

Frequently Asked Questions for Summer Camps: Interpreting COVID-19 Guidance

Q: How do physical distancing requirements apply to Overnight Summer Camp counsellors and campers?

- Where counsellors do not share the same accommodation with campers:
 - Counsellors living onsite continuously (for the most part) for 6-8 weeks at a time can be their own 'bubble' where counsellors will not have to practice physical distancing with other counsellors.
 - The Counsellors however, are expected to practice physical distancing (keeping 2 metres/6 feet apart at all times) whenever possible with campers, even where campers are members of their group of 15. Exceptions include cases where counsellors must come to the aide of a camper, where campers immediate safety is most important.
 - Counsellors not staying on site, must physically distance from other counsellors and campers, but not from the campers and staff within their individual, assigned group of 15.
- Where counsellors share accommodations with campers:
 - Counsellors must physically distance from other counsellors and campers, but not from the campers within their individual, assigned group of 15.

Q: Can supervisors or other counsellors act as temporary replacement for other counsellors who take a break or vacation day, leaving their designated group of 15 short staffed?

A: A relief counsellor may step in to allow another counsellor to take a break or to have a day off. However, it is the responsibility of the operator to ensure that the relief counsellor is a consistent person within the Summer Camp and with the groups of campers they support.

Q: According to the Guidance Document, field trips are not permitted. A main component of some Summer Camp programming involves going on overnight trips to private properties or backcountry campsites. Would there be some allowance for such activities?

A: It is understood that overnight or otherwise fieldtrips to backcountry camps or private properties can be offered by Summer Camps so long as it's safe to do so, sleeping arrangements comply with stated guidance and is captured in the Operational Plan. Field trips to public spaces (e.g. museums, parks, play centres) are prohibited as they would potentially put the campers and counsellors in contact with larger numbers of people who are not camp-affiliated. Please continue to refer to GNB Recovery Phase information as it becomes available.

Q: The Guidance Document states that only 2 groups of 15 are allowed in a room at the same time if physical distancing between the 2 groups can be maintained. Is there anyway Summer Camps can increase the number of groups when in a larger setting (either outdoors or indoors)? Similarly, can large dining halls or gymnasiums host more than the 2 groups of 15 if distancing is possible?

A: If the setting is large enough to allow for more than 3 groups of 15 (not exceeding group size of 50) and where it will be possible to ensure that groups are kept at least 2 metres (6 feet) apart at all times in order to ensure physical distancing, this would be acceptable. However, administrative controls will be required to make sure this is done safely; mechanisms such as staggering meal times, using visual cues to show boundaries, designing daily group schedules in a way that makes it easier to ensure separation of groups, are all encouraged. As with all other operations, this would need to be outlined within the Summer Camp's Operational Plan. Maxing out an area would not be acceptable, physical distancing is required and must be supported; limiting occupancy levels will help to enable this.

For large dining halls, as noted above, meal times would need to be staggered to enable physical distancing between different groups to occur. For larger settings like gymnasiums or fields for example, having markings on the floor (e.g., tape, chalk, paint) or throughout the setting to show and remind campers and counsellors of the separated sections will better help to enable physical distancing between groups.

Q: For overnight camps, campers and counsellors are onsite for the entire duration of the camp. Do we need to monitor their temperatures everyday? According to the Guidance Document, they would be required to take their temperature every 5 hours.

A: It is acceptable for temperatures to be taken twice per day for campers and counsellors.

Q: Who is the main contact for summer camp questions?

A: Health Protection Services (HPS) will be the main contact for Summer Camps. Appendix B in the ELCF and Summer Camp Guidance Document provides EECD and HPS contact information and advises that operators of Summer Camps contact HPS for any inquiries.

Q: Can children who attend an external Summer Camp be permitted to return to their fulltime/usual childcare/daycare facility immediately afterwards? Is self-isolation required prior to returning to the childcare facility?

A: Provided children pass the Screening Questionnaire (Appendix A of the Guidance Document), they can return to their childcare centre immediately, therefore no isolation would be required in that case. Childcare centres may choose to have more stringent requirements. They would be responsible for enforcing their own policies.

Q: If over the course of the Summer Camp season, some children from the original group of 15 remain, and others leave, can new incoming children be placed into the original group (while still staying under the 15 limit)? For example, a camper group has 15 children during Week 1. During Week 2, 12 of the original campers remain, but three leave; can those three free spaces be filled by new children?

A: Yes, those spaces can be filled. The children who stayed must remain in the original group, and the new children who arrive at the Summer Camp can be assigned to that group. A reminder that children are only allowed to be in one group.

Q: For overnight Summer Camps, how should sleeping arrangements be setup to reduce risk?

A: Shared accommodations should be arranged in such a fashion that beds are at least 2 metres/6 feet apart **and** head-to-toe where possible. If beds cannot be at least 2 metres/6 feet apart, use temporary barriers between beds, such as curtains or plexiglass, to prevent droplet spread while sleeping, and sleep head-to-toe. This applies to regular beds and bunkbeds.