

Decoma Day Camp's COVID-19 Action Plan



Here are our initial takeaways regarding the health and safety measures that will likely need to be implemented at Decoma Day Camp this summer in order to operate safely. Please note that this information is subject to change dependent on any and all information received with regard to best practices for this camp season. We are in the process of following up with the Illinois Department of Health (IDPH) and the ACA to gain clarity on some recommendations and protocols that are included in their published documents. All enrolled families will receive Decoma Day Camp's finalized safety and operational protocols before the start of camp and will be notified as to any changes that we may be required to make during the season.

Decoma Day Camp's Preliminary Camp Guidelines Assessment

HIGHER RISK CAMPERS: If your camper has a pre-existing medical condition or is for any reason at a higher risk for complications related to COVID-19, please consult with your child's healthcare provider and inform Decoma as soon as possible so that we can work together to assess risk and come up with an individual plan for your family.

CAMP GROUPS: The most important piece of ALL guidelines received is grouping campers in static groups of no more than 10 campers with as little intermingling as possible with campers and staff outside their group. Medical experts are in agreement that this model is the key to limiting your camper's exposure to COVID-19 and to aid in contact tracing, should it be necessary.

- We will do our best to honor any and all camp group requests although, please know that due to restrictions, we may have to get creative.
- Your camper's group and counselor(s) will be considered a HOUSEHOLD, and as such, when outdoors in their designated HOUSEHOLDS, campers do not need to wear masks or maintain social distancing.
- Your camper's HOUSEHOLD will join with roughly 3-4 other HOUSEHOLDS to form a NEIGHBORHOOD. A NEIGHBORHOOD is a group of 50 or less individuals (the limit set forth in Phase 4 of Restore Illinois). When in their NEIGHBORHOOD, individual HOUSEHOLDS may need to practice social distancing techniques and wear face masks when indoors.

MAJOR CHANGES: The changes below may impact you as parents. Out of an abundance of caution we have determined these changes necessary to ensure safety of our campers and staff and limit exposure to outside factors while not taking away from your child's camp experience. These changes may be tough on you as parents, and us as directors and staff but ***it is our goal to provide your children with a carefree summer filled with fun and laughter!***

- **Transportation To/From Camp**
 - **We will not be offering busing.** We have found busing to be the one area we cannot adequately ensure your camper's health and safety. We have spent hours upon hours trying to work out a scenario where we could provide our usual busing structure but we have been unable to come up with a solution that we feel confident about. There are 3 large obstacles to busing:
 1. Busing guidelines require all children above the age of 2 to wear masks. We put on our "mom hats" and simply could not foresee putting children on a hot bus in the middle of summer and requiring them to wear face masks. We are concerned that the masks would do more harm than good with campers touching their faces and thus rendering the masks useless. We were also concerned with children becoming overheated.

2. Bus routes are based on location not camp group. To start and end each day on a bus would expose children and staff to others outside their HOUSEHOLD and NEIGHBORHOOD groups. This comingling would compromise the integrity of these groups, therefore negating the entire purpose of the required HOUSEHOLD/NEIGHBORHOOD model.
 3. In the event that a camper or staff member on one of our buses would contract COVID-19, everyone on that bus and all of the associated HOUSEHOLD members of ALL bus riders would need to be notified and possibly need to be tested for COVID-19 before returning to camp.
 - **Campers will be dropped-off and picked up at camp.** Parents will be assigned a drop-off time in the morning and a pick-up time in the afternoon. These times will be staggered and will pertain to your child's NEIGHBORHOOD (group of 50 individuals or less). Drop-off times will start as early as 8:45 and pick-up times will go until approximately 4:15 pm. You will be notified of your time when it gets closer to the start of our season.
 - Shortened Day campers will have a pick-up time of either 1:15 or 1:30 pm. You will be notified before the start of camp, which time slot your campers' NEIGHBORHOOD falls into.
 - If you have two or more campers attending Decoma this summer, you can choose which NEIGHBORHOOD time to drop-off and pick-up but we ask that you make that decision before the start of camp and remain consistent with doing so. This will ensure that we have a proper area and staff member to supervise your campers.
 - Your campers' temperature **MAY** be taken via a touchless thermal thermometer by a Decoma staff member upon arrival to camp.
- **Session Dates/Length**
 - The camp season will begin on Monday, June 29th and run through August 14th, 2020.
 - If Illinois is not able to enter phase 4 before June 29th, we may have to adjust our camp start date. Further, if area schools and/or universities make the decision to go back earlier than planned, we may need to adjust our camp ending date.
 - To ensure static HOUSEHOLD groups with minimal intermingling, it is HIGHLY suggested that all campers start on the first day of camp Monday, June 29th. We do have a limited number of spots available for those that are unable to begin camp on that date and they would need to start camp on Monday, July 6th.
 - This summer we will have a strict 4 week minimum. After that you can choose 5, 6, or 7 weeks. As in past seasons you will be able to add additional weeks during the summer should you and your family want more Decoma time!
 - Unlike in previous summers, **THE WEEKS MUST BE CONSECUTIVE.** In accordance with guidelines put forth by the CDC, ACA and IDH: in order to reduce exposure, HOUSEHOLDS must remain consistent and no new members are to be added in as the summer progresses.
 - In the event that an Illinois shelter-in-place is reinstated, camp would obviously need to close, and we would refund parents for any time remaining.
 - **Miscellaneous**
 - **There will be no extended before and after care offered this summer.** Due to grouping and staff restrictions we are unable to provide before and after care. Doing so, would expose your campers to other campers and staff members outside of their HOUSEHOLDS.
 - **There will be no specialty camps** (horseback riding, golf or tennis) or field trips this summer.
 - **Unfortunately, our open-door policy will have to be suspended for this summer.** As much as it breaks our hearts, there will be no Family Night or Grandparent's Day. In addition, we will film any camp productions (talent show, boat regatta, etc.) and make these videos accessible to our families.

