



Dear Camp Directors,

MCA has continued to work hard to receive clarification on the [requirements](#) issued for recreational camps on June 1. **MA DPH has agreed to join an MCA Virtual Workshop this Thursday, June 11th, at 2pm** . Please join us to learn more from Assistant Commissioner Jana Ferguson, Steve Hughes, Director of the Community Sanitation Program, and the staff at DPH.

JOIN US:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83257175562>

Meeting ID: 832 5717 5562

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Yesterday, MCA Leadership met with DPH and received the following responses to a summary of all of your answers in our recent survey:

Below are the responses we received from DPH on our major concerns:

- **MA residency requirement for staff**
 - DPH will strike the MA residency requirement. In place of that, they will require that out-of-state staff and campers quarantine for 14 days prior to camp. Staff and campers are allowed to quarantine at home and will need to "be careful" when not at camp. Staff and campers will be allowed to come in and out of camp. This will apply to overnight camps as well.
 - When the Governor lifts the quarantine advisory, it will no longer apply to camps.
- **Social distancing AND masks within cohort**
 - Masks will be required indoors when social distancing cannot be achieved;
 - Masks are encouraged outside but not required if social distanced;

- **PPE procurement, testing and cleaning procedures**
 - Camps are required to adhere to the PPE, testing and cleaning procedures;
 - If camps are having difficulty ordering PPE (face cloth coverings/health center supplies), please let us know so MCA/DPH can determine what the limitation is on the suppliers' side
- **30 sq ft of indoor emergency shelter space**
 - DPH highlighted that the goal was to encourage 6 ft distance between individuals;
 - Tents/Pavilions/Separate buildings etc. are all allowable uses for inclement weather and will fulfill the guidance requirement
- **2 dedicated health care supervisors on staff at all times**
 - Licensed camps are required to have one healthcare supervisor on staff at all times - the additional requirement would allow one healthcare supervisor to care directly for a sick individual while the other tends to the camp, if necessary;
 - Requirement is that the individual be at least 18 with CPR training;
 - This individual must be designated but not specific to that job (i.e., can also be a camp counselor).
- **Transportation**
 - DPH flagged it as an access/equity issue as well;
 - Currently aligned with CDC guidance;
 - They're unsure how to address this at this time.
- **Phase 3 Camp guidance**
 - Phase 3 will begin based on the improvement of public health data standards but will be at least 3 weeks between phases;
 - MCA reiterated the need for guidance ahead of the phases so camps can plan and prepare staff and families;
 - Residential info included in the Phase 2 guidelines --
 - Residency requirement: see above
 - 6ft distancing between bunks:
 - DPH did not have recommendations on this but recognized that it is problematic;
 - ACANE/MCA Suggestion: Head to feet might work to serve as distancing in bunk beds

Other concerns:

- Camp cohort size must be larger in later phases in order for camps to maintain their ACA accreditation of counselor to camper ratios and remain financially feasible

*Please note that DPH indicated that they do intend for the guidance to be flexible and will adjust as the public health data in Massachusetts changes. We will communicate continually with DPH on how the guidance is affecting camps this summer and beyond.

We understand that the pandemic has presented a number of challenges not only to public health, but to the ongoing sustainable ability to operate camps in summer 2020 and beyond. The MCA Board continues to work with Tremont Strategies, ACANE, and ACA National to advocate for camps. The MCA has also been working collaboratively with the Alliance of Massachusetts YMCA's, Boys and Girls Club, Mass Audubon, Jewish Community Relations Council, Boston After School and Beyond, Philanthropy Massachusetts, and others to be a collective, stronger voice. Partnered with Tremont, the MCA has served as a leader and central information point for the Department of Public Health, Early Education and Care, the Command Center, Baker Administration officials, the Legislature and other inter-agency task forces including direct communication to the Reopening Advisory Board. We will be

monitoring and influencing continued requirements for camp as they are released as well as any financial relief bills that may support camp businesses during this difficult time.

Remember to reach out with questions at any time to mcaboard@gmail.com .

Stronger together,

The MCA Board