



## COVID-19 Youth Program Handbook

As part of the ongoing response to the coronavirus (COVID-19), Dakota County Parks has developed the following practices for youth programming, which includes day camps. These practices were developed under the guidance of the Center of Disease Control (CDC) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Dakota County Parks will update these practices as guidelines are revised.

### Health and Safety

#### Handwashing

- Staff and youth participants will follow proper handwashing procedures. That includes:
  - Washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
  - Utilizing alcohol based hand sanitizers be used if soap and water are not readily available.
  - Resources on hand washing can be found here:  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/handhygiene/index.html>
  - Handwashing will occur:
    - Upon staff and participant arrival
    - Before and after meal and snack breaks
    - Before and after applying sunscreen
    - After use of restroom
    - After any transition from outdoor to indoor space

#### Masks

- It is recommended that staff and participants wear masks when indoors. Masking outdoors may be recommended for activities where social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Masks should be well-fitting and cover your nose and mouth.
- Masks should only be worn by individuals over the age of two years.
- Cloth masks are acceptable, and disposable masks can be provided by Dakota County as needed for those participants who are able to wear masks.
- For those participants who are not able to wear masks, physical distancing of six feet will be maintained whenever possible.
- Resources on mask wearing can be found here:  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecover.htm>

## Physical Distancing

- Staff and participants will maintain a 3 to 6 foot physical distance between themselves and others.
- Spaces will be marked with visual cues to provide understanding of distancing needs.

## Cleaning and Disinfecting

- All indoor spaces will be equipped with disinfecting spray and wipes.
- Facilities, including restrooms, used by participants will be cleaned daily by maintenance staff following COVID-19 protocols.
- Program staff will wipe down high touch surfaces prior to and after programs.
- The use of shared equipment will be minimized as much as possible. Shared equipment will be disinfected between use.

## Health Screening

- Staff and participants will be asked to self-screen and stay home if they are exhibiting a new cough, fever, or shortness of breath. Or if they have been exposed to someone who has been diagnosed or is suspected to have COVID-19.
- Staff and participants who do not pass screening will not be allowed to participate in camp and will be asked to return home. If an ill student has a sibling also enrolled in camp, they will also be sent home for observation.
- MDH Exclusion Guidelines will be followed:  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf>.
- Dakota County will follow the exclusion guidelines and ensure participants stay home if they are ill or have been knowingly exposed to an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19.

## Ill Students or Staff

If a staff person or participant develops symptoms consistent with coronavirus (COVID-19), while at camp, the following procedures would be followed:

- Staff will isolate participant or staff person who is ill.
- Parents, guardians or emergency contacts will be contacted and asked to pick up participant immediately. If the ill student has a sibling, that sibling will also be sent home for observation. If a staff person is ill, they will be requested to leave and backup staff will be contacted.

## COVID-19 Positive Case Reporting Procedure

If a participant or staff person is diagnosed with COVID-19, the following procedures would be followed:

- Staff member or participant's parent/guardian should notify Dakota County Parks at 651.554.6536 or [parkseducation@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:parkseducation@co.dakota.mn.us).
- Parents and Guardians of participants will be notified.

- Pro-rated refunds for camp fees will be provided as needed.
- Dakota County staff will notify the Outdoor Education Supervisor and Visitor Services Manager, who will contact and work with Dakota County Public Health and the Minnesota Department of Health to determine any further actions.
- Staff and participants who have been in close contact with an individual who is diagnosed with COVID-19 will follow MDH Exclusion Guidelines:  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf>.

## Program Changes

- Program facilities may be relocated to allow for camps to occur in permit-only or low use areas to reduce interaction of camp participants and staff with the general public.
- Curriculum and activities have been adapted to allow for physical distancing and to occur outside whenever possible.
- As much as possible, equipment will be assigned to a participant and used solely by that participant. When shared equipment is the only alternative, equipment will be disinfected between use.
- Participants are asked to limit travel and interaction with the broader community as much as possible.

## Meals

- For applicable programming, such as youth day camps, meals will be eaten outdoors whenever possible and participants and staff will be physically distanced.
- Participants will bring their own snacks, water bottles, and lunch. Sharing of items will not be allowed.
- Hands will be washed or sanitized before and after lunch.

## Pickup and Dropoff

- Parents will be asked to drop-off and pick-up participants outside of the facility, after checking in with staff person.

## Resources

[MDH COVID-19 Prevention Guidance for Youth, Student, and Child Care Programs](#)

[MN DNR COVID-19 Outdoor Recreation, Facilities and Public Guidelines](#)