

Communicable Disease Protocols for Camps

Girl Scouts of Northern California institutes the following protocols related to communicable diseases for all Council and Volunteer Run camps:

- A health history form with documentation of immunizations, including dates of initial vaccinations and boosters, is required for all youth and adult participants or staff. Currently, approved health history forms include an option for an exemption to vaccinations for medical or personal reason.
- Unvaccinated participants will not be denied participation. However, An Immunization Exemption Form must be completed and presented when health forms are submitted or when checking in to camp for any unvaccinated participant. This form outlines that participation is at the risk of the individual and that the Council is not responsible for any exposure to a communicable disease as a result of a participant not being vaccinated.
- For resident camp programs, an onsite health screening and review of the health history will be completed by an approved Health Care Manager, and a written record of the screening will be filed with the camp administration. Any evidence of communicable disease will be noted.
- For day camps, a designated Health Supervisor or First Aider must review the health histories and immunization notes.
- For camps with multiple sessions that include breaks between sessions, participants, leaders and staff must be re-screened at the beginning of the session and results noted.
- Should an outbreak of a communicable disease occur, the Council or Volunteer Run Camp will notify related unvaccinated participants/parents/guardians and ask them to remove themselves/their children from the program for the recommended incubation period. A letter noting an outbreak of a communicable disease will be sent home with all campers no later than the end of the session.
- Universal Precautions and Blood Borne Pathogens procedures must also be part of any camps health care plan and staff must be appropriately trained to carry them out.
- Information regarding unvaccinated participants or any other health information is strictly confidential. Camp staff must ensure that these records are protected.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Department of Public Health and the American Pediatrics Association recommend that children receive appropriate vaccinations. In the case of measles, that recommendation is that children receive two doses of the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine. The first dose is given at 12 to 15 months of age and the second dose usually at 4 to 6 years of age. It is noted that two doses of MMR vaccine are more than 99 percent effective in preventing measles. For more information about measles and measles vaccine, please visit. www.cdph.ca.gov.

For questions or concerns regarding Girl Scouts of Northern California communicable disease protocols, please contact info@girlscoutsnorcal.org.