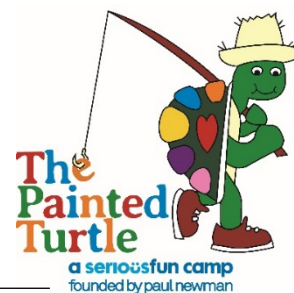


The Painted Turtle

Respiratory Virus Protection and Management

Updated: February 2024



Summary:

The Painted Turtle, as it is a camp for children with chronic diseases, is considered to be a healthcare setting. It is for that reason that policies will reflect an emphasis to provide a safe environment for our campers and their families.

Policy Outline:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a safe environment for employees, volunteers and campers concerning respiratory illnesses such as Influenza, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19). Other viruses that circulate in communities include but are not limited to Adenovirus, Rhinovirus and Parainfluenza Virus. These viruses are generally spread via respiratory droplet transmission from person to person, at a distance of six feet or less. There is also indirect transmission via hand transfer of virus to and from contact surfaces. An infected person may be contagious even when there are no symptoms of infection.

I. General Guidelines

- A. All staff, volunteers and campers (Everyone), unless medically exempt, will be required to receive a seasonal flu vaccine during high season, generally November 1-March 31 (dates may change depending on flu activity in the community).
- B. Everyone will be screened for symptoms of infection upon arrival at camp. Anyone deemed to be contagious or testing positive for COVID-19 will not be permitted to remain at camp.
- C. In the event of an illness while camp is in session, the Medical Director or designee will assess campers for possible presence of infection. COVID testing will be performed if indicated.
- D. The Medical Director and nurses will record and review reported infections and will aid in making recommendations for preventing further contagion.
- E. Data including camper's name, cabin and possible exposures will be collected for further review of pattern of spread. Families of exposed campers will be notified.
- F. All suspected and confirmed cases of infectious disease will be isolated until cleared by a medical provider.
- G. Reportable communicable diseases, whether diagnosed or suspected, must be reported and outbreak procedures followed as outlined by The Department of Health (see DHS reporting guidelines).

II. Responsibilities of The Painted Turtle Staff

- A. Observe campers for possible signs and symptoms of infection
- B. Report their own and their campers' possible infections to the clinical staff for evaluation, treatment and follow-up treatment
- C. Provide surgical face masks for those who request one. Require face masks for anyone entering the Well Shell with a sick camper, as well as for staff who are attending to the camper.
- D. Clean living units and program areas according to approved sanitary standards.
- E. Well Shell will be cleaned according to Well Shell Cleaning Protocols

III. Role of the Well Shell Staff

- A. Orient camp staff to infection prevention and control policies.
- B. Monitor staff performance in executing policies and procedures and provide continuing education for staff as necessary.
- C. Monitor environmental cleanliness and review sanitation procedures as needed.
- D. Assist in the review of infection control policies and procedures and the development and implementation of new measures.
- E. Investigate suspected and known infections acquired by campers and staff.
- F. Record data on infections in individual charts in CampSite.
- F. Report any camp-acquired infections to the Camp Director.
- G. Follow and enforce the following to limit infection outbreak:
 - 1. Universal Precautions
 - 2. Quarantine Protocol
 - 3. Handwashing Protocol
 - 4. Well Shell Cleaning Protocol
 - 5. Disease Outbreak Monitoring
 - 6. Check in Procedures for Campers and Volunteers
 - 7. Exposure Control Plan

Reference:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2023). Influenza: How flu spreads. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/spread.htm>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2023). Prevention Strategies for Seasonal Influenza in Healthcare Settings. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/healthcaresettings.htm>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2023). RSV Prevention. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/about/transmission.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2023). How to Protect Yourself and Others. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>