

MCA Q and A

Healthcare policies – When it says that there needs to be a plan for transporting sick children or staff, can that just be something as simple as stating that families will need to pick up sick children?

Camp operators must ensure that all sick children or staff are picked up or sent home as soon as possible. The plan must include what to do in the event the camper/staff person's parent is unable to pick them up, staff member is too sick to transport themselves, or if they need to seek emergency care while at camp.

If a camper or staff tests positive and has visited the Dining Hall, Health Center, their Cabin, and say Art Room – Would all have to be closed for 24 hours and cleaned?

If an individual tests positive, camps must increase ventilation and close off all areas they have visited. Camps must wait 24 hours, or as long as possible, to clean and disinfect these areas. Camps must ensure they are following the manufacturer's instruction for proper use of a disinfectant including using the appropriate concentration and sufficient contact time on all surfaces. Campers and staff should not be allowed back into these areas until they have been properly cleaned and disinfected. Camps should have alternative plans to utilize other spaces while waiting to clean. Additional information on cleaning and disinfecting can be found: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

Do food-contact safe sanitizers need to be used for tables and chairs for lunch if campers are bringing their own food?

Camp staff are not required to use a sanitizer approved for food contact surfaces on these types of tables and chairs. The CDC recommendations for COVID-19 include that all non-food contact surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected. Non-food contact surfaces include tables and chairs where campers eat lunch.

- Use products that meet [EPA disinfection criteria](#) and that are appropriate for the surface. Allow the disinfectant to remain on the surface for the contact time recommended by the manufacturer.
- Preparation tables within a kitchen and other food contact surfaces would need to utilize sanitizers approved for food contact surfaces.

Assuming kids can't sit at a picnic table together for lunch correct? Assuming social distance guidance is required during lunch?

Social distancing requirements apply while eating lunch; campers must remain 6 feet apart.

Can locker rooms be used to change, hard to have swimming if can't change.

Locker/changing rooms are not permitted to be open in Phase II. In accordance with EEA guidance, if using a pool at a camp, they can change at a designated place at camp, including the bathrooms.

What defines “close contact”?

Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes while that person was symptomatic, starting 48 hours before their symptoms began until their isolation period ends.

If child goes home with possible COVID does the group they were with have to quarantine?

Camps must work with the local Boards of Health to identify other campers and staff who would be considered close contacts (those who have been within 6 feet of the person with COVID for at least 10-15 minutes). Anyone identified as a close contact will need to quarantine.

Camps must maintain documentation of individuals who campers and staff come into contact with on a daily basis. This information will assist the Local Boards of Health in identifying close contacts and determining who needs to quarantine.

If camper tests negative do they get to come back?

If a camper/staff is identified as a close contact to someone who has been diagnosed with COVID19 they would need to complete their entire 14 day quarantine even if they obtain a negative test result.

Symptomatic campers (that have not been identified as a close contact to someone diagnosed with COVID) should be sent home and evaluated by a clinician. Children who either test positive for COVID or are told by a clinician that they likely have COVID should be excluded for the duration of their isolation period. Children who are given an alternative diagnosis should be excluded based on that diagnosis - often 24 hours without fever. Campers must provide the camp operators with written documentation from a clinician stating it is safe for them to return to camp.

How do you handle a symptomatic person whose symptoms go away? Is there a 72 hour rule?

Symptomatic campers (that have not been identified as a close contact to someone diagnosed with COVID) should be sent home and evaluated by a clinician. Children who either test positive for COVID or are told by a clinician that they likely have COVID should be excluded for the duration of their isolation period. Children who are given an alternative diagnosis should be excluded based on that diagnosis - often 24 hours without fever. Campers must provide the camp operators with written documentation from a clinician stating it is safe for them to return to camp.

Can campers play non-contact sport with a shared ball?

Camps are encouraged to minimize equipment sharing for all sports. If used, these items must be cleaned and disinfected after use by each group. Camps should identify a staff member who will clean and disinfect shared items using a disinfectant approved by the EPA for use against COVID19. Equipment that cannot be cleaned and sanitized may not be used. Additional requirements for sports and shared equipment can be found [here](#).

What are the health requirements for virtual camps?

If the camp is held entirely online there would be no regulatory requirements. However, if the camp does have a physical presence in Massachusetts they would need to comply with the recreational camp regulations (105 CMR 430) and the MA Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) Massachusetts Child and Youth Serving Programs Reopen Approach - Minimum Requirements for Health and Safety document.

Can the daily attestation from the parents be electronic so we are touchless.

Yes, the required daily attestation by parents and staff can be electronic to encourage contactless sign in. Parents and staff must sign a daily attestation regarding any household contacts of COVID19 or if they have given their child fever reducing medication.

