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# FOR A SAFER US

**COVID-19 INFO GUIDE**  
YMCA Camp Immokalee

[camp.fcymca.org](http://camp.fcymca.org)  
352.473.4213

6765 Immokalee Rd.  
Keytone Heights, FL 32656

## FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear Camp Parents,

Wow. As I sit down to write this letter and these policies in early May, it's hard not to get emotional. Your kids (our campers) have been home for nearly two months now, and they've faced virtual school, distancing from friends, stay-at-home orders, and more. They have been through so much, and unfortunately, it isn't over yet.

Many camps decided to cancel their summers or run fewer weeks, and we've spent the last couple months weighing those options heavily. We know that kids need camp now more than ever (the community, connection, activity, outdoors, and more), but we also prioritize campers' safety more than anything else. Ultimately, after many hours of conversation, research, logistics, and planning, we have decided to move forward with YMCA Camp Immokalee this summer.

Camp won't look the same, though. In order to make camp safe, we'll have to make changes, and you'll find those explained in this guide. These changes were guided by the CDC, the American Camp Association, YMCA of the USA, other camps and camp professionals, and state and local governments. Both camp and First Coast YMCA staff feel that these changes will make camp a safe place to be while preserving the magic of YMCA Camp Immokalee. Please remember that these changes may be somewhat fluid - as we move through phases, discover better practices, etc., we'll make changes as we think best.

YMCA Camp Immokalee has existed for 111 years - through two world wars, the Great Depression, the Great Recession, and so much more. COVID-19 might slow us down and make camp look a little different, but together, we will survive this. If we can help you or your family in any way, please don't hesitate to let me know. We are stronger together.

Catch the magic,  
Allison East

# GENERAL INFO

**PLEASE NOTE: As our understanding of COVID-19 and best practices changes, so might the things in this guide. We'll keep parents as up to date as possible with changes.**

## COVID-19 AT CAMP

In this guide, you'll find all the ways YMCA Camp Immokalee is working to minimize the risk of COVID-19 exposure. However, it's important that both campers, parents/guardians, staff, and friends realize that we cannot guarantee that there will be no exposure to COVID-19 while at camp. As you'll read, we're screening campers and staff, cleaning and sanitizing more, and changing a lot of our policies to make sure the risk is as low as possible, but there's always a chance of exposure.

## COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

If you have questions about COVID-19 and camp, please contact a member of our COVID-19 Response Team:

- Allison East, Executive Director, [aeast@fcymca.org](mailto:aeast@fcymca.org)
- Abbi Pittman, Program Director, [apittman@fcymca.org](mailto:apittman@fcymca.org)
- Christine Mullally, Camp Nurse, [campnurse@fcymca.org](mailto:campnurse@fcymca.org)

## HIGHER RISK

If your camper is at higher risk for COVID-19 complications, please email Allison at [aeast@fcymca.org](mailto:aeast@fcymca.org) as soon as possible. We recommend that parents/guardians of higher-risk campers consult their child's medical provider to assess the risk before attending. High-risk conditions include (but aren't limited to):

- Asthma
- Chronic kidney disease being treated with dialysis
- Chronic lung disease
- Diabetes

- Hemoglobin disorders
- Immunocompromisation
- Liver disease
- Serious heart conditions
- Severe obesity

For more information, visit the CDC website ([cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)).

# BEFORE CAMP

## PROGRAM OFFERINGS

The following 2020 have been impacted in the following ways:

- All Sessions - We will limit cabins to have no more than ten campers. This decreases our per session capacity from 180 to 140.
- Color Wars - With the American Camp Association recommending that we not allow cabin groups to co-mingle, Color Wars will look different. We are going to revisit our plans and ensure campers have fun, but some of the spirit of competitiveness will be sacrificed to accommodate camper safety.
- Stayovers - In order to give us time to better clean and sanitize and to prevent having campers switch groups, we will not offer stayovers between sessions this year.
- Trips - Because of the risks associated with travel and the uncertainty of theme parks, trips are cancelled.

## REFUND POLICY

In light of COVID-19, we have revised our refund policy for 2020.

