

COVID-19 Risk Management Plan for Families and Participants

We are excited to see you and your family in person again soon! To do so safely, please review the following information on how we can work together to minimize risk for all individuals in our community.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In March 2020, Washington Governor Inslee mandated closure of all public schools to prevent the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus; however, child care was deemed an essential service that could remain in operation.^{1,2} According to the Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families, child care providers are encouraged to stay open if possible to support families during this time.³ Due to the nature of our programming, Wild Whatcom is considered a licence-exempt child care provider.

After extensive research and the development of safety guidelines, Wild Whatcom will begin running programs again under Phase 2 as defined by Governor Inslee's 4 Phase Reopening Plan⁴. Wild Whatcom aims to provide effective and safe programming while also ensuring continued enrichment and engagement for the community. This COVID-19 Risk Management Plan for Families and Participants follows the guidance of health experts, including the Washington Department of Health, the Whatcom County Health Department, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), local medical professionals, and Governor Inslee's 4-Phase Reopening Plan, among others.

¹ Washington State Department of Health. Child Care Resources & Recommendations. Available at: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020COVID19/ChildCare>

² Washington Governor Jay Inslee's office. "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" address transcript. "Some businesses are essential, and are not being closed by this order. We've chosen these essential businesses based on federal guidelines. Essential businesses and personnel not limited by this order include those that help us fight this outbreak, including emergency services; health care industries; critical manufacturing; child care providers; food and agriculture; transportation; financial services; defense industries; and critical local government operations, including courts." Full transcript available at: <https://www.governor.wa.gov/news-media/stay-home-stay-healthy-address-transcript>

³ Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families. Early Learning and Child Care. March 18, 2020 "We encourage child care facilities to continue serving their communities and to make their educated decisions based upon what information and recommendations are coming from the Washington State Department of Health (DOH). Because child care providers are independent business owners, decisions such as a voluntary closure during a health outbreak are business decisions each facility makes on their own." Available at: <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/coronavirus-covid-19/early-learning>

⁴ Office of Washington Governor Jay Inslee. Chart: Washington's Phased Approach. Available at: <https://www.governor.wa.gov/news-media/chart-washingtons-phased-approach>

As you read through this document, please keep the following in mind:

- This is a living document. Wild Whatcom will update and adjust policies based on the evolving health situation and the evolving guidance from the CDC, state, and local health departments. We will keep families informed of any changes.
- The precautionary measures described in this document may catch people who display symptoms of COVID-19, but cannot eliminate the possibility of asymptomatic, yet potentially contagious, people present on a program.
- Wild Whatcom continues to navigate policies and procedures of many different federal, state, and local entities that will impact our program season. This handbook outlines the policies and procedures within Wild Whatcom's control and influence. We will reach out to parents and guardians if decisions are made outside of our control that prohibit us from running programs.
- This handbook outlines the main components of our new safety procedures and protocols. Our staff will also be guided by a more comprehensive COVID-19 Risk Management Plan for Staff. If you would like to see additional information or documentation about our safety protocols, please [let us know](#).

INTERNAL SAFETY MEASURES TO MINIMIZE RISK

In addition to regular annual safety training, Wild Whatcom staff will, at a minimum:

Read and understand our comprehensive COVID-19 Risk Management Plan for Staff and undergo training on how to implement COVID-19-related safety protocols, some of which are outlined here:

- Take temperatures and track staff and participant symptoms daily to attempt to catch potential infection of COVID-19.
- Provide programming for groups of 8 participants or fewer.
- Remain with the same participant group and staff pair when possible to minimize exposure for staff and participants.
- As much as possible, provide one week of time between camps for staff to track signs and symptoms (working virtually and not in-person).
- Sanitize materials shared among participants before, during, and after programming.
- Follow and implement the below-mentioned safety protocols.

PRE-PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR FAMILIES

At registration: All participants and/or parents/guardians are required to read through this plan and acknowledge that they have read, understood, and agree to abide by safety protocols outlined.

Parent/guardians will be asked during registration if participants have any pre-existing conditions that put them at higher risk of severe outcomes if they contract COVID-19. If any of these are marked yes, one-on-one follow up will occur to ensure that the participant and family understand their risk prior to participation in programming.

