

Blue Skies Kids Arts Camp COVID-CARE Handbook

Thank you for putting your trust in us when you send your child to camp. Everything we do at camp is centred on helping campers feel safe and secure so they can relax and enjoy everything camp has to offer. While we are hopeful that most COVID-related restrictions will be lifted by the time we run camp this summer, we assure you we will meet all provincial health and safety guidelines for Summer Outdoor Day Camps and will consider recommendations from the Ontario Camp Association. If you have any questions, we'd love to hear from you. blueskiescamp@gmail.com

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Introduction

a. Rational

The safety of the Campers and all those involved with running the Blue Skies Kids Arts Camp is of utmost importance therefore we have created this Kids Camp COVID-CARE handbook to help parents, guardians, campers, and camp facilitators (including Instructors, Leadership Team and Volunteers) understand the steps we are taking to manage a summer day camp during a pandemic.

We have reviewed the current recommendations from Ontario Health, Public Health Ontario and the Ontario Camp Association (see b. Recommendations for Outdoor Day Camps – Ontario Camp Association below for more details) and based on this information the guidelines we have created are reflective of what we feel is best-practice steps to mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19.

Provincial regulations and recommendations for COVID-19 safety are constantly shifting – should the Ontario government and/or Public Health Ontario change the restrictions for Summer Day Camps, we will be obligated to follow these new rules.

Public Health Ontario Update - March 21, 2022:

- General masking requirements lifted (with some exceptions for indoor settings)
- Outdoor gatherings – numbers lifted with no restrictions
- Proof of Vaccination – at the discretion of the business/organization/agency

For a complete list of settings and exceptions to masking requirements that may apply, please refer to [O. Reg. 364/20](#).

**** Should Ontario Government regulations change for the province (example lockdowns) and/or changes to mandates for running outdoor activities or summer day camps, Blue Skies Kids Arts camp may be cancelled.**

b. Recommendations for Outdoor Day Camps – Ontario Camp Association

OCA's Statement on COVID-19 Vaccine Policies – as of February 9, 2022

Although the OCA does not have a formal COVID-19 vaccine policy in place at this time, we strongly recommend that all camps and outdoor education centres follow the recommendations of Public Health Ontario and the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) regarding vaccinations. Both groups recommend vaccines for people 5 years of age and older unless there are medical exemptions.

We respect that each camp has the autonomy to establish their own policy to best serve their community and their needs. The OCA continues to recommend following the guidelines set out by public health officials including Public Health Ontario and the National Advisory Committee on Immunization.

<https://ontariocampsassociation.ca/resources/campers/covid-19-faqs-for-parents/>

Based on the above, BSIC has the autonomy to establish their own policy to best serve the Blue Skies Kids Arts Camp and with that noted, we have developed this Kids Camp COVID-CARE Handbook based on what we feel is best-practice steps to mitigate the risks associated with COVID-9 specifically for the Blue Skies Kids Arts Camp in reflection of its Mandate, physical environment, camp programming, and general operations.

c. Sources

- Ontario Camp Association
- Ontario.ca – Public Health Measures
- Government of Canada – Covid-19
- Public Health Ontario

2. COVID 19

a. About Coronaviruses

Coronaviruses are common and are typically associated with mild illnesses. Human coronaviruses cause infections of the nose, throat and lungs. They are most commonly spread from an infected person through:

- Respiratory transmission through droplets generated when you speak, cough, or sneeze.
- Close, prolonged personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands.
- Contact transmission, meaning touching something with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose or eyes before washing your hands.

b. Signs and Symptoms

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

3. Personal Hygiene at Camp

Maintaining good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette helps reduce the risk of becoming infected or spreading infection to others.

- a. **Hand hygiene** means washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water aren't available, use a hand sanitizer containing at least 70% alcohol.