- If the YMCA cancels the session (due to recommendations by the CDC and local health authorities):
  - If we are able to have some sessions but not all sessions (ex. June sessions are cancelled but July sessions happen), camp families will be able to switch to another session based on availability, OR

- Camp families can choose to donate all or a portion of their camp fees to YMCA Camp Immokalee. Donations help with the ongoing horse/property care as well as preparation work for summer which has already occurred (suggested donation: the deposit - \$150 per camper), OR
- Camp families can choose to roll their 2020 payments over to summer 2021, OR
- Camp families feeling the financial strain are eligible for a full refund, OR
- Camp families can make some combination of donation/rollover/refund.
- If a family wishes to cancel the session:
  - Full refunds will be offered up to two weeks before the camp session is scheduled to begin. Please make the request in writing by emailing [CImmokalee@fcymca.org](mailto:CImmokalee@fcymca.org). Families are asked to consider donating a portion of their fees to YMCA Camp Immokalee to help with the ongoing horse/property care as well as preparation work for summer which has already occurred.
  - Deposits (\$150) and Ranch Camp/Trail Rides will be refundable up until 24 hours before camp.

We are grateful for all of our camp families and their trust and loyalty over many years. If you have to cancel and request a refund due to your family's circumstances, we understand and hope you will consider joining us again in the future!

Families who choose to convert their camp fees to a donation will receive a donation acknowledgement letter at the end of the year for tax purposes.

## PHYSICALS

We recognize that physical appointments are more difficult to get and that some parents are not comfortable taking their children into medical offices at this time. In light of that, we will now accept physicals completed within the last 24 months instead of the last 12.

## PACKING

In addition to our usual packing list, we also encourage campers to bring a mask, gloves, personal hand sanitizer, and extra sanitizing wipes.

We encourage you to pack in containers made of hard materials that can be easily sanitized (plastic bins, trunks, etc.) rather than duffle bags or bags made from other cloth.

Please send only the personal belongings your camper really needs for camp and avoid sending any unnecessary personal belongings

.Now more than ever, it's important that campers bring their own bathroom supplies and a container for their toiletries. You can use a bathroom caddy, bathroom tote, clear plastic bag, etc.

## PRE-CAMP HEALTH SCREENING

Upon arriving at camp, parents will be asked about any suspected or confirmed symptoms and/or exposure their camper has had in the last two weeks. We love all of our campers and want them to share this experience with us, but it is critical to camp that campers who show symptoms or who have possibly been exposed stay at home. There are other sessions of summer, fall sessions, winter sessions, spring sessions, summer 2021, and so much more camp to be a part of. Camp will still be here for many years to come, and we want to ensure our campers and their families are as well. Please keep your camper at home if they experience symptoms.

# ARRIVING AT CAMP

## CHECK IN PARTICIPANTS

We recognize that parents, family members, and friends all love our campers and want to help them settle into camp. However, this year we are asking that you bring as few people as possible with you to drop off your camper. We also ask that anyone who has experienced any COVID-19 symptoms in the last 14 days or been exposed to COVID-19 in the last 14 days choose to stay at home. Additionally, we ask that you consider leaving family members 65+ at home. We encourage anyone coming to camp to wear a mask. Our camp staff are happy to take pictures and videos to share with those at home!

## CHECK IN PROCEDURES

**For 2020, we will change our check in procedure to be completed in the comfort and safety of your car. All staff interacting with vehicles will wear gloves and masks. We encourage campers and visitors to wear masks as well. To accommodate our parking lot size, we ask that you adhere to the following drop off times:**

- 2:00-2:45 - 7-10 Year Olds
- 2:45-3:15 - 11-13 Year Olds
- 3:15-3:45 - 14+ Year Olds

**If you have campers of different ages, please come during the youngest campers' time frame.**

As you arrive, staff will direct you to park. Once parked, the first available staff member in your section will make their way to your car where they will:

- Greet you and your camper
- Inform you of your cabin assignment
- Ask about possible COVID-19 symptoms or exposure
  - Campers who have shown symptoms of COVID-19 or been exposed to COVID-19 in the last 14 days will not be admitted into camp.
- Review pre-camp paperwork and balance and request any additional information

- Take the campers' temperature
  - Campers who have a fever of 100.3 or above will be re-checked by a leadership team member. If the second reading is 100.3 or above, the camper will not be admitted into camp.
  - Campers may return to camp if they have been fever-free for 24 hours and have a doctor's note. Discuss camp store options with you

After these steps have been completed, the staff member will ask the camper only to step out of the car and they will:

- Check camper for lice and athlete's foot
  - Campers will not be admitted to camp if they have lice or athlete's foot. They may be admitted into camp later that day or later in the week if cleared by the camp health nurse.
- Remove luggage from car, tag with cabin information, and put in luggage area
  - While tempting, please do not exit the car and try to help our staff.

