



## Answers to Frequently Asked Questions Spring 2022

### **What COVID-19 precautions are in place to support my child's health and well-being at camp?**

We are committed to following all health and safety protocols that are identified by the Ministry of Health or our local Public Health in order to ensure your child's camp experience is as safe as possible. Please note that procedures and guidelines related to masking, cleaning and disinfecting, cohorts, health screenings, physical distancing, hand washing and hygiene etiquette, and responding to illness may change between the time of registration and when camp begins. The YMCA will post information on our website and communicate with families about any COVID 19 practices as they continue to evolve.

### **What happens if my child becomes ill or develops symptoms while at program?**

If a child begins to develop any symptoms during the program the parent/caregiver will be notified and will be required to pick their child up immediately. For the safety of everyone involved, the child(ren) will be removed from the group while waiting to be picked up. Any other children from the same household will also be asked to go home for that day unless they are fully vaccinated and they do not have any symptoms.

### **What do I do if my child is ill?**

Parents are requested to complete a self screening at home in advance of attending the program using the provincial tool. <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>  
Children who are sick or have any symptoms associated with the COVID-19 virus should remain at home. Parents/guardians are encouraged to follow the direction provided by the screening tool, or refer to Niagara Region Public Health <https://niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/self-isolation.aspx>

### **What do I do if my child is going to be absent?**

Parents/caregivers should report any absences by 11am on the day of the absence using this link [https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=snyDnhYL3E2wNRMe5Joj\\_akJJYSZ1pZMoU0AuvoGsrduQlpXM0IXUDRZMDNFQUc4QkFYWUNFSk1FMS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=snyDnhYL3E2wNRMe5Joj_akJJYSZ1pZMoU0AuvoGsrduQlpXM0IXUDRZMDNFQUc4QkFYWUNFSk1FMS4u)  
Parents/caregivers can also text (905)658-2765 to report an absence by stating the camper name, camp location, and date of absence.

### **Will my child be required to sanitize their hands?**

Children are encouraged to use sanitizer upon arrival and follow proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette throughout the program. Handwashing stations or sanitizer will be available on site for children and staff to utilize before and after eating, after using shared equipment and after using the washroom.

### **Do I need to wear a mask when dropping off and picking up?**

The authorized individual (16+) who is picking up and dropping off is not required to wear a mask or face covering.

### **Does my child need to wear a mask?**

Children are not required to wear a mask indoors or outdoors at this time. However, the YMCA of Niagara does support all participants who wish to continue to wear one. Parents/guardians are responsible for providing their child(ren) with a non-medical mask(s) or face covering each day, and children will require a way to store their mask when not in use if they choose to wear one.

**Will staff wear masks?**

Staff are not required to wear masks at this time.

**Who do I contact if I am going to be late dropping off or need to pick up my child early?**

As staff will only be at the designated sign in and out location for the beginning and end of the program, you may tell them in advance or please contact the Day Camp Office at (905)934-9755 ext. 280 and we will relay the message to site.

**Can my child switch to another group to be with a friend?**

Any requests for children to be in groups together must be received by the Wednesday prior to the program starting. Requests will be reviewed and accommodated when possible.

**What happens if it rains or is too hot?**

Programs at outdoor parks will be 100% outdoors. Pavilion shelters are available in the event of rain, and planned activities will be modified, and frequent breaks scheduled in the event of extreme heat. During extreme weather the program may be relocated, cancelled, or hours adjusted at the discretion of the YMCA.

**Can my child sign themselves out in or out of the program if they are 10 and older?**

An adult who is 16+ is required to drop off and pick up each day. The individual dropping off in the morning must be aware of the child's current health status and of those in their household.

**Who can pick up my child?**

Only individuals 16+ listed as authorized pick-up or an emergency contact during the registration process will be permitted to sign participants out. Authorized pick-ups including parents/caregivers will be required to show valid, government issued photo identification daily.

**Am I allowed to visit my child in the program?**

For the safety of everyone involved, visitors are not permitted inside the program. Parents/caregivers and authorized individuals are asked to remain at the sign-in and sign-out area and will not be permitted to enter the program space.

**Will my child be swimming?**

Swimming will not be offered during the Summer of 2022. Water games will be included on hot days. Children should come with a bathing suit and towel or a full change of clothing.

**Is busing available?**

Transportation is not available for summer day camp this year. Parents/caregivers are responsible for dropping off and picking up their children directly at the site and signing them in and out, with an YMCA staff.

**What should my child bring?**

- A backpack.
- Two snacks and healthy lunch that will fuel them for an active day.
- Wear running shoes and appropriate clothing for physical activity and the weather.
- Bring a bathing suit and towel or change of clothes for water games.
- A filled, cold water bottle.
- A raincoat or poncho.
- Sunscreen (please send children to program with sunscreen applied).
- A hat.
- Bug spray.

- 1 to 2 additional face coverings or masks in a secure bag or container (optional)

\* Personal items or toys will not be permitted in the program. Please clearly label all items.

### **What should I send for lunch?**

Recommended snacks: fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, pretzels, granola bar (nut free), fruit bar, cheese and crackers, yogurt, etc.

Recommended lunch:

Sandwiches (brown bread, meat, cheese)

Vegetables (carrot, celery, cucumber)

Fruit (apple, pear, orange, banana)

Treat (granola bars)

Drink boxes / bottle of water

Children will not have access to a microwave or refrigerator. Please do not send items that need to be heated up.

Sharing of food will not be permitted. Food or snacks will not be served as part of the program.

All items must be nut-free.

### **Are there extended hours?**

There are no extended hours available. Parents/caregivers are responsible for ensuring their child is picked up on time by an authorized individual.

### **What happens if my child is not picked up on time?**

If you encounter an emergency situation and are unable to pick up your child as planned, please let us know by calling the Day Camp Office at (905)934-9755 ext. 280. Late fees may apply.

### **How will the staff communicate with me?**

If any major situations arise during the day staff will strive to reach you by phone. For minor situations or communication, a Communication Form will be completed and shared with you to read at sign out. In situations where a meeting is required between the YMCA staff and the family the meeting will be scheduled and completed by conference call or video conferencing.

### **Why can't I meet with a staff at drop off or pick up?**

Depending on the nature of the issue or concern and to respect confidentiality, parent communication may need to take place separately from the drop off or pick up routine. Staff will be encouraged to focus on greeting participants and ensuring safety of participants through sign in/out processes at drop off and pick up.

### **How are you handling lost and found?**

Each group will keep any lost and found items with them in a plastic bag to be returned or identified. Any items found without a name will be kept on site for that week. After the week, any remaining items will be disposed of and no longer on site.

### **Who do I contact if I have a compliment, concern or complaint?**

Please email the Day Camp office [ymcadaycamp@niagara.ymca.ca](mailto:ymcadaycamp@niagara.ymca.ca) . The administrator will direct you to the appropriate Coordinator or Supervisor.

***Procedures are subject to change at any time based on guidance from the Ministry of Health, Niagara Region Public Health and/or local municipalities.***