We will have a designated handwashing sink with cold water and soap at the Fern Bar and hand sanitizer available at all Counsellor Group meeting areas; Workshop areas; and, outhouses

It is suggested to clean your hands:

- before and after eating or handling food
- before and after touching a mask
- before touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- after using the washroom

- after touching frequently touched surfaces and objects
- after coughing or sneezing

b. **Respiratory etiquette** means, when coughing or sneezing, you should:

1. cough or sneeze into a tissue or the bend of your arm, not your hand, if you're not wearing a mask
2. dispose of any tissues you've used as soon as possible in a plastic-lined waste container
3. clean your hands immediately afterwards

4. Cleaning at Camp

a. Toilets

Blue Skies Kids Arts Camp is an outdoor day camp located at the Blue Skies Music Festival site. The site is equipped with unisex outhouses. Each outhouse will be equipped with toilet paper and hand sanitizer and will be cleaned at least twice daily and as needed.

b. Equipment

Equipment used for Workshops will be cleaned before and after each session. Equipment used for games and activities will be wiped down after each use and at the end of each day.

c. Surfaces

Surfaces that are used for snack prep and eating will be cleaned before and after each use.

5. COVID Guidelines for Campers and Facilitators

- a. **COVID-19 Vaccination** – Although it is recommended by the Province and OCA to follow the National Advisory Committee on immunization regarding vaccinations for people 5 years of age and older for camps (including Covid-19 vaccinations), **we have made the decision to NOT have a vaccination policy for the Blue Skies Kids Arts Camp for Campers and all parties involved (including Directors, Instructors, Leadership Team and Volunteers).**

With this noted, it is important for each parent/guardian, camper, members of the leadership team, instructors and volunteer, to make their decision to attend camp based on this decision.

b. COVID Testing

- A negative Rapid Test is required 24 hours prior to first day of camp. Results to be shared with Directors on Registration day verbally and a signature will be required for verification.
- Should you not have access to Rapid Testing (at home or at local pharmacy, store etc.), we will have a supply of tests available – You can either pick up a test from Directors (in Sharbot Lake) the day before registration or your child(ren) can do one on day of registration – with this option, you must arrive 1 hour before registration starts to complete the Rapid Test with your child(ren). We will have volunteers on hand to provide the tests and instructions on how you can help your child take the test.

c. COVID Screening

Screening required as follows:

- Screening by Parent/Guardian – screening by parent/guardian every day before camp using screening tool provided by camp Directors. Should child(ren) have symptom at home, they are not to attend camp – parent/guardian must call and email camp Directors to let them know and to discuss a return-to-camp plan. See Appendix 1 – Covid Screening Tool.
- Screening by Facilitators – screening by camp facilitators on registration day (in-person)

- Symptoms at camp - if symptoms are observed at camp, camper will be asked to wear a mask at all times and will isolate from the group.

d. Masking

Masking required as follows:

- At Registration (Masks will be worn by all parties - facilitators, leadership team, campers, camper family members and volunteers at the registration event)
- On the Bus (Families are responsible to ensure their children have and wear masks when travelling by bus to camp)
- At camp - in large group settings when physical distancing is not possible (Leadership Team will be responsible to keep a supply of medical grade masks and distribute to their group when it is determined that masking is required). Example of these settings are: in the Fern Bar

Masking recommended as follows:

- If you or a family member are recovering from an illness (including a cold)
- If you are at higher risk of severe illness
- If you have a medical condition that increases your risk of exposure to COVID

e. Physical Distancing

- It is noted that physical distancing is no longer required for outdoor activities
- We will encourage physical distancing during workshops and group activities where possible
- During camp, should we need to use the Fern Bar for large group activities or emergencies, masking will be required by all parties.

f. Workshops

- Workshops are held outdoors under covered structures with open sides so there is lots of fresh air flow/exchange.
- We will encourage physical distancing during workshops and masking if/when necessary

g. Meals (Snacks and Lunches)

- To avoid eating in large groups, Counsellor groups will eat separately from the large group at their designated counsellor group meeting area

h. Outbreaks

- Outbreaks are considered when the outbreak area has active and/or suspect/exposed cases of COVID-19 **that are linked (Public Health Ontario)**.
- Should a camper or member of the leadership team have Covid symptoms during camp, they will be given a rapid test to take home to complete that evening – the results must be reported to the Directors and a plan will be put in place for that camper/person
- If/When we identify that there is a risk of an outbreak at camp (meaning – more than one participant is testing positive for Covid and/or the number of participants showing and reporting symptoms is high) the Directors will contact all parties involved by phone/email to report the situation. Each parent/guardian will need to consider the information and make their own decision if they wish their Camper to continue attending camp.
- The Directors have the power to close the camp should there be evidence of numerous cases with COVID symptoms and/or positive rapid tests.

Should you have questions / concerns about this plan, please contact the Directors at blueskiescamp@gmail.com