TWIN RIVERS COUNCIL, BSA
COVID-19 MITIGATION PLAN

Summer 2021
Cub Scout & Scouts BSA Resident Camp
Rotary Scout Reservation

DRAFT
Current as of May 10, 2021
INTRODUCTION

This COVID-19 mitigation plan has been developed by the Twin Rivers Council, BSA for use at Cub Scout and Scouts BSA resident camp in summer 2021. It incorporates non-pharmaceutical interventions recommended by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), the American Camping Association (ACA), and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The multi-layered approach detailed in this document was effectively proven to significantly reduce the risk of transmission among campers who attended day and resident camps across the United States in summer 2020.

Please Note: At the time of this writing, the New York State Department of Health (DOH) has not yet released expected COVID-19 regulations for summer camps. This mitigation plan will be re-evaluated and modified to ensure compliance with these regulations when they are released. Until then, the protocols described in this document should be considered tentative, based upon the best information available at this time.

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PRE-CAMP PREPARATION

VOLUNTARY SELF-QUARANTINE (14 DAYS)

For fourteen (14) days prior to arrival at camp, each camper and adult volunteer will be asked to stay close to home and adhere to all CDC guidelines. During this period, participants are asked to minimize social interactions and avoid larger gatherings outside the home. This is a proactive, voluntary step to reduce the risk of potential COVID-19 exposure prior to camp.

VACCINE

All eligible youth and adult volunteers are encouraged to complete a COVID-19 vaccination regimen at least two weeks prior to their arrival at camp. At the time of this writing, all adults and youth at least 16 years old are eligible to receive the vaccine. It has also been widely reported that the vaccine will soon be approved for youth ages 12-15.

If completed, please record the date of vaccination in the vaccine section of the BSA Annual Health and Medical Record.

PRE-CAMP SCREENING CHECK LIST

Immediately prior to departing for camp, all campers, volunteers, and those providing transportation to camp must review the Pre-Camp Screening Check List and perform a self-evaluation. No individual should proceed to camp if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, have been diagnosed with COVID-19, are awaiting COVID-19 test results, or have been exposed to someone with symptoms or a suspected case.

If a Scout is unable to proceed to camp due to COVID symptoms, the family is asked to notify the unit leadership and call the camp at (518) 283-4794 to report the Scout’s absence.

Link to Pre-Camp Screening Check List (TBD)

BSA ANNUAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL RECORD

Each camper is required to have an annual physical within the last 12 months. A current and complete BSA Annual Health and Medical Record, signed by a physician, must be submitted for each Scout.

Each adult volunteer remaining in camp for 72 hours or more (cumulative) must also provide a current and complete BSA Annual Health and Medical Records, signed by a physician.

Each adult volunteer remaining in camp for less than 72 hours (cumulative) must complete and provide at least Parts A & B of the BSA Annual Health and Medical Record.

CHECK-IN PROCEDURE

ARRIVAL & DROP OFF

Check-in for resident camp begins at 1:00 P.M. Troops may begin gathering in the parking lot at 12:30 PM. While assembling, all participants and drivers are to remain masked and socially distanced. A Staff Guide will greet each troop in the parking lot at 1:00 P.M. No one may leave the parking lot until the troop has been met by the guide, who will lead the troop to the campsite.

Only Scouts and adult volunteers staying with the troop may proceed to the campsite. Adults who provided transportation to camp, but are not staying with the troop, may not go past the parking lot.

MEDICAL SCREENING

After dropping personal gear at their site, each troop will proceed with the Staff Guide to one of 3-4 designated locations near their site to complete the medical screening process with a member of the medical staff.

The medical staff will review each participant’s Annual Health and Medical Record and complete the Pre-Camp Medical Screening Check List.

If any participant does not pass the medical screening, he or she will be separated from the unit and COVID protocols will be followed.

Those who clear the screening process will be provided with a Buddy Tag for Aquatics activities.

COHORTS

Troops will be divided into cohorts based upon their campsite. In some cases, if the campsite attendance exceeds the cohort maximum designated by the Department of Health, the campsite will be divided into two cohorts. If there are two troops in a site, each will be its own cohort. In a limited number of cases, one troop may be divided into two cohorts if the unit exceeds the maximum number designated by the Department of Health.

Each cohort will be assigned a different color bracelet for the week and will only buddy up and interact closely with Scouts from their own cohort. The bracelets will be distributed during the Medical Screening.