When this is complete, a counselor-in-training will walk the camper to his or her cabin and parents are free to head home. Camper backpacks and water bottles will be handed out in the cabin.

If you need to drop off medicine for your camper, please let the staff member checking you in know. They will radio a leadership team member to come collect the medicine and go over dosage and instructions.

If you need to speak to a director or camp health officer or if you have additional questions, please let your check in staff person know and they will radio the appropriate person.

## UNPACKING

While we know unpacking your camper, meeting your camper's counselors, and seeing where your camper will sleep is an important part of camp for many campers and parents, for safety reasons, we have made the decision to have parents remain in the car during check in. We believe limiting the number of people in and out of camp is the safest option for our campers.

To help you feel better about your camper getting settled in, we encourage you to send an unpacking note with your camper. If you forget this note, we'll have extra cards available. We'll also take pictures of each camper on their unpacked bunk and post those pictures on Facebook the first night of camp. Additionally, we'll post staff information on our social media.

# DURING CAMP

With increased safety and cleanliness protocols, camp will look different this year. We've done our best to capture changes here, but please let us know what additional questions you have.

## CLEANING AND SANITIZING

We have increased our cleaning and sanitizing measures for Summer 2020, but mostly, these are changes your camper won't necessarily feel because they're behind the scenes. Changes your camper will see include"

- Increased time for showers
- Increased time for handwashing and hand sanitizing
- Increased focus on having campers and staff clean and disinfect things

Most areas of camp will be cleaned at least three times a day and misted nightly. For more information about our products and procedures, reach out to Allison East at [aeast@fcymca.org](mailto:aeast@fcymca.org)

## CABIN LIFE

In order to follow the American Camp Association recommendation to keep cabin group numbers small, cabins will be limited to ten campers per cabin and campers will spend their days together. Campers will only be allowed on their own bunks, and no campers will be allowed to visit other cabins. Cabins will be separated into age groups, and those age groups will be treated as "households." They will social distance from other households.

## ACTIVITY SELECTION

Campers selecting their own activities is something we feel strongly about at YMCA Camp Immokalee - it breeds independence, encourages decision-making, builds problem-solving skills, and so much more. To keep those important skills but minimize the risk, we are allowing campers to choose their own activities with only campers in their same age group.

## **EVENING ACTIVITIES**

As the American Camp Association recommends that we keep households (for us, age groups) isolated from other households, evening activities will look different than before. We are reworking evening activities to allow for social distancing and to keep campers in their age groups. For more information about what that will look like, stay tuned to our Facebook and Instagram, where we will put out short videos explaining some of our modifications.

## **MEALS**

We'll split meals into shifts to allow more room between tables and between campers. Campers will be required to wash hands before eating. In following American Camp Association recommendations, we will not have a breakfast bar or salad bar during Summer 2020. All meals will have alternatives, but we ask that our picky eaters be understanding of more limited options this summer.

## **WATER**

We will discontinue campers' ability to drink straight from our water fountains and instead encourage them to fill up their water bottles at water fountains. Each camper will be provided a water bottle at check in. If a camper loses their water bottle, it will be replaced with a new one and a \$2 charge will be put on the parents' account.

## **DAILY TEMPERATURE AND SYMPTOM CHECKS**

Each camper and staff member will have their temperature checked and logged twice daily (once in the morning, once at night). Any temperature of 100.3 or higher will be immediately reported to the nurse and the camper will be immediately removed from the cabin. Temperatures near but not at 100.3 will be closely monitored. We will also ask about symptoms each day and isolate campers and staff if they have two or more COVID-19 symptoms. If this happens, we will notify parents and the parents need to arrange for pickup as soon as possible.

## **INFIRMARY CARE**

We are adding an extra building to our infirmary umbrella so that we can isolate campers who may feel any COVID-19 symptoms. Parents will be notified immediately if a camper is isolated.

## ACTIVITIES

All of our activities will see increased cleaning and sanitation, and we'll limit activities to one age group per activity.

Staff will wear masks for any activity that requires them to be within six feet of campers (running challenge course, putting on/checking life jackets, helping with Ranch Camp/Trail Rides, etc.).

## FLAGPOLE

Campers will be grouped by cabin and kept at least six feet from other age groups.

## CAMP STORE

Campers will still be allowed to visit the camp store once each day. Campers will be asked to only touch items they intend to purchase. Counselors will help monitor this. If campers are unable to follow this rule, they will be asked to wear gloves.

## POSSIBLE EXPOSURE

Camp administration will communicate quickly and openly to parents in the event of any possible, suspected, or confirmed exposure to COVID-19.

