

July 9, 2020

Dear Camp Family,

Yesterday we were given notice of a new mandate by the Texas government and the local Health Department for Overnight and Day Camp Summer Programs.

Here's a look at what the mandate will mean for your child's camp experience. (*You can find more details, meaning the formal CDC language, at the bottom of this message*)

ALL campers (regardless of age) and staff will be required to wear a face mask while participating in camp except for these times:

- while actively eating or drinking in the dining halls
- outdoor activities where we can control physical distancing of 6 feet apart
- engaged in swimming activities
- special "no mask" physical distancing breaks outside where campers can have some freedom
- while brushing teeth and taking showers
- while sleeping in their bunk
- staff who speak from the stage where campers are 6 feet away from the stage
- there may be other times, like water breaks, that will allow campers to pull their mask down while being appropriately spaced

We realize this is hard news for our campers; however, we would love to be a part of helping your camper learn to wear a mask while not wasting any fun indoors or outdoors. Wearing face masks is a new reality while fighting the spread of COVID-19. If wearing face masks allow us to experience a week investing in your camper, then we are here to do so!

What do you as a parent need to do?

- Have a mask on your camper when they arrive Opening Day ... you too parents!
- Pack extra face masks in your camper's belongings – we recommend at least one per day
- Consider sending disposable face masks – they tend to be cooler than cloth masks
- Consider sending a face mask neck gaiter or buff
- Label any face masks that are not disposable

Although face masks are the newest government mandate, we continue practicing strict guidelines to help stop the spread of COVID-19, and when it comes into our gates, we work hard to mitigate it. To get the latest T Bar M news on COVID-19, please check our website: [Ongoing Health Statement](#)

As always, we welcome your questions. If you have a question about COVID-19, please email nurse@tbarm.org. If you need to speak to someone about your registration, please call 830.620.4263 ext 2014.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we stand in faith together during this pandemic.

Your T Bar M Family.

This is the formal guidance for Youth Camps regarding face coverings from the Texas Department of State Health Services:

- Campers younger than ten years of age are not required by the order to wear a face covering. The program nevertheless strongly recommends that Youth Camp staff encourage these younger campers to wear face coverings as much as possible or feasible to prevent infection and mitigate spread of the virus.
 - Staff or campers with medical conditions or disabilities that prevent wearing face coverings are not required by the order to wear face coverings. Such persons should take extra precautions to maintain physical distance of at least six feet from other persons in all situations.
 - Staff and campers need not wear face coverings while eating or drinking, including during mealtimes in dining facilities. The program recommends that face coverings be worn at all times in the dining facility other than during the physical act of eating and drinking.
 - Staff and campers who are engaged in outdoor exercise or other physical activity and who are able to maintain physical distance of at least six feet from other persons need not wear face coverings while so engaged.
 - Staff and campers who are engaged in swimming activities are not required to wear face coverings while so engaged.
 - Staff and campers who are bathing, showering, or engaged in other activities such as washing and brushing teeth are not required to wear face coverings while so engaged. Youth camp staff should stagger bathing and restroom time to allow for physical distance to be maintained.
 - Staff and campers need not wear face coverings while they are physically in their bunks sleeping. However, they should wear face coverings during all other times that they are with other persons in cabins or other closed spaces.
 - Staff and campers who are actively engaged in religious worship services at the camp are not required but are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings.
 - Staff and campers who are giving a speech to an audience are not required to wear face coverings. It is strongly encouraged that such presenters maintain physical distance of at least six feet from the audience during presentations.
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