CAMP HEALTH & SAFETY TOUR

Following the Medical Screening, the Staff Guide will lead the troop on the Camp Health & Safety Tour. The tour will include stops at the Health Lodge and the Dining Hall, where COVID-specific protocols will be discussed.
ONGOING MONITORING

DAILY HEALTH SCREENING

Each cohort (or unit within a campsite cohort) will designate an adult volunteer to serve as the Campsite Safety Officer. Each morning before breakfast, the Campsite Safety Officer will conduct a daily health screening for each youth and adult in the unit. The camp will provide a roster form on which the Campsite Safety Officer will record the results of the daily screening.

If any participants show symptoms of COVID-19 they are to be immediately directed to the Health Lodge, with their tent partner, if applicable. The buddy system must be used for youth, but the buddy must allow extra social distancing from the symptomatic individual.

MASKS IN CAMP

All staff, campers, and adult volunteers are required to wear a well-fitting face covering with proper filtration at all times while in public areas. Masks may be removed while swimming, eating, sleeping, and showering. Participants are required to bring their own masks and should have at least two masks to rotate between clean and soiled face coverings. However, a sufficient supply of replacement masks will be available throughout the summer in the Health Lodge, camp office, and program areas. Mask breaks will be allowed when individuals are not in public spaces, campsites, or program areas, but are outside and at least 10 feet away from others. Free laundry facilities are available onsite to wash soiled reusable masks.

Signs will be displayed in all program areas, campsites, and public spaces to remind individuals to wear masks. If a camper or adult volunteer refuses to wear a mask without a valid medical reason approved by the individual’s health care provider, they will be asked to leave the property.

HAND WASHING AND SANITIZING

Hand washing stations and hand sanitizer will be available in all program areas. Sanitizer will be provided on each table in the dining hall. Campers will be encouraged to routinely wash their hands and sanitize before each class and before all meals.

TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF CAMP

Once campers and adult volunteers check in and complete the initial medical screening process, we strongly recommend that campers and adult volunteers do not leave the camp property for the entirety of their stay. This will ensure a safer camp bubble once all campers are checked and placed in cohorts.

In the event that travel outside of camp is needed for an emergency (for example, non-COVID medical care) and the camper’s parent is not driving, all passengers need to wear a proper mask and two adults need to be present if transporting a minor.
MEDICAL SERVICES

STANDING ORDERS

The Twin Rivers Council maintains an updated standing orders document, detailing the appropriate standard of care to be provided by the camp health officer for a variety of possible scenarios. These standing orders are reviewed and approved annually by the Twin Rivers Council Health & Safety Committee and are supported by the off-site camp physician.

The standing orders have been reviewed in 2021 to incorporate appropriate care for individuals with possible COVID-19 symptoms.

ISOLATION

A quarantine isolation area will be set up at the Health Lodge and staffed by the Health Officer. Any camper (youth or adult) who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 will be immediately brought to the isolation area at the Health Lodge.

TESTING

Specific testing protocols are being finalized and may incorporate on-site and off-site options.

QUARANTINE

If a camper tests positive for COVID-19, the cohort will be immediately quarantined. All parents will be notified. The Rensselaer County Department of Health will be contacted for further instructions.

Fully vaccinated, asymptomatic individuals within the cohort may be released from quarantine, if consistent with state regulations at that time and following the guidance of the Department of Health.

Any camper testing positive will go home.
CAMPSITES

COHORTS

Troops will be divided into cohorts based upon their campsite. In some cases, if the campsite attendance exceeds the cohort maximum designated by the Department of Health, the campsite will be divided into two cohorts. If there are two troops in a site, each will be its own cohort. In a limited number of cases, one troop may be divided into two cohorts if the unit exceeds the maximum number designated by the Department of Health.

Each cohort will be assigned a different color bracelet for the week and will only buddy up and interact closely with Scouts from their own cohort. The bracelets will be distributed during the Medical Screening.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Youth and adult participants within a cohort may maintain a reduced social distancing of 3 feet. Social distancing of at least 6 feet must be maintained at all times between members of different cohorts.

TENTS

Sleeping quarters will consist of two-person canvas wall tents, or lean-tos which may accommodate up to four people. Per national BSA Youth Protection policies, youth more than 2 years of age apart may not share a tent or lean-to, including siblings.

Within a shared tent or lean-to, participants must sleep head-to-toe to maximize social distancing.

Tents and cots will be sanitized by the camp staff at the end of each week prior to the next group of campers.

LATRINES

Bathroom facilities must be sanitized on a routine basis, at a minimum three times daily, and cleaning supplies will be given to each campsite for cleaning as needed. Additional supplies may be obtained from the Quartermaster or camp office.

