

RESTART **US**

SUMMER CAMPS UPDATE

OVERVIEW

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department's summer camps serve a vital role in the community. Families have counted on us for decades to be the trusted, safe, budget-friendly option for their children to enjoy a fun and educational summer experience.

Over the last several weeks, the department has consulted with Columbus Public Health to review guidelines issued by the Ohio Department of Health to determine how to best offer our camps this year, while ensuring the safety of participants, staff and the community.

The department is excited to offer a scaled-down version of our planned summer programming, through adjustments to our traditional camp sizes, activities and daily schedules. While things may look different, the department's commitment to offer enriching experiences remains unchanged. Highlights of changes include:

- All camps scheduled for the weeks of June 1 and June 8 are canceled.
- All camps for children under age 5 are canceled.
- All camps will operate within the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Please be aware that some camps will have start times that begin after 8 a.m. and some will have end times that occur before 5 p.m.
- The locations for some camps have been changed to allow for multiple, smaller groups.
- All field trips have been canceled.
- Transportation will not be provided.

We know families rely on our camps, and we are looking at each camp individually to determine if there is a way to offer the camp. We're in the process of finalizing the approach for all camps and will communicate more information as soon as possible.

WHAT WE KNOW NOW

- **Some Camps Will Take Place:** For camps that are taking place, camp formats have been adjusted to comply with guidance from the Ohio Department of Health. Families will

receive detailed information specific to their camp with their camp packet. To allow the department time to make these changes, no summer camps will start prior to June 15.

Note: Because summer camp registration was paused in April, a limited number of summer camp opportunities are still available. Registration for these opportunities will re-open in [Activenet](#), our online registration portal, on June 1.

- **Some Camps Will Be Canceled:** The format of some camps do not make it possible for campers and staff to practice social distancing and comply with guidance from the Ohio Department of Health. The department finds it necessary to cancel those camps. Families enrolled in these camps will receive a full refund. The department will work to process these refunds as quickly as possible.
- **Some Camps Are Being Reviewed:** There are several camps that the department is still reviewing to determine if it is possible to offer them in a way that is compliant with Ohio Department of Health guidelines. Families enrolled in these camps will be notified as soon as a decision has been made. Any family that would like to make other arrangements or does not feel comfortable sending their child to camp can voluntarily cancel their registration and receive a full refund.

While strict health and safety protocols have been put in place, any registered family who is not comfortable sending their child to camp can voluntarily cancel their registration and receive a full refund.

SAFETY IS OUR FIRST PRIORITY

The safety of residents and staff is our first priority. We are currently finalizing our new safety protocols, based on guidance from the Ohio Department of Health, in partnership with Columbus Public Health. For the latest information and updates, visit [Columbus.gov/RecParksCOVID19/](https://columbus.gov/RecParksCOVID19/). Additional information will also be sent to you in your individual camp information packet. Please also be sure to watch for communication from the department including email, social media, building signage and any materials sent home with campers.

Below is a partial list of protocols we have put in place for everyone's safety this summer:

- Employee and camper well-checks will be done each day, prior to entering the building.
- Face coverings must be worn by all employees and campers. Each camper will be given a reusable cloth face covering upon arrival at camp. We ask that these are hand washed and dried each day after camp. We ask that parents wear a face covering when dropping off and picking up campers.
- Social distancing will be practiced where possible, with an understanding on limitations with social distancing for young children and children with disabilities.
- A portable hand sanitizer station will be at the entrance for all to use when they enter the building. If not available, participants will wash their hands before they are led into their classroom.

- **Group sizes are limited to ten, including campers and staff.**
- **Face coverings may be removed for a short time when necessary, such as when playing a musical instrument or while eating or drinking, but must be worn at all other times unless outside in an area where there is safe distancing in the activity**
- **Only individuals directly involved in the program will be allowed entry into the building. This includes camp staff, campers and essential personnel. The building will not be open to the public.**
- **Rotation routes will be used for “one-way” directional movement throughout the buildings, and rotation schedules will be used for the gym, bathroom breaks and other activities.**
- **Water fountains will be sealed off, and bottled water will be provided to campers daily.**
- **Personal items for campers are limited to necessary medications and mobility-assistance devices.**
- **Staff will follow an hourly schedule to clean and disinfect equipment and surfaces.**

FAQs

Is it safe to send my child to camp?

