



# Ottawa District Spring 2021 Camporee When Pig's Fly Leader's Guide COVID-19 Addendum

Your safety and the safety of all our campers and staff is the Ottawa District and Three Fires Council's top priority. While there is still much uncertainty regarding COVID 19, we are monitoring the information provided by health experts and government agencies to help keep scouts safe.

We do not know what the situation will be with COVID 19 positivity rates, number of cases, and the restrictions we will be under in May 2021. We are hopeful that with the vaccine rollout and case numbers declining, we may not need as many COVID-related restrictions. However, we may still need to limit group sizes to 50 (see cohort concept below). We will likely still need to take some precautions that will include the following measures:

- Health screening conducted at home prior to travel to our camporee, including a temperature check.
- Health screening upon your arrival at camporee conducted by our camp health officers, which will also include a temperature check.
- Should anyone not pass the arrival screening, the entire vehicle will not be allowed to enter camp.
- Limitations on visitors in camporee.
- All visitors will be screened upon arrival before entry to camporee.
- Hygiene reminders while at camporee.
- Extra handwashing /sanitizer stations throughout camporee.
- Extra staff to clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces and shared program equipment on a frequent and regular basis.
- An emergency response plan that includes an isolation and quarantine protocol should a person at camporee develop symptoms of COVID-19 or other communicable disease.

These precautions are important, but these efforts cannot eliminate the potential for exposure to COVID-19 or any other illness while at camporee. Experts have said that people with COVID-19 may show no signs or symptoms of the illness but can still spread the virus. People may be contagious before their symptoms occur. The fact is that someone with COVID-19 may pass the required health screenings and be allowed into camporee. We also know the very nature of camporee makes social distancing more difficult in many situations and impossible in others.

Information from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](https://www.cdc.gov/) states that older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions are at higher risk for severe

illness from COVID-19. If you are in this group, please ensure you have approval from your health care provider prior to attending camporee.

Every staff member, volunteer, and Scouting family has to evaluate their unique circumstances and make an informed decision before attending camporee. We hope this information will be helpful as you make that choice.

### **Decision Making Resources**

The Three Fires Council assembled a team back in March 2020 to assess and monitor the COVID-19 situation, guide our decision-making process, and make recommendations related to our operations. This team is comprised of individuals on our Risk Management Committee and Camping Committee. Any new information will be reviewed and evaluated by this team and provided to event staff as appropriate.

### **STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 AT CAMPOREE**

Our camporee will operate with the goal of minimizing the potential spread of COVID-19. The two goals we have are to create the safest environment we can and limit exposure in the case a camper, leader, or staff member displays symptoms of COVID-19. We will utilize a variety of tactics including concentric group circles, social distancing, facemasks, frequent disinfection of equipment and facilities, and symptom screening as part of our overall strategy.

### **Concentric Group Circles**

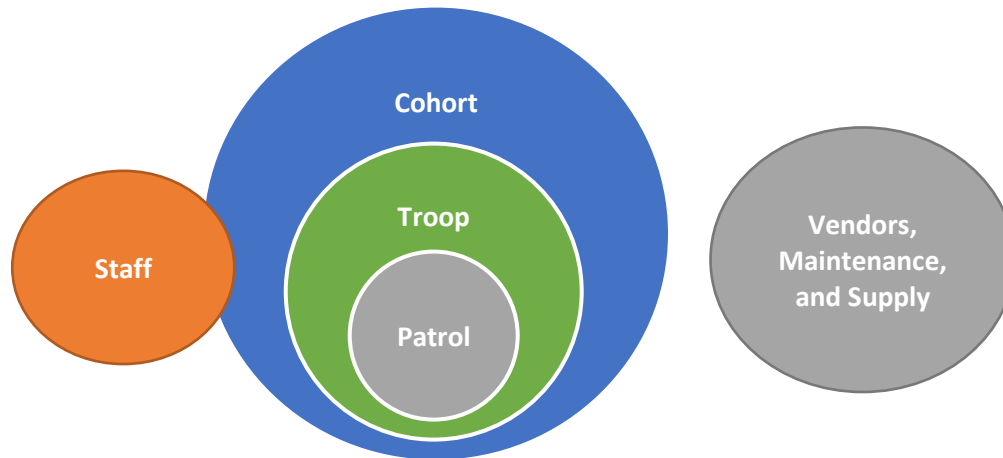
The American Camping Association's Field Guide for Camps on Implementation of CDC Guidance states, *"Consistent with experience from 2009-2010 H1N1 and in concert with guidance provided by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 2010 on April 16, 2020; and on May 14, 2020; and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP); policies to maintain small group sizes, limit mixing of groups, and restrict large gatherings at camps are recommended. Limiting mixing of groups can be combined with a public health approach of establishing and maintaining "concentric group circles" for infection prevention and control. Infection spread can be slowed and more easily contained in smaller groups; when larger groups are required, it is beneficial if they consistently are comprised of the same constituent smaller groups, thereby limiting the number of potential contacts for each camper."*

