

## Frequently Asked Questions for Camp Operators of Overnight Camps

### TESTING

**Q: Where can we access COVID-19 testing for symptomatic campers or staff?**

**A:** Eligibility criteria for publicly funded COVID-19 testing can be found here: [COVID19 testing and treatment | ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca/covid19-testing-and-treatment)

COVID-19 testing locations can be found here: [COVID-19 testing locations \(ontario.ca\)](https://www.ontario.ca/covid19-testing-locations). Testing may also be available from local care providers.

**Q: My camp is able to perform COVID-19 point-of-care (POC) molecular testing at the camp (e.g. with Abbott ID Now). Should our staff only test individuals who meet the provincial eligibility requirements?**

**A:** No, the provincial eligibility criteria do not apply to POC molecular testing done on-site at the camp. Camps should follow their own internal procedures.

**Q: Can we test campers and/or staff with respiratory symptoms on-site, at camp?**

**A:** The HKPR District Health Unit is not supplying nasopharyngeal swabs or rapid antigen tests (RATs) to camps for respiratory testing.

Camps wanting to test campers and/or staff on-site are responsible for obtaining their own nasopharyngeal swabs or RATs and ensuring they have appropriate staffing for specimen collection.

Specimen ordering and collection instructions can be found on the Public Health Ontario website: [Kit and Test Ordering Instructions | Public Health Ontario](https://www.ontario.ca/health/healthy-living/keeping-healthy/keeping-healthy-when-youre-sick)



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**Q: How do we get outbreak specimens to the laboratory for testing?**

**A:** Both enteric and respiratory specimens can be delivered in a cooler to one of the Health Unit offices. Courier pick-up occurs at approximately 8:30 am from the Haliburton office, 10:30 am from the Port Hope Office and 11:30 am from the Lindsay office, Monday to Friday. All Health Unit offices are closed on statutory holidays.

Specimens must be dropped off to a Health Unit office during regular business hours. Regular business hours are Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Please note that the Haliburton office is closed from 10:00 am to 10:15 am, 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm and 3:15 pm to 3:30 pm each day. Specimens must be delivered to the laboratory within 72 hours of collection.

**CASE, CONTACT AND OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT**

**Q: Are campers/staff who develop a respiratory or enteric infection while at camp required to complete their isolation period at home?**

**A:** No. Ill individuals may complete their isolation on-site at the camp, provided on-site isolation is in-line with the camp's policies and the ill individual's care needs can be met. **This does not apply to suspect/confirmed measles cases.**

**Q: Our camp has no capacity to test for COVID-19. Why do we still have to identify close contacts of individuals with respiratory symptoms, when we don't know with certainty that they have COVID-19?**

**A:** This recommendation, outlined in the *HKPR Overnight Camps: Outbreak Management and Control Guide*, is based on the COVID-19 Infectious Disease Protocol, Appendix 1 [OPHS: Requirements for Programs, Services and Accountability - Infectious Diseases Protocol - Appendix 1: Case Definitions and Disease-Specific Information - Disease: Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#).

As indicated in the protocol, the recommendation for cases and their contacts are for those who test positive for COVID-19 **OR** have COVID-19-like symptoms (pages 5 and 8). These measures will help prevent the spread within the camp.

**Q: What precautions do we need to take if transporting ill campers/staff to a health care appointment?**

**A:** When staff are transporting ill staff/campers to an appointment, only one ill camper/staff should be transported at a time. The driver should be in the front of the vehicle and the ill individual in the back. Windows should be open, weather permitting, to improve ventilation. The ill individual should wear a medical mask if tolerated. The driver should wear a medical mask and eye protection. Hand-hygiene and respiratory etiquette should be adhered to.

If measles is suspected, the receiving health care facility should be notified in advance of arrival so that precautions can be put in place. The driver should ensure they are not susceptible to measles. Those who are not



susceptible are those that have had two doses of measles-containing vaccine (e.g. MMR), were born before 1970 or have proof of immunity. If the driver has been fit-tested for an N-95 mask, it is recommended it is worn in addition to eye protection. The Health Unit should be notified immediately of any suspect measles cases.

**Q: What action should camps be prepared to take, should a measles exposure occur at camp?**

**A:** Camps should have a contingency plan in place to accommodate a measles case away from other staff and campers while awaiting pick-up. Camps should also have a contingency plan in place, to accommodate susceptible measles contacts away from other staff and campers while awaiting pick-up, if exclusion from camp is recommended by the Health Unit. Accommodation for contacts and cases should be separate.

**A: How can I tell if a staff member's/camper's respiratory symptoms are due to a common respiratory illness or measles?**

It may be difficult. Measles normally starts with a fever, cough, runny nose and red eyes, which can also occur with a common respiratory illness. 3-7 days after these symptoms start, the characteristic measles rash appears (red, blotchy, non-itchy, begins on face and spreads downwards). Unfortunately, individuals with measles are contagious to others before the measles rash begins. Suspicion of measles should be increased in staff/campers who were born after 1970 and have not received two doses of measles-containing vaccine (e.g. MMR) who have had a known exposure to measles in the 21 days prior to their symptom onset and/or have come from an area experiencing measles activity.

Areas with measles activity and exposure locations in Ontario are updated regularly and can be found here: [Measles in Ontario](#).

**Q: The Health Unit once provided hard copies of the camp outbreak control manual to each camp. Ours seems outdated. How can I obtain an up-to-date copy?**

**A:** The Health Unit provided hard copies of this resource before the COVID-19 pandemic. A lot has changed since then! Although the Health Unit no longer provides hard copies of this resource, *the HKPR Overnight Camps: Outbreak Management and Control Guide*, and other camp-related resources can be accessed from the HKPR External SharePoint site for recreational camps. To request access to the site, please email your request to [outbreaks@hkpr.on.ca](mailto:outbreaks@hkpr.on.ca) and include the names and emails of all staff who need access.