

Youth Education Delivery Procedures Regarding COVID-19

The North Carolina Arboretum

Updated 2/1/21

Any scenario in which many people gather together poses a risk for COVID-19 transmission. The risks of COVID-19 exposure are less outdoors, however there is still a risk, therefore, people should still wear a mask and practice social distancing outdoors. The following outlines how we will be committed to minimizing the risks. For these health and safety measures to be effective it will require commitment and diligence from our participants, their families and Arboretum staff.

The Three W's in Practice

- **Wear a Mask**
 - **Both staff and our participants are required to wear a mask (cloth face covering) anytime they are within six feet of one another.**
 - Although masks will be worn most of the time (due to the difficulties of always maintaining six feet distance with children) we will provide opportunities for children to not wear masks at appropriate, designated times where social distancing is possible. These instances include snack and water breaks as well as safely socially distanced activities.
 - Face shields are allowed if used in conjunction with cloth face coverings.
 - Recent research suggests that a cloth mask with at least two cotton layers is more effective than buffs, gaiters and bandanas which are no longer recommended.
 - There may be parents who prefer that their children not wear masks for a medical or other reason. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate them at this time.
 - [Here is an article with some tips and ideas for helping your child get comfortable with wearing a mask.](#)



- Wait (6 feet of distance)
 - **Prepare to experience the bulk of your programs from six feet of distance.**
 - Staff will carry visuals to demonstrate what 6 feet of distance looks like.
 - At times participants will be in close physical proximity to one another or instructors with correct mask usage, although we are trying to limit those times as much as possible.

- Washing hands
 - **Staff and participants will wash hands using soap and water throughout the day, or will be permitted to use hand sanitizer between washes.**
 - Hand sanitizer will be provided and used by participants upon arrival.

 - Soap and water or hand sanitizer will be utilized before and after snack breaks and bathroom use.

The Program Day

Several procedures have been implemented and will take place throughout the program. These focus greatly on limiting exposure, intensifying cleaning protocols and following hygiene best practices.

Limiting exposure

- Each program group will have a dedicated meeting location and daily program locations.
- Staff and participants will need to wear a mask most of the time. We will provide opportunities for children to not wear masks at appropriate, designated times where social distancing is possible. These instances include snack and water breaks as well as safely socially distanced

activities.

- Groups will practice social distancing of six feet as much as possible. Certain activities may make this unrealistic for the entirety of the program. Contact will be minimized and masks will be worn when in close proximity.
- The members of each group, both the participants and the staff, will remain the same all week, to the extent that this is feasible.
- To limit the number of communal items being used, each group will be provided with materials that only they will use during programming. Those materials will be cleaned and disinfected before and after the program.
- Participants will not be permitted to share toys, activity supplies, water bottles, snacks etc. with one another (exceptions for siblings).
- Areas being used for multiple groups, like outdoor learning spaces, will be scheduled to prevent group overlap.
- Water fountains will not be available for direct use by Campers. They will only be available to refill water bottles.

Monitoring for Symptoms

- According to the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) programs serving children and teens are required to conduct a daily health screening on all participants including staff. A copy of the health screening questions are included at the end of this document.
- Both staff and participants should be actively monitoring for health and symptoms at home and not attend OAK programming at TNCA if they, or anyone in their immediate household/family, has symptoms/signs of illness or has been in contact with someone who is confirmed or suspected as having COVID-19.
- Participants and staff who display signs of illness will be sent home. Participants who show signs of illness will be immediately asked to leave the program (including their siblings).

Depending on the type of symptoms they may be required to self-quarantine for up to 14 days before being approved to return to the program.

Returning to Programming

- If your child or anyone in their household is exposed to COVID-19 they cannot attend programming for 14 days from the date of last exposure.
- If your child or anyone in their household has a diagnosis of COVID-19 but no symptoms, they must stay home for 14 days since the first positive COVID-19 test.
- If your child or anyone in their household has at least one of the following symptoms: fever, chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, new cough, or new loss of taste or smell, they cannot come to the program until they can answer yes to **ALL** of the following criteria:

- Has it been 10 days since they first had symptoms?
- Have they been without fever for 24 hours (WITHOUT any fever medicine)?
- Has it been three days since your symptoms have improved?