CAMP ACTIVITIES

- **Campers will participate in all camp activities by group.** As in past years, the groups will have a predetermined schedule where they will participate in all camp activities deemed safe and allowable at least once a week. There will be no Camper's Choice.
- Some activities may be limited. The new climbing tower and the American Ninja Warrior Course may be limited due to the necessary safety and sanitizing procedures. We're still trying to figure it out!
- Activity staff may be required to wear cloth masks and will maintain a safe social distance from campers whenever possible.
- We continue to await State of Illinois guidance regarding the possibility of swimming this summer. Due to the enhanced social distancing and safety guidelines, if and when we get approval, the number of campers in the locker rooms and during each swim period will be limited. Therefore, campers will only swim once a day. There is also a possibility that we will be unable to offer instructional swim as the close proximity required for swim instructors to properly teach campers would violate social distancing guidelines.
- Schedules will be organized so that all communal spaces, activity areas and shared equipment will be properly cleaned and disinfected as needed or required. Campers' schedules will have breaks throughout the day and before/after meals to use the bathrooms, wash their hands, and allow for staff to tend to all necessary cleaning and disinfecting procedures.
- It may be necessary for campers to wear cloth face coverings during indoor activities, especially during rainy day schedules when outdoor spaces are unable to be utilized.

LUNCH

- At this point we believe we will be able to provide our typical DELICIOUS Decoma hot lunches. If for some reason we receive new information that states we are unable to serve lunches, campers would be responsible for bringing their own sack lunches to camp.
- Lunchroom capacity will be limited. Group counselors will be responsible for plating all lunches while wearing the proper PPE and following strict food handling guidelines. Groups will be adequately spaced at six feet apart or more. The lunchroom will be sanitized in between every seating.
- We will be eating outdoors much of the time and the same lunch-room rules will apply.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Our Health Center team will take each staff member's temperature daily.
- Counselors will have hand sanitizer on them and will be applying it to their campers' hands throughout the day.
- Activity Staff will have a bleach-based cleaning mixture to sanitize equipment between each HOUSEHOLD.
- Enhanced disinfecting methods will be used to clean buildings, seating areas, lunchroom, locker rooms, and other high touch areas.
- Parents will be required to sign an Assumption of Risk form.
- Camp will not allow visitors or tours this season.
- Any and all vendors that must access camp for essential logistical purposes will be screened prior to their entry, and their contact with members of our camp community will be as limited as possible.
- **We are hoping that the Phase 4 Guidelines of Restore Illinois do not require children to wear masks and/or social distance at all times (even while outdoors in their HOUSEHOLDS).** With this restriction we do not foresee opening camp for this summer as this would simply not be in line with the fun and carefree camp experience that Decoma strives to provide for our campers.

SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19 AT CAMP

- If a camper or staff member displays symptoms of COVID-19 while at camp, they will be isolated immediately. The camper's family will be notified to come and pick up their camper. Campers will remain in isolation under the care of our staff until your arrival.
- If a camper or staff member does contract COVID-19, they should remain isolated at home for a minimum of 10 days after symptom onset and can be released after feverless and feeling well (without fever-reducing medication) for at least 72 hours OR has 2 negative COVID-19 tests in a row, with testing done at least 24 hours apart.
- According to guidance put forth by the CDC: The rest of the HOUSEHOLD group will be notified of a positive test result immediately. The campers in that HOUSEHOLD should
 - Stay home until 14 days after their last exposure.
 - Check their temperature twice a day and watch for symptoms of COVID19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine-isolation.html>

We understand that the guidelines above are unusual, strict and very different from a typical flexible Decoma summer. Again, out of an abundance of caution we feel that at this time, these are the necessary procedures to ensure a safe summer for all. At Decoma, we always meet and exceed the necessary health and safety standards that are considered to be best practices in our industry. We believe that with all the information we have obtained thus far, this summer will be no different. Keep in mind that camp has never been, nor will it ever be, a perfectly controlled environment; your campers go home each day and although we would love to spend 24/7 with them, we are faced with a truly unique set of challenges. Our goal is to provide an exceptional summer experience for our campers and their families (especially during a time when they've never needed it more), one that is based on a balanced assessment of the risks and the potential benefits for our camp community. We truly believe we can have an amazingly successful and fun 72nd summer while maintaining our camp traditions.