



Welcome to the South Mountain YMCA Camps Health and Safety Information for 2023! Our priority is to provide a safe and healthy environment for our campers and staff. We have created a comprehensive health and safety plan that follows the guidelines of the American Camping Association, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Human Services. We will update this plan as necessary to align with the latest best practices and guidance.

During the pandemic, we implemented procedures to prevent the spread of illness, and we will continue some of these practices to mitigate general illnesses in the camp setting.

Here are some general safety measures we will be taking:

- We will notify families and participants of any program changes or cancellations related to safety.
- We encourage all staff and campers to receive vaccines for common illnesses in communal living environments.
- We will maintain small, stable groups of 8-14 individuals (pods), focus on outdoor programming, and promote hand and oral hygiene.
- Masks may be worn at any point, but they are not required.
- Staff with COVID-19 symptoms will be asked to complete a rapid test before they are cleared to return to work.
- If staff test positive for COVID-19, they will need to isolate as recommended by the CDC given current conditions (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>).
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Outdoor Center Safety:

- SMYMCA Staff will be asked to complete a rapid test if they show COVID-19 symptoms before they are cleared to work. SMYMCA suggests that group participants and group leaders also complete rapid tests if they show COVID-19 symptoms before retuning to program.
- School groups and retreats will be responsible for their own screening, testing, and contact tracing.
- For programs facilitated by the camp, we will prioritize outdoor activities and small-group interaction, decrease building capacities, and provide sanitizer and masks for those who need them.



Camp Conrad Weiser Safety:

- Staff will be asked to complete a rapid test if they show COVID-19 symptoms before they are cleared to work.
- All campers will complete a 10-day health screen before check-in and will undergo a general screening, including a temperature check.
- Sick campers will not be allowed to check-in until they are fever-free for 24 hours. We ask that if campers present and illness that prevents them participating in normal camp programming, they return home until symptom free for 24 hours. Please see our cancellation policy in the parent handbook.
- All Staff and Campers participating in our international tripping programs must be fully vaccinated. All Campers and staff will also wear a mask whenever on an aircraft while on SMYMCA Trips. Campers will also receive a rapid antigen test at check-in and upon arrival in the destination country.

Bynden Wood Day Camp (day programs only):

- Vaccinations: We encourage all staff and campers to receive vaccines for all common illnesses that present themselves in communal living environments.
- Screening and Testing: Screening and temperature check will still be a part of daily check-in. This will occur car-side.
- Sick campers will not be permitted to check-in to our program until they are fever-free (without the aid of fever-reducing medications) for 24 hours.
- Program Design: Bynden Wood is designed to operate in groups. In 2023, we will allow two pods to travel together (12-14 campers per group).
- Masks: We do not intend to require masks at this time, but as community conditions change, our position may change.

Trip Insurance



There are companies that provide trip insurance, in addition to cancellation due to illness, the policy covers a variety of other situations. See details below. There may be other companies and other policies. The South Mountain YMCA Camps have no endorsements. <https://www.aplusplans.com/> – A+ Program Protection – Summary of Plan Benefits

COVID Resources:

Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/summercamps.html>

American Camp Association (ACA) <https://www.acacamps.org/resource-library/coronavirus/camp-business/field-guide-camps>

We will monitor changes in COVID protocols closely and communicate directly with families if necessary. Thank you for working with us to provide a safe and healthy environment for everyone.