

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:

- [Guidelines for COVID-19 Prevention in DayCamps.pdf](#)
- [Guidelines for COVID-19 Prevention in OvernightCamps.pdf](#)

USC general requirements and restrictions (last updated April 27, 2023):

Testing

- Self-administered antigen tests must be made available to Covered Activity Staff and participants. Self-administered antigen tests will be available on campus. Third-party covered activities will be responsible for covering these costs. USC-run covered activities can direct questions relating to cost to minors@usc.edu.

Vaccination recommendations:

- It is highly recommended that all Covered Activity Staff and participants in a Covered Activity are up to date [1] on COVID-19 vaccination. Vaccines are offered at many locations in LA county and at many local pharmacies.

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 at risk for severe illness wear proper face coverings (surgical masks) at all times when indoors except when eating or drinking.
- High quality masks should be made available to all employees and participants upon request at no cost.
- 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.
- Covered Activities that meet daily are to complete LA Department of Public Health – Guidelines for Prevention of COVID-19 in Day Camps for review by the Office of Youth Protection & Programming. Residential (overnight) Covered Activities are to complete LA Department of Public Health – Guidelines for Prevention of COVID-19 in Overnight Camps.

Required protocols for close contacts and positive cases

- Any single case of COVID-19 in a participant or staff member who has been present during their infectious period, 2 days before diagnosis or symptoms onset must be immediately [reported to USC Student Health](#).
- 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. A negative result on an antigen test is recommended, but not required. 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.
- Residential Covered Activities must develop an isolation and quarantine plan in the event participants or staff test positive or present symptoms for COVID-19. Please contact EH&S if you need an 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.
- USC routinely conducts wastewater surveillance of on campus residence halls. In the event, SARs-co-V2 levels are elevated, programs housing students in that location will be provided written notification and participants asked to complete self antigen testing.
- 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-administered antigen tests are acceptable, and the results of these tests communicated via parent attestation are also acceptable.

[1] You are up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines when you have completed a COVID-19 vaccine primary series and received the most recent booster does recommended for you by the CDC.