If a day camp is located within a larger facility, can the public use the facility if we use different entrances, exits, and space? (For example: a community center that houses a gym as well as a camp)

Yes, if separation between the camp and general public can be maintained at all times. Camps would not be able to use any shared spaces.

If on-site trails connect with other trail systems can we still hike on those trails?

Camps can only use the trails that are on the camp grounds. During Phase II they may not use trails that are off site.

What constitutes a "safe shelter" for emergencies? It says tents are acceptable, but are there guidelines on what is usable?

A safe shelter could be a building, pavilion, or tent that meets the building code and grounding requirements and a roof that is weather/water tight. Shelter(s) must be large enough to accommodate all campers and staff while remaining 6 feet apart at all time. If the emergency shelter location is not large enough to provide 6 feet of distance between individuals at all times, camps must monitor the weather and cancel or modify camp hours to avoid operation during inclement weather.

Can a pool that is used by adult/family members at a different time be used for camper swim?

Community pools are not permitted in Phase II. Camps should only be using swimming pools that are on site and used exclusively by the camp.

If a pool is large enough to provide safe distancing, can two 10 camper groups swim at the same time, if social distancing and group separation is maintained?

Yes, as long as the pool is on-site and proper social distancing measures are in place ensuring 6 ft of distance is maintained by individuals within and between groups.

What guidelines would be in place for single-day group activities with local campers for a residential camp?

Residential Camp guidance will be provided in Phase III guidance.

Can the bathroom for the isolation area be used by others if no one is in the isolation area and it has been disinfected since the last isolation case?

Yes, if no campers/staff are being isolated others may use the designated bathroom. If these areas were used by an isolated individual, staff must increase ventilation and close off the area/bathroom for 24 hours or as long as possible before cleaning and disinfecting. The area/bathroom may not be used again until properly cleaned and disinfected.

Can you provide insight on what the investigation would look like if we identify someone who has COVID and then report it to the BOH?

If a positive case is found, camps must immediately report this information to the LBOH and close off any areas where the individual had been at camp. The camp director or designated COVID staff member must provide the LBOH documentation of all individuals who staff and campers have come into contact with while at camp. The LBOH may use this information to conduct contact tracing to determine close contacts. Individuals who have tested positive or who have been identified as close contacts must work with the LBOH where they reside to complete their isolation or quarantine requirements. During the course of the investigation the LBOH may determine if a closure is warranted.

Can I allow an aid (who is not part of the camp staff) to accompany a camper?

Yes, an aid may accompany a camper with special needs. Due to the possible close contact the aid may have with the camper, they should not have any other responsibilities at camp. Camp operators are strongly recommended to conduct a background check on any aids at camp.

We are preparing for online camp activities and want to perform background checks. Is there a change/waiver to the in-person signature for conducting a CORI check? It is currently difficult to get in-person meeting. CORI office is not currently staffed and voicemails appear to be full.

Please refer to the “EMERGENCY REGULATION CONCERNING IN-PERSON VERIFICATION OF IDENTITY OF APPLICANTS” document at the end of this document concerning verification of identities for CORI checks. Camp operators may call (617)-660-4760 or email Sophia.davis@mass.gov.

Is there a better definition of specialized activities? Can we have an arts and crafts activity counselor? Beading, sewing, nature, sports etc?

Specialized activities listed in the EEC MRHS include swimming, boating, archery, firearms or other activities that require a certified or specially trained individual with documented experience to supervise these activities.

MRHS section 9.14 says “activities that may require a rescue must not be conducted.” Does DPH interpret this to include activities like swimming, ropes, and boating?

That section was removed and updated to: “Activities that require or may require direct staff support or close contact must not be conducted, except where necessary to support participation for children with special needs.”

Could we hear an example of a “tested communication system with parents, children at camp, all staff, facility management, and/or grounds management, and emergency medical services?

Communications systems may be phone calls, texts, or emails that are capable of reaching the respective parties to disseminate information or for requesting assistance (emergency and non-emergency situations). For communicating with staff and campers at camp, staff could utilize various electronic devices, signals, a public address system, triangle, bell or voice that can alert all campers/staff and elicit a pre-determined response (105 CMR 430.213).

Day camps – do we need to advise families if they travel out of state that their camper cannot attend for 2 weeks.

Out of state campers and staff are urged to follow the current travel policies established by the Governor.

Would a face shield be able to be worn in place of a mask?

No, a cloth face mask or covering must be worn unless the individual meets one of the exemptions.

What if you are not a camp, just a youth development program as a Boys and Girls Club?

All youth serving programs need to comply with the EEC MRHS requirement, even if not required to be licensed as a Recreational Camp for Children under 105 CMR 430s. Note that there are some requirements within the EEC MRHS document that would only apply to licensed recreational camps.