• If your child or anyone in their household has at least one of the following symptoms: congestion, runny nose, sore throat, muscle or body aches, fatigue, diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain, confusion or dizziness or new onset of severe headache they cannot return to programming for 3 days. If no other symptoms develop and the initial one improves, then the child can return to the program after the three day exclusion. If symptoms do not improve or additional symptoms develop, please follow the rules above and stay home for 10 days. [The overlap between COVID-19 symptoms with other common illnesses means that people with symptoms of COVID-19 may actually be ill with something else. Testing may be needed to help confirm a diagnosis. Students who are sick with other contagious illnesses should stay home, but may not require the same level or length of isolation that COVID-19 does].

• If you take your child or anyone in their household to the doctor and they are diagnosed with anything else (common cold, strep, etc.) unless you ALSO have a negative COVID-19 test, you must follow the policies above.

• Please note the criteria for returning to programming are based on the best practices and requirements for operation from the CDC, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Buncombe County and City of Asheville guidelines.

• These criteria are subject to change at any time.

Cleaning protocols

- Public bathrooms will be cleaned throughout the day and sanitized between groups.
- All cleaning products meet local and national guidance regarding treating against COVID19.

Hygiene protocols

- Participants will be required to wash and/or sanitize their hands at the start of the camp day, before and after consuming food, before and after activities, and as part of all bathroom breaks.

Staff procedures and requirements

- All OAK staff are required to wear masks while working with participants when closer than 6 feet.
- Staff will undergo daily temperature checks and health screenings. Staff who do not pass the check and/or screening will not be allowed to conduct programming and will be advised to self-isolate as per recommended by the CDC and NCDHHS.

- Staff will keep cleaning logs for all program materials.

High Risk Activities for Participants and Staff

- If you travel out of state overnight, it is preferred that you not participate in programming for two weeks.
- If you travel in an airplane it is asked that you not participate in programming for two weeks or receive two negative COVID-19 tests. You will not be issued a refund.
- We would prefer that participants avoid dining indoors restaurants, going to the gym and traveling out of state to minimize risk.

Notification and Transparency

- If anyone associated with an OAK program has a confirmed exposure to or contracts COVID-19 staff will immediately consult with local health authorities and comply with any required procedures which could include operational changes, a suspension of programming and/or possible program closure.
- Families will be notified by Arboretum staff and/or public health officials if a participant or staff member is confirmed to have COVID-19.
- We will not disclose personal medical records or identities in accordance with Federal (HIPAA) guidelines.

Participants who, in our judgement, do not comply with these expectations may be removed from the program and will not receive a refund.

Health Screening

Upon arrival participants will be greeted by a staff member and required to answer the following questions regarding participant health and potential COVID-19 exposure. Please arrive for drop off with enough time to complete the health screening questionnaire.

Depending on the results of the screening, your family may or may not be able to participate.

1. Have any of the children you are dropping or anyone in your household had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) in the last 14 days with someone diagnosed with or suspected of having COVID-19, or has any health department or health care provider been in contact with you and advised you to quarantine?
 Yes
 No
2. Do any of the children you are dropping off or anyone in your household have any of these symptoms?
 Fever
 Chills

- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New cough
- New loss of taste or smell
- Muscle Pain
- Sore Throat
- Confusion or dizziness

3. Since last participating at this program, have any of the children you are dropping off or anyone in your household been diagnosed with COVID-19?

- Yes
- No

4. *Instead of conducting in person temperature checks, we have chosen to allow families to take and document temperature at home before arriving to participate in programs.*

Did you take and record temperatures before arriving to participate in programs today?

- Yes
- No

Do any of the children you are dropping off or anyone in your household have temperatures over 100.4 degrees F?

- Yes
- No

Participants and staff who are sick (any fever, respiratory, or gastrointestinal symptoms) or believe they might have COVID-19 are instructed to stay home and separate themselves from other people in the home as much as possible. They are required to exclude themselves from the program until they can answer YES to **all** the following questions:

- ✓ Has it been at least 10 days since you first had symptoms?
- ✓ Have you been without fever for one day (24 hours) without any medicine for fever?
- ✓ Has it been three days (72 hours) since your symptoms have improved?

Please note: If a program participant fails to pass a health screening and/or temperature reading, or is sent home due to illness, that participant will not be allowed to return until they meet the state, county and NCDHHS health guidance for day camps. Additionally, siblings and family members of a participant who fails to meet screen criteria will also be unable to participate until the affected camper is free of symptoms for the prescribed windows of time.

These procedures are subject to change as new information becomes available.