FIELD GUIDE FOR CAMPS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CDC GUIDANCE

Prepared for:
American Camp Association, Inc. and Y-USA, Inc.

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Disclaimer

The information provided by Environmental Health & Engineering, Inc. (EH&E) is intended to offer guidance to assist the American Camp Association and Y-USA and stakeholder organizations regarding current practice considerations in addressing the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

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Introduction

The objective of the Field Guide for Camps on Implementation of CDC Guidance (Field Guide) is to provide educational materials for camp staff to reduce potential exposures to and spread of the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), the virus that causes COVID-19. This information is consistent with the health and safety recommendations and ongoing monitoring efforts stated by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in determining whether to open and operate youth programs and camp during the COVID-19 pandemic.1 The CDC camp decision tool prioritizes three steps in making the decision to open and operate camp:

- Step 1: Should you consider opening?
- Step 2: Are the recommended health and safety actions in place?
- Step 3: Is ongoing monitoring in place?

Each step has criteria to complete that step and all criteria need to be satisfied before moving to the next step. Completion of the three steps can lead to the decision to open camp with ongoing monitoring programs in place. There is substantial information and resources referenced in the tool on satisfying the criteria to complete the steps. Camp staff are advised to use the tool to decide whether their operations and programs can meet the expectations of the CDC tool.

A prime consideration as the decision tool process is implemented is whether the camp opening will be consistent with state and local regulations and requirements. Camp staff are encouraged to begin these conversations early to establish working relationships and to learn of any special requirements for opening and operating camp. State and local health departments can provide guidance and information on assessing the current level of mitigation needed based on levels of COVID-19 community transmission and the capacities of the local public health and healthcare systems, among other relevant factors.

The recommendations provided in the Field Guide are designed to be implemented for various types of camps (e.g. day, overnight, wilderness/adventure, etc.) and geographic locations nationwide. Further, the recommendations apply to camps in geographical locations meeting the gating criteria for Phase 2 and 3 as noted in the published Federal guidance in the White House/CDC Guidelines for Opening Up America Again.2

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2 White House/CDC. Guidelines for Opening Up America Again. https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/
The *Field Guide for Camps on Implementation of CDC Guidance* (Field Guide) is designed to provide camp directors and administrative staff with relevant and practical information during this COVID-19 pandemic regarding:

- Decision making with regard to the safe opening of youth camps,
- Implementing best practices to ensure the ongoing safety of campers, counselors and staff and,
- Recommendations for continued verification of safe operations throughout the camp period.

Implementation of the guidance and suggested practices by each camp should be in concert with the relevant and applicable state and local requirements and regulations.

As additional information becomes available through governmental agencies, medical authorities, academic institutions, and professional industry associations, the recommendations and suggested practices in the Field Guide will be updated on the website of the American Camp Association (ACA) at [https://www.acacamps.org/](https://www.acacamps.org/). The presentation on the ACA website is broken into chapters to allow users to alerted promptly to any updates and to easily download relevant information rather than repeatedly download the entire Field Guide.