Camp Thunderbird, Y Outdoor Centre

Communicable Disease Plan

We continue to monitor Public Health Orders and Recommendations, though we may determine that the risk profile at our organization warrants exceeding Public Health requirements. Our practices are based on BCCA guidelines for Overnight School Trips, and the BC school recommendations, and will evolve as updated information and regulations are made available. Last update: Jan 11, 2023.

- When will everyone need to wear masks?
    - Mask wearing is personal preference at the time of this update.

- When will campers/staff wash their hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer?
    - Before eating
    - Before and after using the bathroom or outhouse
    - Any other time they request/need.

- Will hand sanitizer be available?
    - We will provide hand sanitizer throughout the camp area.
    - Campers and staff will be encouraged to also bring their own hand sanitizer.

- What are the cleaning protocols?
    - Shared equipment is cleaned and maintained regularly.
    - Shared bathrooms, taps/handwashing stations are also cleaned throughout the day.
    - Accommodations are cleaned by our staff between each group.

- How many people will be in each group?
    - Outdoor Education activities take place in groups of 14 students, one school chaperone and one camp staff.
    - Summer Camp activities will take place in small groups of 9-10 campers, with two staff.
    - Most larger gatherings will take place outdoors.
    - Groups will be together in the dining hall while eating, or for rainy day activities.

- What are the sleeping arrangements?
    - Ventilation will be maximized by opening doors and windows whenever possible.
    - Cabins accommodate up to 12 people.

- How will the dining hall be organized?
    - Everyone will wash and sanitize their hands prior to eating and after using the bathroom.
    - We will make every effort to maximize ventilation in the dining hall:
        - Doors and windows will be kept open as much as possible
    - Participants will sit at tables of up to 10 at a table.
    - Food service is Family Style, meaning that each table will be given a shared tray/bowl of food and each person at the table can serve themselves with a provided utensil.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Hana Kucera at hkucera@vancouverislandy.ca

- Will campers and staff be screened for disease symptoms?
    - Staff self-screen prior to coming to work, and we expect families to screen their children prior to sending them to Camp Thunderbird.
    - Summer campers will be asked "Are you feeling sick?" on arrival. Any symptoms not related to allergies, or an ongoing condition will need to be resolved prior to coming to camp (see more information below).
    - All staff and campers must stay home if showing new signs of communicable disease.

- What is your vaccination and testing policy?
    - Vaccination is not required for campers.
    - The YMCA-YWCA of Vancouver Island has implemented a vaccine mandate for all employees, therefore camp employees will be vaccinated.
    - Staff undergo rapid testing every Monday prior to starting work. Summer camp groups going on extended out trips will be offered rapid testing for staff and campers before departure (same day morning or night before).

- What will happen if a camper or staff member develops symptoms of illness while at camp?
    - The individual and their belongings, will be isolated in one of our yurts or cabins, and cared for by school chaperones (outdoor education) or camp staff (summer), wearing a mask, until arrangements can be made for them to go home.
    - The school representatives or camp staff will contact parents/caregivers to collect the sick person from camp.
    - This person will not be allowed to return to camp until:
        - Their fever is gone without the use of fever-reducing medications (e.g., Tylenol, Advil), **AND**
        - They are feeling better (e.g., improvement in runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue), **AND** 5 days has passed. **OR** their symptoms are completely gone in a period fewer than 5 days.
            AND
        - They can show proof of a negative COVID-19 test that was completed on the day they wish to return.

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