The Campsite Safety Officer is responsible for ensuring that the bathroom facilities are cleaned and sanitized. Each cleaning must be confirmed with a signature on the cleaning form hung on the latrine.
PROGRAM SPACES

BUDDY SYSTEM

The Buddy System must continue to be used by youth when not in the campsite. Scouts will partner up with a buddy from their cohort.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Program spaces will follow classroom guidelines with proper signage and social distancing. Participants must maintain a minimum of 6’ social distancing between individuals from different cohorts. Scouts are encouraged, but not required, to bring folding chairs to supplement seating in classroom spaces to allow for social distancing. Picnic tables and other seating areas will have proper signage in order to maintain social distancing.

In programs where partners are needed (i.e., rowing or canoeing), staff will ensure that only Scouts from the same cohort are partners. If this option is not available, staff may permit a partner from another cohort who is vaccinated if both are wearing masks and outdoors.

DISINFECTION AND CLEANING

Staff will be trained in proper cleaning of program equipment and all touch surfaces. All equipment will be disinfected between uses by different individuals. For example:

Aquatics Equipment Sample Procedures:
- Spray all used PFDs
- Spray down boat seats if used
- Wipe down used oars
- Wipe down and spray goggles

Handicrafts Equipment Sample Procedures:
- Provide personal bags of supplies such as pencils or crayons
- Clean all paint brushes between uses
- Wipe down all touched surfaces between uses
- Wipe down mallets between uses

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) & SANITATION

Each program area will be supplied with proper PPE (extra masks) and hand sanitizer for all campers. Participants will be asked to wash hands with soap upon arrival and use hand sanitizer before handling equipment.

Prominently displayed signs will encourage proper social distancing and the wearing of masks. Appropriate space will be provided for social distancing. Any indoor learning space will have appropriate ventilation (open windows, exhaust fan) to allow for air flow and proper exchange of air. Indoor learning space capacity will be limited to allow for proper social distancing.
DINING SERVICES

MEAL SERVICE

Our traditional buffet style service will be eliminated. All dining hall meals will be served cafeteria style. Staff members using PPE will plate meals for all participants. Some items will be prepared as “grab and go” options (i.e., pre-made salads instead of the salad bar).

Mealtimes will be expanded, and cohorts will be provided with a designated time to arrive for each meal.

SEATING

The Dining Hall will be limited to 50% capacity and arranged to allow for proper social distancing at tables. Each table will be limited to four (4) people, arranged so that they are not sitting directly across from one another.

All tables and hard surfaces will be disinfected on a routine basis after each use. The Dining Hall will be properly ventilated to allow air flow and clean air exchange into the large space.

For this year, we will unfortunately have to suspend the practice of staff members dining at tables with the Scouts to prevent mixing of cohorts. We look forward to resuming that tradition next year.
ALTERED ACTIVITIES

PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

Physical activities will be modified or eliminated to limit contact.

Staff-led organized programs that require close physical proximity or contact (COPE, certain First Aid or Aquatics requirements) will be assessed by the staff and modified, if possible, to mitigate risk. Mitigation factors will include the wearing of masks, use of hand sanitizer prior to contact, and limiting contact to individuals within the same cohort.

If mitigation efforts are determined to not be possible or sufficiently safe for a particular activity, that activity will not be conducted. If this results in Scouts earning a merit badge partial due to a requirement that cannot be completed safely, Scouts and families are reminded that a Scout may complete a partial at any time until his or her 18th birthday.

Activities that are not directly staff-led and encourage close physical contact between Scouts from different cohorts will not be permitted due to the higher risk of transmission and inability to conduct contact tracing if necessary. This includes basketball and gaga ball.

CAMPFIRE PROGRAM

Protocol TBD

VISITORS TO CAMP

Unexpected or unscheduled visitors can potentially increase risk of infection. For this reason, we unfortunately must strongly discourage nonessential visitors from coming to camp this year. No visitors will be allowed without the permission of the Camp Director or designee.

The traditional Family Night BBQ and Campfire program has been cancelled for this season, but we look forward to welcoming you back next year.

All visitors to camp must check in at the camp office. Parents dropping off supplies or picking up a Scout for an appointment will be asked to wait there and the unit will be contacted to send the Scout to the office to meet them. (Appointments requiring Scouts to leave and then return to camp should be avoided.)

All proper non-pharmaceutical interventions (i.e., mask, social distancing, and hand sanitizer must be followed). Visitors approved to enter camp must complete the Pre-Camp Screening Checklist and provide an accurate phone number and/or email address for contact tracing, if needed.