The safety of residents and staff is our first priority. We developed strict safety protocols in consultation with Columbus Public Health. All campers and staff are required to follow these protocols.

How did you decide which camps were canceled and which would be held?

We consulted with Columbus Public Health to review the structure of each camp and how it compares to the guidelines issued by the Ohio Department of Health. For camps that did not meet the guidelines, we worked to adjust group sizes, activities and locations in ways that the guidelines could be applied. For camps where this was achievable, we were able to schedule for opening.

If it wasn't possible to make needed adjustments to meet the guidelines, the camp was canceled.

What will you do if someone at camp tests positive for COVID-19?

We take the health and safety of our campers, staff and their families very seriously. Should a positive diagnosis be confirmed at one of our locations, we will send a letter to every family at that site, with information about the confirmed infection, along with the established guidelines and recommendations for self-quarantine and isolation, for the camper and all household members. Our staff would also follow the established guidelines for cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing the affected location. That location would potentially close for a period of time and guidelines for contact tracing and all public health notifications would also be followed.

If my child registered for an eight-week camp that had a start date before June 15, does that mean my child's whole eight weeks will be canceled? Will I receive a refund for the weeks they aren't in camp?

No. Your camp will start on June 15, and your payment will be prorated. You will be refunded for any weeks that were canceled.

How will you choose who gets into camps with a reduced capacity?

The department will review and accept youth from the camp's existing registration records on a first-come, first-served basis. This will be based on the date and time of registration. Once the camp capacity has been met, the remaining registrations will be canceled and refunded. In the event some campers withdraw or the state updates its guidance on maximum capacity for camps, registrations will not be canceled until two weeks before the start date of camp.

If contact sports are not allowed, how are you holding sports camps?

Sports with limited contact, such as baseball and softball, are allowed under the current guidance. Staff will work with campers to help them practice social distancing throughout camp.

If my child's camp was canceled or they were closed out of camp due to new camp sizes, will they get priority registration for other camps?

We are not able to offer priority registration for any summer camp opportunities that become available in the coming weeks. We're working to expand our camp offerings in the coming weeks and will communicate new opportunities as soon as possible. Watch your email, the department's social media channels and the website for more information.

Will there be other camp opportunities opening later this summer?

We are working to expand camp offerings and are using historical enrollment information to properly staff and prepare our camp facilities to serve your children safely.

If I am already registered and I don't feel comfortable sending my child to camp, can I withdraw them?

Yes. You can voluntarily cancel their registration and receive a full refund. Note: The \$15 cancelation fee will NOT be charged.

Will camp pricing change since some of the camps will be different than described?

Camp pricing will not change. We know camps are a vital resource to our community, and we have worked hard to offer an enriching experience in a safe environment. While we have had to eliminate some experiences such as field trips, we have worked to create similar experiences for

campers.

If a camp is canceled, will I receive a refund?

Yes. You will receive a full refund. The department will work to process these refunds as quickly as possible. See the [Refund Policy](#) for more information.

If a camp is canceled, can you transfer my payment to a future camp session?

In most cases, we are not able to transfer your payment to a future camp session. We can, however, make exceptions for campers who were already enrolled in a camp or camp session that has been canceled.

Will summer meals still be available if my child is not registered for camp?

The department's summer food program, commonly known as *Go, Lunch!*, will continue. Visit [GoLunch.club](#) for more information.

How can I receive the most up-to-date information about camp?

The best way to receive information is to opt-in to communication from [Activenet](#), the camp registration system. To verify that you are set up to receive communication:

1. Log in to [Activenet](#)
2. Verify that your home address and contact information is correct
3. When prompted, agree that you want to opt-in to receive promotional materials.

Updates also will be posted on the department's website and social media channels including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

CONTACT US

For latest information and updates, visit [Columbus.gov/RecParksCOVID19/](https://columbus.gov/RecParksCOVID19/), call 614-645-3300 (and select option 3) or follow us on social media. Have additional questions or concerns about our summer camps? E-mail your questions to CommunityRecreation@columbus.gov.

