



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

LISA J. PINO, M.A., J.D.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

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TO: Local Health Departments (LHDs)

FROM: New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)

Local Health Department Advisory for Staff COVID-19 Vaccination, Testing, and Mask Use at NYS Children’s Camps, Farms, Orchards, and other locations with Seasonal/Migrant Workers and/or Congregate Worker Housing.

The advisory provides information and clarification for local health departments regarding COVID-19 vaccination, testing, and mask use for staff at NYS children’s camps, farms, orchards, and other locations with seasonal/migrant workers and/or congregate worker housing.

VACCINATION

Given the vital role local health departments play in ensuring all consenting New Yorkers are vaccinated as quickly as possible, NYSDOH is asking each local health department to be a leader in vaccination efforts at summer camps, farms, orchards, and other locations with seasonal/migrant workers and/or congregate worker housing by immediately implementing pop-up clinics to vaccinate any and all eligible persons. As partners in prevention, local health departments can help increase vaccine uptake by increasing access to vaccination and making vaccination more convenient by offering COVID-19 vaccine to staff on site. Regular immunization grant funding as well as any existing or future supplemental funding may be used to support these efforts.

Migrant workers, as well as international campers and staff, may not have been vaccinated prior to arrival in New York State. Vaccination status of these individuals should be assessed. CDC guidance recognize vaccines included on the World Health Organization (WHO) Emergency Use List; therefore, only those who did not receive the full vaccination series for a WHO-listed vaccine, or have not been vaccinated at all, should be offered a complete FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine series.

Resources to conduct pop-up vaccination clinics

[CDC guidance and resources on temporary, satellite or off-site clinics](#) can help when planning and implementing pop-up clinics at summer camps, farms, orchards, and other locations with seasonal/migrant workers and/or congregate worker housing. For eligible adults, 18 years of age or older, consider using Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine for summer pop-up clinics because this vaccine does not require a second dose. As a reminder, the FDA has authorized an extension of the shelf life for the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine from three months to four and a half months when stored at recommended refrigerator temperatures (36 degrees F to 46 degrees F; 2 degrees to 8 degrees C). Vaccine providers should visit the [Johnson & Johnson website](#) to confirm the latest expiration dates of their inventory. This extension applies to refrigerated vials of Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine that have been held in accordance with the manufacturer's storage conditions.

MASKS AND OTHER COVID-19 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Given New York's progress and the diminished risk of COVID-19 within the community, New York State has lifted most COVID-19 restrictions, except the mask requirement for unvaccinated individuals and in certain settings (e.g., healthcare facilities) as advised by the CDC.

Camp operators are free to continue to adhere to the archived NYSDOH Children's Camp guidelines (June 7, 2021 <https://forward.ny.gov/archived-industry-guidance>), or implement other health precautions for their staff and campers such as requiring masks, cohorting, and/or six feet of social distancing, however, they are not required to. Any mask policies that the camp implements must adhere to all applicable federal and state laws and regulations (e.g., Americans with Disabilities Act).

TESTING

Upon identification of a confirmed case of COVID-19 infection, a robust outbreak response that includes testing of vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals needs to be initiated. Local health departments are expected to coordinate the investigation including collection of samples and implementing isolation and quarantine protocols as appropriate. Support will be provided by NYSDOH to assist with specimen testing and other outbreak management activities as necessary.

Operators should consider the impacts of a positive case on contacts with unvaccinated campers and staff when determining the camp's policy for cohorts/stable groups. A positive case would require all contacts who are unvaccinated to quarantine individually at home or onsite for overnight camps/congregate housing.

MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Communication to parents/guardians will be critical to vaccinating adolescent staff and campers. [CDC's Customizable Content for School-Located Vaccination Clinics](#) can be adapted for use at summer camps. If parents/guardians are not present during vaccination, eligibility and consent must still be verified and received prior to vaccination. Parents/guardians that consented to vaccination should also receive communication after the clinic on whether the vaccination was completed and any reactions.