**How We Keep Character Campers Safe**

Dr. Kimberly Harden



**We Will Enforce the Orders of our Medical Director, Dr. Kimberly Harden:**

**Prior To Camp**

* Families will complete daily temperature checks at home the week prior to camp and fill out a health questionnaire to assess potential exposure of the camper to the COVID-19 virus.
* Campers and staff are asked to be smart in their connections outside their homes and schools for a period of 10 days prior to their arrival. There should be no trips or situations in which they are in high-transmission settings, and each is asked to limit interactions with others outside their school and family.

##### COVID 19 testing prior to camp arrival is optional but ***highly encouraged***. Should COVID 19 testing (oral or nasal swab) be completed prior to camp, please do so within 72 hours of arrival and present your results at check in.

##### With enough participation, Character Camp can ensure better security of group “bubbles” and the safety of not just your camper, but everyone at camp. The City of Houston Health Department offers free testing and does not require proof of residency, citizenship or insurance. <https://houstonemergency.org/covid-19-testing>

* As vaccination is not available to all ages, it is not mandatory. Vaccination for campers ages 16 and above is encouraged, however.

**Camp Check In**

* Check-in will be “School Drop-off” style with parents remaining in their vehicles. This means:
  + **All Retreat Payments must be completed prior to the check-in date.**
  + **All forms must be completed and turned in to Character Camp prior to the check-in date.**
  + Luggage will be collected at the vehicle (one suitcase per camper). $20 cash payment is required for each extra suitcase.
  + All medications must be in the original pharmacy package, placed in a zip-lock bag with the camper’s name written in permanent ink.
  + Only one parent can enter the check in area if forms or other issues have to be resolved.
* Arrival time slots will be assigned by age group to limit cross contact and allow for social distancing. **Siblings may be checked in together.**
* Your assigned check-in time will be confirmed 2 weeks prior to camp. **Please do not arrive outside your assigned check in time. If you will be late, please call us at 844-687-2267 to receive further instructions.**
* At Check-in, health questionnaires will be reviewed with medical staff, if necessary, and initial temperature checks will be performed.
* Any staffer or camper with a temperature >100.0°F OR experiencing fever, sore throat, cough, runny nose, or lethargy OR has a positive health screening will be required to return home.

**Screening At Camp**

* Dedicated medical personnel will be provided to staff and to each camping group, divided by age and gender.
* Temperature checks will be performed twice daily. Any camper or staff with a temperature of >100.0°F will be quarantined and will be required to return home.
  + Any camper showing symptoms of illness will be isolated and will need to be picked up within 90 minutes of notification.
  + Please make sure that you or someone you have designated is available while your child is away at camp in the event they need to leave.

**Parents can opt in for their campers to be tested on site at camp for an additional fee. Due to the imperfect nature of testing, a negative test with clinically significant symptoms will still result in dismissal from camp.**

**Infection Control Measures At Camp**

* Face Masks will be made available to all campers and staff and are required to be worn indoors at all times specified.
* Hand washing and sanitization stations will be strategically placed around activity and dining areas.
* Staff and campers will be required to stop at hand stations upon entrance to any indoor area and will be encouraged to wash or sanitize hands throughout the day while participating in activities.
* Staff will be specially trained to provide decontamination cleaning of shared areas after use by each group.
* Infection control training will be provided to all camp counselors.

**General Prevention Measures At Camp**

* More activities will be scheduled for outdoors and fewer activities indoors.
* To limit cross contact, campers will dine and do any indoor activities within their “bubble” groups. Each “bubble” consists of dorm mates or age groups and their respective counselors.
* Head to toe sleeping arrangements in cabins will be strictly enforced with campers and with staff.
* There will be no buffet or self-service in the dining hall.
* Quarantines and early dismissal will be strictly enforced for any symptomatic campers.
* Daily lectures and reminders to campers and staff regarding infection control.
* **The traditional mid-week Parents’ Lunch with the campers is canceled for this year.**

**Staff Requirements**

All Staff, Counselors and Volunteers will need to provide either:

• Proof of COVID 19 vaccination

*To be considered fully vaccinated, you must be ≥2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series or ≥2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine*

• Proof of a documented COVID 19 infection in the past 3 months

*Lab result of either a rapid antigen or PCR test displaying name, date of test and date of birth will need to be submitted.*

• Proof of a negative COVID 19 test done within 72 hours of camp arrival

*Lab result of either a rapid antigen or PCR test displaying name, date of test and date of birth will need to be submitted.*

**Staff Check In**

Counselors, volunteers and staff should check in prior to camper arrivals to decrease foot traffic through check in areas and cross contact.

Staff requirements (above) will be reviewed with medical staff, and initial temperature checks will be performed.

Any staffer with a temperature >100.0°F OR experiencing fever, sore throat, cough, runny nose, or lethargy will be required to return home.

Any staff showing symptoms of illness will be isolated and dismissed from camp. They are required to return home, there are no long term quarantine facilities or care at camp.

**Infection Control Measures At Camp**

Cleaning and disinfection guidelines per the CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

Posters to remind campers and staff regarding hand hygiene, social distancing and mask wearing

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/toolkits/summercamp.html>