

Camp Ho Mita Koda
Testing, Vaccine, & Mask Protocols
April 27, 2022

For the past two summer seasons (2020 & 2021), COVID has presented some tough times for our world, and navigating the current landscape has challenged the summer camp industry as a whole. At CHMK, we continue to remain flexible and proactive so we can ensure that our camp community is best positioned for success. After two extremely successful seasons, pre-vaccination with no positive COVID cases, Camp Ho Mita Koda has become the industry leader in operating T1D residential camps during a pandemic.

With new infections in flux, advances in vaccine research, and a flood of information (and misinformation) coming at us from so many directions on a daily basis, our current policies and procedures remain dynamic and are updated by our Medical Committee to reflect the best path forward for our camp community. It is unclear how COVID will impact our program several weeks or months from now, so, many of the accommodations that we are planning will need to be re-evaluated and revised to match the state of the environment and recommended best practices. Our ultimate goal is to continue to provide a much-needed support system to all families, and we fully believe that the mitigation strategies in place, developed and approved by our leading hospital systems, allow us to operate at a very safe level, regardless of vaccination status.

Testing

For the 2022 season, we are requiring that all campers be tested within 72 hours of the first day of the camp session and present a negative result at check-in.

All campers regardless of vaccination status will be tested this season prior to check-in/arrival.

Tests will occur outside of camp, with a parent/guardian providing a negative result of a test taken within 72 hours of check-in. Camp Ho Mita Koda will not be administering tests onsite this season.

Any test, Rapid or PCR, would be acceptable for camp this season.

At-home testing is acceptable only if it is *supervised via video supervision*. There must be an element of supervision for an at-home test to be accepted.

Families may go to a Drug Store, Doctor's Office, etc to complete a supervised test via a medical provider.

If a family is unable to find a supervised test prior to check-in, they may bring and complete an at-home test at camp under the supervision of the CHMK medical staff.

Vaccination

CHMK will not be mandating vaccinations for attendance in 2022, though we highly encourage it.

We simply cannot turn away from our children and our mission at Camp Ho Mita Koda. There are many factors that go into a decision to vaccinate, or not, and we will not discriminate against campers based upon their vaccination status and prevent their ability to learn and grow. Research has shown, and we have seen firsthand, that children are performing worse emotionally, mentally, socially, physically, etc., now during this COVID crisis than ever before. *Kids need camp, period.*

Camp Ho Mita Koda highly recommends full vaccination (two shots and a booster) with preference given to Pfizer and Moderna. Both of the currently available vaccines are shown to be safe and effective, regardless of gender, race, and ethnicity. The clinical trials conducted reflected a diverse group of individuals. Vaccination currently protects the individual from the disease; however, since vaccines are not 100% effective at preventing infection, some people who are fully vaccinated may still transmit and contract COVID-19.

Therefore, testing for active illness will continue to be a helpful activity to support health of the camp community.

Masking

With regard to masking, we do require that every camper bring a mask with them to their scheduled session. The masks will only be implemented and in-use in the instance that there is an emergency at camp which requires individuals to huddle in proximity of one another for a lengthy period of time, such as in the instance of bad weather and having to shelter in place. Outside of a situation of close proximity, masks will not be required of our campers or staff this season, though remain optional for those campers and staff who would prefer to wear them while camp is in session.

COVID Accommodations That Will Remain For The 2022 Season

Max of 8 Campers 2 Instructors Per Group
Frequent Hand Washing
Small Group Cabin & Activity Cohorts
Continued Daily Deep Cleaning of Facility

Capacity Limits to Program Areas
Individual Equipment To Reduce Sharing
Daily Temperature Checks of Staff and Campers
Daily Health Screening of Staff and Campers

Resources On Current Recommendations for Summer Camp

How to Obtain Free COVID Tests

<https://tinyurl.com/nush9uhf>

Responsible Restart Ohio Residential Camp Guidelines

<https://tinyurl.com/w3ef895z>

American Camp Association COVID Field Guide

<https://tinyurl.com/yxp9zykm>

CDC Guide For Operating Youth Camps

<https://tinyurl.com/2p87uee9>