



## AYF Health & Wellness COVID-19 Supplement

(updated 5/1/2023)

Since American Youth Foundation summer programs resumed in 2021, we have successfully run safe, healthy programs and positively impacted hundreds of young people. This is due in large part to our camper families' incredible support of our health and wellness protocols.

As we approach summer 2023, we are again asking for your help as we prepare to welcome even more participants to our sites this summer. Please carefully review this updated guidance for information on COVID-19 screening and testing expectations before Opening Day.

### General COVID-19 Testing Requirements

- On Opening Day, each participant and camper must bring proof of a negative COVID-19 test administered earlier that day. (See below for details.)
- The AYF Health Team will not test for COVID upon arrival unless a participant or camper shows symptoms of COVID-19 or does not bring proof of a negative test.
- If a participant or camper had COVID-19 within 90 days of Opening Day, they must provide proof of a positive COVID-19 from that time. If they do not have this, they must submit a negative test on Opening Day. (See below for details.)

### Opening Day

All camper families arriving by vehicle must select their preferred arrival time in CampBrain. Final arrival times will be emailed to camper families prior to Opening Day. Families must arrive at their designated time to ensure a smooth registration process. Please see specific Opening Day procedures in the Miniwanca Camper & Family Handbook and the Merrowvista Camper & Family Handbook.

- **Before arrival at camp, families must test their camper for COVID-19 at home that morning and bring proof of a negative COVID-19 test to check-in.** Families should clearly label the test results with the camper's name and date of the test. Families can bring a picture of the labeled test results to camp on their phone.
  - **If a camper is riding the bus:** Show the negative test to the AYF staff prior to boarding the bus.
  - **If a camper flying to camp:** Test the camper prior to flying and the camper will present the test results upon arrival.
  - **If your camper tests positive on Opening Day, please do not come to camp.** Contact Miniwanca at 231-861-2262 or Merrowvista at 603-539-6607 as soon as possible to inform the Health Team and discuss next steps.

- During check in, the Health Team will review the negative COVID-19 test, take the camper’s temperature, and ask a few health screening questions.
- If a camper does not bring proof of a negative test or has symptoms of COVID-19, AYF staff will administer COVID-19 test on site. If the test is positive, the camper and anyone else in the car will be required to return home. Campers who arrive by bus or airplane will need to be picked up from camp as soon as possible.
- Free rapid antigen tests are available [through the U.S. Government and can be ordered online](#). If you have difficulty procuring tests for the required pre-arrival testing, please contact Miniwanca or Merrowvista and we help you obtain a test.

Camper families will drop off their luggage and meet their camper’s cabin leader in a common area of camp. **Families will be able to use the restroom and stretch their legs, but they will not be able to tour camp or move their camper into the cabin.** We encourage families to help their camper begin their adjustment to Miniwanca or Merrowvista by keeping their goodbyes positive, encouraging, and brief.

### **Closing Day**

The American Youth Foundation is thrilled to once again welcome camper families back to Closing Circles and Ceremonies on Closing Days! Please see specific Closing Day procedures in the [Miniwanca Camper & Family Handbook](#) and the [Merrowvista Camper & Family Handbook](#).

### **COVID-19 Vaccination**

**Participants are not required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to attend AYF 2023 programs.** However, the AYF continues to strongly encourage and recommend that families pursue COVID-19 vaccination for participants. Families must share their participants’ COVID-19 vaccination status during the registration process.

The AYF reserves the right to change to its COVID-19 vaccination requirements as the pandemic evolves or with changes to school and camp licensing requirements.

**All summer 2023 staff are required to be fully vaccinated and up to date on their COVID-19 vaccination before they arrive at Miniwanca or Merrowvista.**

“Fully vaccinated” means you have received two doses of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

If you were fully vaccinated *before* September 2022, you are considered “up to date” if you have received the bivalent booster (first available in September 2022). **If you have not received this booster, you will need to do so before staff training begins.**

If you were fully vaccinated *after* September 2022, you are considered “up to date” on your vaccination status.

Proof of vaccination will be collected before arrival at camp.

If you have questions about your individual vaccination status, please contact AYF Lead Health Officer Carrie Hargreaves Smith at [csmith@ayf.com](mailto:csmith@ayf.com).

### **Preventing Illness Before Camp**

Beginning 10 days before camp, all campers should pay close attention to how they feel. **If a camper becomes ill during the 10 days prior to Opening Day, please contact the Merrowvista or Miniwanca health teams for further guidance.**

Camper families should closely monitor their camper’s health and notify Miniwanca or Merrowvista if:

- The camper or anyone they live with exhibits any symptoms of illness 10 days before arrival at camp, including fever or chills, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.
- The camper or staff member is exposed to someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19 or other illness 10 days before arrival at camp.

### **COVID-19 Diagnosis 90 Days Before Camp**

- If a camper is diagnosed with COVID-19 within 90 days before Opening Day, families should email proof of a positive COVID-19 test (labeled with name and date of test) to AYF Lead Health Officer Carrie Hargreaves Smith at [csmith@ayf.com](mailto:csmith@ayf.com). Without proof of a positive test, they will be required to submit a negative test on Opening Day.
- If a camper becomes ill and/or tests positive for COVID-19 or another illness in the 10 days prior to camp, please contact the Merrowvista or Miniwanca health teams for further guidance.

### **Taking Mass Transportation to Camp**

Anyone traveling to Merrowvista or Miniwanca by public transportation must wear a well-fitted procedure or KN95 mask for the entirety of the trip, including in airport or bus terminals and on the airplane or bus. (This **does not apply** to participants and campers who take the AYF-provided bus to and from St. Louis to Miniwanca.)

If your camper is flying or taking other mass transportation to Miniwanca or Merrowvista, campers should wear masks and always follow COVID-19 safe practices while traveling.

**COVID-19 Testing at Camp**

If a camper or staff member exhibit COVID-19 symptoms, the AYF may test them during the program session.

If someone tests positive for COVID-19 during program, they will be required to go home and may not be eligible to return to camp. While awaiting pickup, the positive individual will be isolated from other campers and will be supervised by staff.