORY DAILY HEALTH SCREENING

Every day all campers will undergo a health screening for COVID-19 symptoms including daily temperature checks and health screening questions pertaining to COVID-19 symptoms. If your camper exhibits any COVID-19 symptoms or a fever greater than 100.4°F, they will be moved to an isolation room, and you will be contacted directly. You, or an approved emergency contact, will need to pick up your camper **within 8 hours**.

## CARE PACKAGES & MAIL

This year campers can receive outside packages or mail; however, care packages are limited to **2 per session per camper**. All care packages must abide by Camp Capers rules and guidelines. These care packages will be dropped off at a designated location during the drive-thru check-in process on opening day of camp. Items purchased online at the Camp Capers Store *do not* count towards the maximum of 2 care packages per session week.

Emails may be sent to your camper(s) through your UltraCamp account in the “Message Center” and will be delivered by our camp staff. You may also purchase items from the camp store online and have them delivered during your camper’s session by our camp staff.

## **CAMP STORE**

The Camp Capers Camp Store **WILL NOT BE OPEN** for **IN-PERSON** purchases on opening and closing days this summer. Instead, the store **WILL BE OPEN ONLINE** in your UltraCamp account. You may purchase Camp Capers merchandise online for your camper to be delivered to them during their camp session or you can submit your order form during camp check-in so that your camper can receive their Camp Capers Store items during their camp session. Be on the lookout for an order form with brand new camp store items for this summer along with Camp Capers Store favorites!

## **CABIN FAMILY GROUPS**

The CDC and ACA recommends, if possible, to reduce the number of people served and keep campers in small, cabin family groups. **To accomplish this, each cabin will have a maximum of 6 campers and 2 counselors per cabin.**

Only top and bottom bunks will be used, no middle bunks, and campers will sleep head to toe. Bathroom visits will be limited to 2 campers at a time, when possible.

Camp Capers already operates under the small, cabin group model, but this year we will take extra steps to limit intermixing and commingling of cabins. Two cabins, consisting of a maximum of 12 campers and 4 counselors, will stay together throughout the week and sharing most of their daily camp activities together. Each “cabin family” will keep a proper physical distance (at least 6 feet) between other cabin families. Physical distancing will be encouraged within cabin family groups (at least 3 feet).

To utilize the maximum amount of cabin space for all campers and staff, some sessions will have co-ed quads and cabin family groups, allowing us to create the safest and healthiest cabin life for everyone.

## **CAMP HAPPENS OUTSIDE**

This year more than ever we will be experiencing the beauty of God's creation. Countless reports have indicated that transmission of COVID-19 is negligible when you are outside and maintaining physical distancing guidelines (at least 6 feet apart). Therefore, this year, cabin time will be limited to the evening right before going to sleep. Rest period will happen in shaded and cooler areas at camp, but not inside the cabin or indoors.

## **BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER**

Mealtime is a great time for campers to bond with their cabin mates. Although we will have to alter our food service, the same delicious meals will be served by trained staff. Although COVID-19 is not a foodborne illness, we will take extra precautions in the kitchen and dining hall to mitigate any risk. All staff will wear masks and gloves when preparing or serving food, cabin family groups will remain six feet apart while food is served, and tables will be spread out to maximize distance between each cabin family group. The Lillibridge Dining Hall provides ample space for each cabin to have its own table while keeping each table 8 feet apart. We will also provide outdoor seating options around the beloved Camp Capers Bell Tower.

## **PHYSICAL DISTANCING & MASKS**

Physical distancing, staying at least 6 feet away from other campers outside of their cabin family group and 3 feet from campers within their cabin family group, will be required at camp this summer. Being outside, physical distancing, and wearing masks when appropriate are the best ways to prevent the transmission and spread of the virus.

Staff members that are not a part of a cabin family group will wear masks when they interact with different cabin family groups inside or when physical distancing is not able to be maintained. Masks will be worn by all staff during the check-in and check-out process. Campers will be required to wear facial coverings inside any camp building (except their own cabin) and outside any time that physical distancing requirements are unable to be met. Facial coverings or face masks will be added to our packing list for all campers. Please provide your camper with a total of 7 masks, 1 mask per day, and make sure each mask is labeled with your camper's name or initials. Camp staff and cabin counselors will have plenty of disposable masks at hand in case a mask is lost, becomes dirty, or is unable to be worn.

## ALL-CAMP GATHERINGS

Camp-wide activities will be limited and will only happen at one of our several outdoor locations: the Centrum, the Stocker Amphitheater, or another location on our 188-acres that we are blessed to call our camp home.

## STAFF AND TRAINING

The Camp Capers Summer Staff will have increased training on COVID-19 specifics including cleaning and disinfecting, healthy hygiene and respiratory etiquette, knowing and understanding COVID-19 symptoms, use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and proper physical distancing guidelines.

Staff training this year will be 14 days to create a quarantine period for our staff prior to the first session of camp. Any staff not associated with a cabin family group will wear a mask during all camper interactions. We are **STRONGLY** encouraging all our staff to be fully vaccinated prior to the start of camp. Our goal is to have all our summer camp staff vaccinated. Those that are unable to be vaccinated will have to abide by additional health and safety measures.

## VISITORS AT CAMP

Only essential visitors will be allowed onsite this summer, including delivery and service personnel, emergency personnel, parents picking up their child due to illness or emergency purposes, and any person that may be assisting in teaching or worship. Special circumstances may be allowed, but must be pre-approved by the Camp Capers Site Director.

## INCREASED CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

Although the CDC has recently reported that the virus is less likely to spread from contaminated services, Camp Capers will be increasing the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces.

## CLOSING DAY OF CAMP

Our closing day of camp is also going to look different. We will have a closing service for campers and staff **ONLY**. Once the service is concluded, we will have staggered check-out times based on cabins to limit the amount of traffic and people at camp. Parents, guardians, and families will remain in their vehicle during the checkout process. Please make sure you have the correct person registered to pick your camper up on their respective closing day.

## THE WORK CONTINUES AFTER CAMP

Our partnership continues after camp. **We are encouraging all campers to limit their exposure to anyone in high-risk populations and monitor for symptoms for 14 days after their camp session.** Please help us take every necessary precaution to mitigate the risk of spreading the coronavirus in our communities. Monitor your camper for any symptoms of COVID-19. If your camper has any symptoms of COVID-19, please take them to have them tested and report the results to Camp Capers.

## WHAT IF SOMEONE GETS SICK AT CAMP THIS YEAR?

If a camper develops a fever greater than 100.4°F or any COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms, they will be isolated from the rest of camp in a separate building, and they will be sent home. We are asking parents and guardians (or approved emergency contacts) of **campers to be able to come pick up their camper within 8 hours of receiving a call from camp.** We will contact the parents/guardians of the campers in your camper's cabin family group if they are sent home due to COVID-19 symptoms.

If your camper has symptoms of COVID-19, we recommend that you talk to your health care provider and get your camper tested. We ask that you please communicate the test results with Camp Capers so that we can do our part to keep everyone safe and healthy at Camp Capers. If the test comes back positive, this information will be communicated to the parents of that camp session and necessary health and safety protocols will be followed.

If a staff member has any COVID-19 symptoms, they will be isolated and tested. These test results would then be communicated to the parents and guardians of that respective camp session.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

By adhering to the above guidelines, we can strengthen our partnership in the overall well-being of your camper(s). Although summer camp may look different this year, we believe it may be the most important summer for your child to be at camp enjoying the beauty of God's creation and experiencing God's love.

Thank you for your help in our endeavor to provide a healthier and safer Camp Capers experience.