Phase 3:

Phase III guidance is being developed and will be shared when available.

Must a staff wear a mask all day if in the same cabin as campers overnight?

Do you have any further insight on lodge bed spacing? 6 ft between heads? 6ft between bunks? Top and bottom bunks ok?

What changes might we expect for day camps in Phase 3 – are there requirements here that will be eased?

We are in Phase 2 now but by July 6th we could be in Phase 3 will these guidelines be more in line with youth group being able to play sports games ie Soccer, baseball in a camp setting?

EMERGENCY REGULATION CONCERNING IN-PERSON VERIFICATION OF IDENTITY
OF APPLICANTS

On April 9, 2020, the Department of Criminal Justice Information Services (DCJIS) issued an emergency regulation that allows requestors to verify an applicant's identity via teleconference in cases where the CORI request arises in response to the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic. Additionally, if a requestor is unable to verify identity in person, by notary, or by teleconference, and if there is a need to complete the CORI request in response to the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic, then the requestor may petition DCJIS for approval to use an alternative means to verify identity. The emergency regulations can be found at 803 CMR 2.09(8) and (9). Please note, the emergency regulations also provide that upon termination of the state of emergency, all CORI requests verified in this manner shall be verified either in person or through the submission of a notarized CORI Acknowledgement Form within 7 business days. Please see below.

2.09: Requirements for Requestors to Request CORI

(1) Prior to submitting a CORI request, an employer, volunteer organization, landlord, property management company, real estate agent, public housing authority or governmental licensing agency (referred to as "requestors") shall:

- (a) obtain a signed CORI Acknowledgement Form for each subject to be checked;
- (b) verify the identity of the subject; and
- (c) sign and date the CORI Acknowledgement Form certifying that the subject was properly identified.

(2) Model CORI Acknowledgment Forms with the required fields of information are available on the DCJIS website. Requestors shall either use the published CORI Acknowledgment Forms or incorporate the language and information provided on the forms into their applications.

(3) To complete the CORI acknowledgment Form, the subject shall provide:

- (a) all names that have been used by the subject or by which the subject has been known; and
- (b) any different name or date of birth for the subject that the subject is aware appears in the CORI database.

(4) In the course of reviewing a CORI acknowledgment form, if the requestor finds other names or dates of birth used by the subject or by which the subject has been known, the requestor may submit this information to the iCORI system. Requestors shall notify the subject of the source of the identifying information when the CORI results are returned. When the requestor is a CRA, the CRA's client shall notify the subject of the source of the identifying information.

(5) A requestor shall verify a subject's identity by examining a suitable form of government-issued identification containing a photograph of the subject. Acceptable types of government-issued identification are:

- (a) a state-issued driver's license;
- (b) a state-issued identification card with a photograph;
- (c) a passport;
- (d) a military identification card;
- (e) Native American Tribal documents; and
- (f) other forms of documentation as determined by the DCJIS.

(6) If a subject does not have an acceptable form of government-issued identification, a requestor shall verify identity by reviewing either the subject's birth certificate or social security card.

(7) If a requestor is unable to verify a subject's identity and signature in person, the subject may submit a completed CORI Acknowledgment Form acknowledged by the subject before a notary public.

(8) During the state of emergency declared by the Governor on March 10, 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, requestors that are unable to verify a subject's identity either in person or by acceptance of a notarization CORI Acknowledgment Form as provided in paragraph (7) and must complete a CORI request in response to the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic shall verify the identity of the subject by inspection of a photographic form of government issued identification via teleconference. Effective upon termination of the state of emergency, all CORI requests verified in this manner shall be verified either in person or through the submission of a notarized CORI Acknowledgement Form within 7 business days.

(9) Requestors that are unable to verify a subject's identity as outlined in paragraphs (7) or (8) and have a need to submit a CORI request in response to the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic, may petition DCJIS for an alternative means of identity verification. DCJIS may grant, deny or suggest an alternative means of identity verification sufficient to reasonably verify the subject's identity. Effective upon termination of the state of emergency, DCJIS may require CORI requests verified under such alternative means to be verified either in person or through the submission of a notarized CORI Acknowledgement Form within 7 business days.¹

(10) Nothing in 803 CMR 2.00 shall be construed to prohibit an employer or governmental licensing agency from making an adverse employment, volunteer, or licensing decision on the basis of a subject's objection to a request for CORI.

¹ Emergency regulation provisions are in **bold** font.

(11) If a subject's professional license expires or is revoked, a subject's CORI Acknowledgment Form shall become invalid.

(12) CORI Acknowledgement Forms must be retained by the requestor for a minimum of one year from the date of the subject's signature.