## MASKS

Campers are not required to wear masks at camp, but it is encouraged that they bring one. Our staff will wear masks:

- During Check In
- During Check Out
- When helping a camper on/off a horse
- When clipping a camper into the zipline
- When putting a harness on a camper
- When helping a camper off the zipline ladder
- When putting on a lifejacket
- When serving food
- Any other time a counselor must come within six feet of a camper not in their cabin

# LEAVING CAMP

## CHECK OUT PARTICIPANTS

We recognize that parents, family members, and friends are all excited to see our campers as soon as camp is over. However, this year we are asking that you bring as few people as possible with you to pick up your camper. We also ask that anyone who has experienced any COVID-19 symptoms in the last 14 days or been exposed to COVID-19 in the last 14 days choose to stay at home. Additionally, we ask that you consider leaving family members 65+ at home. We encourage anyone coming to camp to wear a mask.

## CHECK OUT PROCEDURES

For 2020, we will change our check out procedure to be completed in the comfort and safety of your car. All staff interacting with vehicles will wear gloves and masks. We encourage campers and visitors to wear masks as well. To accommodate our parking lot size, we ask that you adhere to the following pick up times:

- 9:00-9:30 - 7-10 Year Olds
- 9:30-10:00 - 11-13 Year Olds
- 10:00-10:30 - 14+ Year Olds

If you have campers of different ages, please come during the youngest campers' time frame.

As you arrive, staff will direct you to park. Once parked, the first available staff member in your section will make their way to your car where they will: Greet you and ask your camper's name

- Check your ID against your camper's authorized pickup list
- Radio your camper's cabin to have him/her head your way
- Ask if your camper has dropped any medication off at camp and, if so, radio the leadership team
- Ask if you need to speak to a leadership team member
- Locate your camper's luggage and checkout card in the Airnasium and load it into your car
  - While tempting, please do not exit the car and try to help our staff.

If for any reason you need to speak to a director or camp nurse after your camper enters your car, please flag down the first staff member you see or call us after the session.

Please note our camp office is not staffed during check out.

If you'd like to make an additional camp store purchase, please let a staff member know.

# AFTER CAMP

## LOST & FOUND

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, YMCA Camp Immokalee is limiting items held in lost and found after each camp session ends. We want to be mindful of safe storage space and how to prevent exposure of staff and campers from items, week to week. As such, camp will only hold the following specific list of items:

- Jackets / Sweatshirts
- Sleeping Bags, Blankets, Pillows
- Prescription glasses, durable medical equipment, prescription medication
- Personal equestrian riding equipment and helmets
- Shoes (not water shoes or sandals)
- Backpacks

Camp will keep to these items for no longer than two weeks from the end of the session. After this time, these items will be donated or thrown away. Please note that these items will be held at the discretion of camp staff.

Items that are soiled, damaged, or otherwise deemed not able to be safely stored will be disposed of.

The list of items camp will not hold on to includes but is not limited to: socks and underwear, all toiletries and toiletry bags, all swim gear including swimsuits and goggles, hats, t-shirts, pants, shorts, pajamas washcloths and towels, water shoes including sandals, water bottles, sunglasses, flashlights and headlamps, toys, cameras, arts and crafts projects including tie dye.

Daily cabin cleanup helps campers maintain their belongings and help staff identify misplaced items during the camp session. We highly encourage parents to label all items with their camper's name to help our staff identify items during the camp session. Many items look similar and it can be confusing for both staff and campers.

As a reminder, please do not send your camper with anything that is irreplaceable. Things like jewelry or favorite stuffed animals can be easily lost or damaged. Electronics, including phones, are not permitted at camp. Phones may not be used at camp and will be confiscated and returned to families at the end of the session. Camp is not responsible for any lost, damaged, or stolen items—including confiscated phones.

After the camp session ends, if one of the listed items is missing, please call our office (352.473.4213) or email [CImmokalee@fcymca.org](mailto:CImmokalee@fcymca.org) to arrange pickup.

## **SYMPTOMS AFTER CAMP**

If your camper exhibits a fever or any symptoms of COVID-19 and/or if they get tested for COVID-19 in the 14 days after leaving camp, we ask that you reach out and let us know. This communication helps us make decisions moving forward.

# RANCH CAMP

With activities now being selected by age group, we have to methodically schedule each age group certain periods for water activities. Please note that Ranch Camp may conflict with your camper's ability to select time at the lake. However, the pool will be open to all campers each day (weather permitting).