



LAST UPDATED JANUARY 24, 2023

# LCC Summer Camp

## Health and Wellness

### COVID Operations FAQ

The health and safety of our campers and staff at Kirchenwald and Nawakwa continues to be a top priority in our ministry at camp. Since early 2022, our organization has worked in cooperation with the American Camp Association, the Department of Health, our COVID Task Force, and other camps across the country to outline and implement best practices for the well-being of everyone at camp. [These policies and practices may be updated as new information becomes available.](#)



### Pandemic vs Endemic

Starting in 2020, the global COVID-19 pandemic dramatically changed the way we lived our lives. After a year of limited operations, camp started 2021 with a cautious plan for policies and procedures to address the health and well-being of campers, staff, and retreat guests. As new information became available and experts advised organizations like ours, some of our practices changed to stay line with those recommendations. A pandemic occurs when a disease exceeds the expected number of cases within a given population and spreads across a large geographic area. When the spread of the disease is reduced to more normal or expected levels, the disease is considered more stable and manageable. This stage is considered endemic. While COVID-19 is now being considered an endemic virus, it doesn't mean the disease has gone away. The LCC will continue to take precautions to protect all campers and staff. We are grateful to be entering a stage where the manageability of the disease allows us to relax some of our more aggressive mitigation strategies. Camp will continue to be a place of faith formation where God's love is experienced and shared by all. We will form a welcoming and inclusive community that celebrates our gifts and the diversity of creation. And we will leave from our week at camp, equipped and encouraged to return to our families and friends with a passion for loving God and our neighbor.

### The nature of camp and communicable disease

Kirchenwald and Nawakwa are designed in such a way that our program adheres to the majority of health safety recommendations that health officials recommend the fight against communicable disease.

- We spend nearly all our time outdoors
- We live in small groups
- We create a bubble and rarely interact with the general public

## Health and Wellness Considerations

- Please think about others (particularly those who may have compromised immune systems) when evaluating your own wellness to come to camp. We want you to be here, but we don't want others to get sick because of a communicable disease.
- If you have been in close contact with a person who has COVID (including living in the same household), please do not come to camp until at least 5 days after your last contact, and only if you are not showing any symptoms of COVID. You are advised to get a COVID test if you come to camp before 10 days from your last contact.
- If you develop COVID symptoms or symptoms of another communicable disease prior to arrival at camp, please do not come to camp.
- If you are positive for COVID within 10 days of coming to camp, please do not come to camp. After 10 days from the start of your isolation (or from your first positive test), if you are at least 24-hours symptom-free, you are eligible to attend camp.
- The Lutheran Camping Corporation will work with you to reschedule for medical-related cancellations. If you cannot reschedule, you will receive a refund for your payment.
- If you develop symptoms of a communicable disease while at camp, or learn about contact with someone who has a communicable disease, notify camp staff immediately.
- Camper families are required to notify camp staff if someone in the camper's household develops symptoms or tests positive for a communicable disease while the camper is attending camp program.

## What is changing for 2023?

- Campers and staff **no longer** need to complete a 14 day pre-camp health screening. Evidence of a negative COVID test within 48 hours of arrival at camp is also **no longer** required to attend programs.
- **Masks will not be a required item** to wear or pack while attending camp. We do recognize that some campers and staff may still choose to wear masks to protect themselves and others.
- Campers and staff will **no longer** be required to document daily health checks during the summer program. Verbal health check-ins will continue as they did prior to 2020.
- All camp staff and volunteers are **strongly encouraged** to be up-to-date on COVID immunizations.

## What happens if someone develops COVID-19 symptoms while at camp?

- Campers or staff who present symptoms of COVID-19 will be immediately removed from their group and placed under the supervision of the camp nurse in a designated quarantining location.
- **If the symptomatic person is a camper, the camper's guardians will be contacted and must come to camp for pick-up.** Guardians are to take the camper to a doctor and receive a COVID test. Results of that test are to be reported back to the camp as soon as received.



## Is there anything I need to do after camp is over?

- Continue to monitor the health of your campers for at least 10 days after they leave camp. You are responsible for contacting the camp if your camper develops COVID symptoms or tests positive for COVID within that time frame.
- If the camp receives a report of a suspected COVID case from a camper who has already departed, the department of health will be contacted and contact tracing will be employed, as necessary.