

Sample Document
Infection Control Plan & Communicable Disease
and
Reporting Requirements

The following should be suggestive of communicable disease:

- Fever of 100 degrees F or greater
- Sore throat, new mouth sores
- Runny eyes, runny nose
- Shortness of breath
- Nasal congestion
- Neck stiffness
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea, loose stool
- Rash
- Inflamed eyelids/ears
- Skin lesions (including scabies, ringworm, impetigo)

Purpose: Outline the steps needed to prevent, manage and mitigate the consequences of a disease outbreak at camp. Establish a plan to protect camp staff, campers and visitors in the event of a disease outbreak. By taking proactive steps to educate staff, monitor health, and respond quickly to any potential cases, the camp can mitigate the risk of a major outbreak and ensure the safety of everyone involved.

Please have masks on hand for illness.

Campers or staff members suspected of having a communicable disease will be isolated and quarantined from others in the infirmary. Health Care Supervisor and Health Care Consultant and the local board of health will be contacted immediately. City of Northampton Department of Health Public Health Nurses Office: 413-587-1214. Campers/staff will not be allowed to return to camp until cleared of infectious disease and granted permission to return to camp activities by a licensed medical professional. Alternative staffing plans must be put into place to ensure a safe camper to staff ratio if staff are out sick.

Signage should be designated for the isolation and quarantine area. Isolation separates people with a quarantinable communicable disease from people who are not sick. Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

The developed plan will be applicable to all staff, campers, visitors, and off site activities related to the camp.

This plan should be adapted to the different types of disease that may arise during the camp session.

What state is the camp in? _____

What outbreak is occurring? _____

Identify Prevention measures:

Health screenings:

Pre-camp and Daily Health checks

Vaccination requirements: all staff and campers must be up-to-date on all vaccinations

Sanitation and Hand washing: ensure adequate handwashing stations throughout camp, use signage, targeting high –traffic areas.

Handwashing is recommended, handwashing reduces the amounts of all types of germs and chemicals on hands. If soap and water are not available, using a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol can help you avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others

Cleaning and Disinfecting: Clean and disinfect common areas regularly, including dining areas, bathrooms, and cabins. Pay special attention to surfaces frequently touched by multiple individuals.

Masks and PPE: Provide masks and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for campers and staff if the outbreak involves a contagious airborne disease.

Education: Plan targeted education teaching staff on proper infection prevention measures and how to recognize symptoms of common diseases.

Camper Education: Educate campers about good hygiene, including proper handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, and reporting illness. Use signage throughout the camp.

Response Plan for Disease Outbreak

Identification of Illness:

Staff should monitor campers for any signs of illness throughout the day. Immediate isolation of a symptomatic individual is essential.

Isolated individuals should be moved to a designated quarantine area until further evaluation can be conducted.

Medical Evaluation: The camp healthcare consultant and healthcare supervisor should evaluate all suspected cases of illness and determine whether the person requires testing or additional medical care.

Isolation and Quarantine Protocols:

Isolation: Symptomatic individuals should be immediately isolated from healthy campers and staff. Isolation rooms should be well-ventilated, separate from other campers, and equipped with the necessary supplies.

Quarantine: Close contacts (e.g., those who share cabins or have close physical contact) should be quarantined for the duration recommended by health authorities, pending testing results or symptom onset.

Transfer to Healthcare Facility: If the symptoms worsen or the person requires specialized care, a transfer to a nearby healthcare facility should be arranged immediately.

Communication:

Internal Communication: Staff should communicate with camp directors and health officials about any confirmed or suspected cases. Create protocols for notifying staff members and parents of campers who have been diagnosed with a contagious disease.

External Communication: Inform local health authorities, including the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, in case of a confirmed disease outbreak. Notify parents/guardians of any camper who has been diagnosed or potentially exposed.

Testing and Treatment: If necessary, coordinate with local health authorities or a healthcare provider to obtain tests for communicable diseases.

Transportation: Ensure safe and reliable transportation arrangements for symptomatic individuals who need to be sent home or to a healthcare facility. Utilize private transport, if available, to prevent the spread of illness during transit.

Continuity of Operations: Camp Closure or Temporary Suspension: If a widespread outbreak occurs and the camp cannot operate safely, consider temporarily suspending activities or closing the camp. In such cases, provide clear guidance to parents, staff, and local authorities.

Cleaning and Disinfection: Upon the closure of a cabin or area, initiate deep cleaning and disinfection procedures. Ensure all high-touch surfaces are disinfected thoroughly.

Return-to-Camp Protocol: Any camper or staff member who has been isolated or quarantined must be cleared by a healthcare provider before returning to camp. In some cases, a medical certificate or negative test result may be required.

Local Health Authority Collaboration: Regularly consult with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to stay up-to-date on any changes in local health protocols or regulations. Establish a partnership with a nearby healthcare facility for guidance and assistance if needed.

Contingency Planning: Develop a contingency plan in the event of prolonged camp closures or disruptions, including virtual activities or partial programming.

Post-Outbreak Review: After the outbreak is under control, conduct a debriefing session with staff to review the effectiveness of the response plan and identify areas for improvement. Adjust the disease outbreak plan as needed based on feedback and lessons learned.