

COVID-19 guidance for in-person activities with minors

Below you'll find COVID-19 guidance issued by both LA County and USC for summer youth programming (day and overnight). The Office of Youth Protection and Programming has worked closely with USC's Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S), USC Student Health, and USC Facilities Planning and Management to update COVID-19 health and safety guidelines for those wishing to conduct in-person programs, activities or events involving minors ("Covered Activities"). These requirements and restrictions are in addition to those outlined in USC's [Protecting Minors policy](#). Please note that these requirements and restrictions are subject to change as conditions related to COVID-19 evolve.

LA County guidance:

- [County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health – Protocol for Children's Overnight/Organized Camps: Appendix K-1](#)
- [County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health – Protocol for Day Camps: Appendix K](#)

USC general requirements and restrictions (last updated July 7, 2022):

Vaccination requirements

- All Covered Activity Staff must be up to date [1] on COVID-19 vaccination.
- It is highly recommended that all participants aged 5 years and older participating in a Covered Activity that meets daily (e.g., day camp) be up to date on COVID-19 vaccination.
- All participants aged 5 years and older participating in a residential (e.g., overnight) Covered Activity must be up to date for COVID-19 and proof of vaccination must be collected and securely stored in CampDoc [2] or by enrolling participants in the Student Health fee prior to the Covered Activity's start date.
- Unless participants are enrolled in the Student Health fee, Covered Activities must manage the process for staff and participants wishing to apply for religious and/or medical exemptions for the COVID-19 vaccine. Those who receive an exemption will be required to test/present proof of a negative test weekly or as required by current campus guidelines. Over-the-counter (OTC) self-testing is acceptable, and the results of OTC tests communicated via parent attestation are also acceptable.

Screening, masking and planning requirements

- Participants' parent/guardian should attest to the participant testing negative for COVID-19 no more than 1-3 days before the Covered Activity's start date. This is a requirement for residential Covered Activities (see below).
- It is strongly recommended that all staff and participants be screened by staff and/or guardian, daily, as well as a known recent close contact with a confirmed COVID case, prior to arrival at the camp drop off location or prior to entering the campus. Participants feeling unwell are to stay home.
- It is strongly recommended that staff and participants wear proper face coverings (surgical masks) at all times when indoors except when eating or drinking. Children 2 through 8 years should wear masks with adult supervision.

- A plan for suspending in-person activities (e.g., move to virtual programming) for an adequate period of time in the event of an outbreak must be developed and communicated to families in advance of the start date.
- An isolation room/area with proper supervision and monitoring (including enough adults present to ensure one-on-one interactions between an adult and minor participant are interruptible) must be identified in advance to separate anyone who is sick or exhibits COVID-like symptoms until they can return home safely.
- All parents/ guardians of participants must be fully informed of the Covered Activity's refund policy as it relates to COVID-19 prior to registration/the start date.

Administrative requirements and required forms

- All participants (and, in the case of minor participants, their parent/guardian) must sign an informed consent form that includes COVID-19 language approved by the university.
- Non-USC Covered Activity staff must complete a USC Volunteer Agreement that includes COVID-19 informed consent language. All non-USC staff must also be enrolled in iVIP prior to the start date (more information about iVIP can be found [here](#)).
- Covered Activities that meet daily are to complete LA Department of Public Health Order – Reopening Protocol for Day Camps: Appendix K and submit to the Office of Youth Protection and Programming for review. Residential (overnight) Covered Activities are to complete LA Department of Public Health Order – Protocol for Children's Overnight/Organized Camps: Appendix K-1.

Required protocols for close contacts and positive cases

- Any single case of COVID-19 in a participant or staff member who has been present in the 14 days before diagnosis or symptoms onset must be immediately [reported to USC Student Health](#) as well as the LA Department of Public Health which can be done [through their secure web application](#). If testing is through Student Health, then Student Health will do the reporting to LADPH.
- Participant or staff member who test positive on any COVID-19 test will be required to isolate for a minimum of 5 days up to 10 days from the date of symptom onset, or the date of positive test, if asymptomatic. Isolation may end on day 6 if the individual has no fever for 24 hours (without using fever-reducing medicines), symptoms are improving, and receive a negative result on an antigen test. During days 6-10, individuals must wear a well-fitting surgical mask or N95 at all times both indoors and outdoors. If antigen test is positive, the individual should stay in isolation for 10 days.
- Additional information about isolation requirements can be found at <https://studenthealth.usc.edu/instructions-positive-test-results/>
- Participant or staff member who test positive on any COVID-19 test should notify all close contacts for the 48 hours prior to onset of symptoms or date of test (if asymptomatic).
- Close contact exposure is defined by the California Department of Public Health as “someone sharing the same indoor airspace, e.g., home, clinic waiting room, airplane, etc., for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minute) during an infected person's (laboratory-confirmed or clinical diagnosis) infectious period.” This definition of shared indoor airspace should be applied to classrooms, offices, and other similar-sized spaces.
- All participants and staff members who have close contact with someone with COVID-19 may attend classes and activities but should wear a well-fitting, medical-grade or higher quality mask while

around others, for 10 days after exposure, test 3-5 days after exposure, and monitor symptoms for 10 days. If symptoms develop, immediately isolate and arrange for testing and further evaluation.

- In the event that 3 or more COVID-19 cases are identified in the span of 14 days, this cluster will be immediately reported to the Department of Public Health for outbreak determination. In this scenario, additional recommendations and requirements may be issued that must be followed, including but not limited to requiring exposed participants and staff members to wear masks, closing areas where students and others may gather in groups, limiting capacity/occupancy in classroom sites or communal areas, and/or temporarily suspending in-person classes, communal activities, and events.

Additional requirements for residential (overnight) Covered Activities

- Residential Covered Activities are strongly encouraged to have participants pay the Student Health Fee which provides access to various health services, including those related to COVID-19, and may be used in place of CampDoc (referenced above).
- Residential Covered Activities must develop an isolation and quarantine plan in the event participants or staff test positive or present symptoms for COVID-19 (which can be adapted from this EHS example).
- An appropriate number of rooms must be available for isolation purposes.
- This plan must include supervision and monitoring protocols consistent with the supervision ratios outlined in the Protecting Minors policy.
- Parents/ guardians of participants should be strongly encouraged to make arrangements for their child to safely return home in the event they test positive for COVID-19.
- Parents/guardians must be fully informed about the quarantine and isolation plans in place prior to the start date so that they can make informed decisions about their child's participation in relation to the Covered Activity's protocols should they not be able to return home in a timely manner.
- Should a participant require isolation and quarantine, check-ins are to be conducted by the Covered Activity at least three times each day, virtually, in addition to other supportive measures that may help provide for the minor's well-being.
- All residential participants and staff must present a negative COVID-19 test result no more than 1-3 days before the start date and as required by current campus guidelines including in the event of an exposure or outbreak. Over-the-counter (OTC) self-testing is acceptable, and the results of OTC tests communicated via parent attestation are also acceptable.
- Those who receive an exemption will be required to test/ test weekly or as required by current campus guidelines. Testing/ verification must be managed by each Covered Activity; however, USC sponsored "Pop Testing" is available if minor participants are covered under the Student Health Fee. Programs whose participants are not covered by the Student Health Fee must have alternative testing available.

[1] Up to date means completion of a primary vaccine series and a booster if eligible.

[2] Setting up an account in CampDoc can take 2-3 weeks; please review this document for more information and work with Provost IT as soon as possible to initiate this process by emailing helpdesk@provost.usc.edu.