



# Y Day Camps COVID-19 FAQs

Hello Parents and Guardians,

We are thrilled that you are considering providing your child(ren) with a Y camp experience this summer! We recognize that evolving restrictions and concerns due to COVID-19 make this a complicated decision for families to make. Please review the commonly asked questions below to learn more about our summer programs, as well as the safeguards that will be in place to help protect our camp community. We appreciate the trust and confidence that you have in our camp programs, and we follow all recommended safety and health protocols. Despite this, we like to remind everyone of the inherent risks of taking part in any public program while the COVID-19 vaccine is not widely available.

## **1) What will happen if a camper or staff has a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19?**

If there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 within our camp community, all relevant families will be informed, and those who may have been in direct contact will be notified. If any person begins to present symptoms throughout the camp day, that person will be removed from the group to an isolated area with staff supervision and parents will be notified for a pick up as soon as possible. If this person is a camper that has a sibling in the program, they will also be removed from their program as a precaution until testing has been completed and the campers are 24 hours symptom free. We will work diligently with Ottawa Public Health to ensure that proper protocols are followed and families are kept up to date. If our program is ever required to close for a session of camp or for a few days, you will be prorated and refunded for the time that was missed.

## **2) Will the Y be placing siblings in the same groups?**

We would like to keep siblings together as often as possible, where age groupings allow. If there is too large of an age gap, we will separate siblings into different groups in an effort to ensure their camp experience is age-appropriate. All of our programs are built to challenge the age group in mind, and it is ideal for them to stay in their intended age grouping in order for campers to feel successful at camp.

## **3) Will my children be required to get tested for COVID prior to their first day at camp?**

They will not be required to complete testing prior to beginning their camp program. All individuals who enter our programs (staff and campers) will engage in a daily online screening prior to drop off. Everyone will be expected to answer questions regarding their health, as well as having their temperature checked by a thermal radar thermometer. If there is a camper or staff with suspected symptoms, they will be required to leave the program and will need to be tested.



Any staff or camper who has left for testing may only return if the test result is negative, and they have been symptom-free for 24 hours. For any tests that return positive, a family can expect that their child will be unable to attend camp for up to 14 days. They may only be able to return when Public Health allows us to welcome them back after a negative re-test. If this is the case, you can expect a refund for the missed time at camp.

**4) How will physical and social distancing be enforced and maintained at the various camp locations?**

All schedules will be created with social distancing in mind. We will focus on making sure our campers are only interacting with their cohorts and in addition, there will be assigned seating on the provided transportation to ensure that campers are mingling with as few children outside of their group as possible. Bus seating will be organized by children with siblings on the bus and additionally by their cohort groups. When physical distancing is not possible with another group, campers and staff will use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), see question 7 for further details. Each group will also have their own “home base” location that will be used just by them. This is where they will eat their lunches, store their bags, and participate in some programs. Staff have been trained to wipe down and sanitize all of their used program equipment that is shared between our camper programs and to wait at a distance if there is a group still remaining in their next location.

**5) How will the Y be controlling the general public from gaining access to the areas that the campers are using during their session at camp?**

As always, our Y takes child protection very seriously. We have a national protocol that is followed by all Ys across Canada that keeps children in our care separated from the general public. Camp Otonabee never allows unauthorized visitors on our property, and Neighbourhood Day Camp locations will close and lock doors at all times to facilities and other spaces our campers will be utilizing. Drop off and pick up times will be the exception, and will be supervised.

**6) What will your enhanced cleaning protocols look like for the summer, in program areas and washrooms?**

Our cleaning protocols will be regimented and very frequent. Our staff will be trained to wipe down all high contact supplies and areas between all uses so that every new group will be using a sanitized space. For areas that are difficult to fully sanitize, high contact areas will be cleaned, and campers will be constantly monitored and reminded of respiratory etiquette and to not touch their faces. In addition, there will be hand sanitizing stations placed throughout our camps, and there will be built-in hand washing and sanitizing practices after all program blocks.



Washrooms will be cleaned twice per day and sanitized by our cleaning teams once per hour, and will be recorded. All children will be reminded to only enter a washroom facility when there is no other person from another group in the space while they are utilizing the facilities and will be accompanied wherever possible.

**7) Will the children be required to wear masks while they are at camp and who will provide those?**

Campers will not be required to wear masks when they are at camp unless there is a situation where they are unable to be physically distanced or we are headed inside a building. We encourage Campers to come with their own cloth face masks, however the Y will provide any necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at no cost to everyone in our camp community. Campers will not be required to wear masks within their group, and their group will be made up of the same campers and counsellors for the duration of the week. While the group may be unmasked in their cohort, games and social distancing will continue to be encouraged.

**8) What will pick up and drop off look like? What can I expect?**

When you register online, you will notice group numbers. This is your child's cohort number and we encourage you to know it for the first day of camp to ensure a smoother check-in. Prior to drop off you will complete an online screening. At drop off we will confirm your screening is complete, take your child's temperature, and ensure they are feeling good to go for camp. You will notice our check-in staff will be wearing the required PPE while they complete the sign in. We ask that all families members wear a mask while signing in to camp and ensure they are social distancing from other family units or individuals. You will receive a detailed instruction letter the week prior to your camper's scheduled start date for more information on where your check-ins are happening and what to expect for pick-up times.

**9) Will the Y Camps still be providing opportunities for financial assistance to families who might not otherwise be able to afford?**

Our Y is a charitable organization that is committed to helping families and campers gain access to programs that they otherwise would not be able to afford. We will still be maintaining our partnerships with Ottawa Children's Aid Society and our own Y Strong Kids Foundation. Registration opens on March 18, and a designated amount of spaces will be saved for those who wish to go through our subsidy programs.



Traditionally, our program recognizes that 1 in 10 children likely needed some sort of financial support to attend our programs. To continue strengthening our community, will ensure this continues while we navigate the COVID-19 virus.

### **10) How is camp managing COVID-19 Policies and Procedures on the bus?**

All campers are required to complete a COVID-19 screening prior to arriving at the bus stop. Our bus capacity is reduced in order to accommodate better social distancing measures, and we will do our best to organize campers according to their cohort. All campers will also be required to wear a face mask or covering in accordance with Ottawa Public Health regulations. If anyone is unable to wear a mask or face covering due to medical reasons, please contact the camp office.

For any additional questions that you may have leading up to our summer season, please contact us at [day.camps@ymcaywca.ca](mailto:day.camps@ymcaywca.ca).

Thank you for choosing Y Camping!

Vanessa Spratt, General Manager of Camping and Outdoor Education