The Three Fires Council has operated camps utilizing the method of concentric group circles or "cohorts" to mitigate the spread COVID-19. If conditions are still such that this is considered warranted for Camporee, this will be followed.

- Campers at this Camporee will be grouped together in cohorts that will stay together throughout camporee. A cohort will include all Scouts and leaders. Social distancing should be practiced within each cohort to the extent possible.
- Scouts from multiple units may be placed in a single cohort if, though preferably a patrol from a given troop will constitute a cohort.
- Cohorts do not overlap with other cohorts. The only exception to this is the event staff cohort

will need to cross into cohorts on a limited basis for instructional purposes. Staff will maintain physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.

- Each cohort will be assigned their own campsite and are expected to stay out of any other campsites.
- Each cohort will travel together to the various program activities and will not enter a space previously occupied by another cohort until and unless it has been sufficiently sanitized.



### Contact Tracing

Contact tracing is the method used by health professionals to determine who may have been exposed to a virus based on the previous interactions an infected individual had. By maintaining small concentric group circles, or cohorts, that do not overlap we are able to more quickly identify individuals who may have been exposed to a COVID-19 carrier. This allows us to isolate only a small group of individuals if a case were to present itself and allow the rest of our program to continue. If a positive case were to occur at our camporee, the local health department may be contacted to conduct contact tracing.

### Social Distancing

Social distancing should be practiced at all times to the extent possible. Social distancing is defined by the Centers for Disease Control as 6 feet between yourself and those around you<sup>1</sup>. In cases where social distancing is not possible a mask must be properly worn to cover the mouth and nose. (Note: *The CDC defines a close contact as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 48 hours before illness onset until the time the patient is isolated*<sup>2</sup>.)

- While cohorts may engage in activities with social distancing in proximity of each other, the two concentric group circles should never overlap. Limited staff instruction and emergency situations would be the only exception to this policy.

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (May 6, 2020). *Social Distancing, Quarantine, and Isolation*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>

<sup>2</sup> Centers For Disease Control And Prevention. (April 29, 2020). *Contact Tracing : Part Of A Multipronged Approach To Fight The Covid-19 Pandemic*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/principles-contact-tracing.html>

- Staff will work with each cohort while respecting distancing protocols to the best of their ability.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

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Separate accommodations for adult males and females and youth males and females are required. All of the normal BSA standards for safe camping still apply. In addition, the following provisions are also added due to COVID19.

### **Tents**

- Only campers from the same family are allowed to sleep in a tent.
- All other non-related campers must tent by themselves. This will cause there to be many more tents set up than usual.
- Single occupancy tents are allowed under BSA policies.
- As always, all BSA youth protection policies must be followed.

### **Staff and Camper Interaction**

- The staff will act as their own cohort. Their interaction with camper cohorts, while necessary, will be done utilizing physical distancing to the greatest extent possible. Face coverings will be used by staff in situations where 6 feet of distancing is not possible. Participants should also use face coverings in these situations.
- Staff will generally instruct from a distance maintaining a 6-foot space between themselves and Scouts. Leaders in the cohorts staff are working with will be asked to provide assistance with hands on instruction to limit close proximity staff and camper interaction.

### **Showers and Restrooms**

Cohorts will be assigned specific showers and restrooms to use. This is intended to limit exposure between cleanings.