Prior to program: Wild Whatcom staff will request that parent/guardians track participant temperature and symptoms for the seven (7) days prior to program start. Parent/guardians may use this [Pre-program Health Log](#) as it feels useful.

On day one of programming, Wild Whatcom staff will ask parent/guardians if the participant has had a fever or any of the symptoms listed on the health log in the seven (7) days prior to program start. Documentation is not required, but is recommended to help parent/guardians keep track of symptoms.

To keep our staff, participants, and the community safe, we reserve the right to turn participants away if they are experiencing COVID-19-related symptoms and/or refuse to follow safety protocols as outlined here and communicated during programming.

In the event that a participant cannot engage in program activities due to a confirmed or possible infection of COVID-19, full or prorated refund options will be made available for families. Refunds will not be offered for non-compliance with safety protocols unless they are health related. Please see more information on our [Policies page](#).

ON-PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPANTS

Daily temperature and symptom tracking at home: Beginning on day one of programming, Wild Whatcom staff will request parent/guardians take a daily temperature for participants at home. Guardians may use this [Pre-program Health Log](#) as a way to track participant's daily temperatures.

At the start of each program, staff will ask parent/guardians for the participant's temperature that was taken at home during the previous 24 hours. Staff will also take the participant's temperature each morning at drop-off as an extra layer of safety. Staff will use a daily log to record participants' reported "at home temperatures," as well as the drop-off temperature, signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (if any), and to record any signs or symptoms that appear while on the program. Staff will aim to be as discreet as possible during these health checks and will only bring individual situations to the group's awareness as absolutely necessary. Response to all situations with a potentially symptomatic individual will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Social distancing at drop-off: Wild Whatcom has implemented additional drop-off policies for participants to reduce risk.

Family members and participants 6 years or older must wear a face covering and remain in their vehicles while a Wild Whatcom staff member collects fever logs and asks about any changes to health before proceeding to the final participant drop-off location.

Wild Whatcom staff will guide you through the process in person. More information will be provided closer to the program start date to support these additional safety precautions.

To minimize social contact outside of our participant group, we ask that non-participants (parents/guardians/caregivers/siblings, etc.) remain in vehicles if possible. We also recommend that the same household members come to both drop-off and pick-up and that carpooling is minimized to reduce exposure risk.

During program:

Note: due to the below-mentioned requirements, participants should now bring to program:

- **A cloth face covering that meets the below-mentioned guidelines**
- **Personal hand sanitizer**
- **All items labeled as is possible (masking tape and permanent marker is fine) to reduce possibility of participants touching other participants' materials**

Handwashing: All participants and staff will wash hands [as directed by the Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#). Due to the nature of our programs, there may be times when it makes more sense to use hand sanitizer rather than soap and water. Each participant and staff member will carry their own hand sanitizer, labeled with the participant or staff name. Staff will also carry backup hand sanitizer and soap among other safety materials.

At a minimum, appropriate hand cleaning will occur:

- Every morning as soon as participants and staff arrive.
- Before and after all snack and meal times.
- Before and after going to the bathroom (including changing menstrual products).
- After blowing nose, sneezing, coughing, or touching eyes.
- After touching high-touch surfaces (railings, doorknobs, counters, etc.).

Face coverings: All staff and participants who are able will wear appropriate face coverings for the duration of the program. Face coverings will only be removed by participants for eating, drinking, hygiene, when social distancing of 6 feet or more is possible for extended periods of time, or during designated “no-mask” times (also when social distancing is possible for extended periods of time).

Families are asked to provide their own masks for participants, but if families cannot provide their own masks, Wild Whatcom will loan the participant a face covering. Below are the requirements for appropriate face coverings, who should not wear face coverings, and instructions for expected mask sanitation:

Cloth face coverings should:⁵

- Cover the mouth and nose,
- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face,
- Be secured with ties or ear loops,
- Include multiple layers of fabric,
- Allow for breathing without restriction, and
- Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape.

To comply with proper mask sanitation, staff and participants are expected to:⁶

- **Wear a clean mask each day of program**
 - Staff and participants can either wash their cloth face covering between days of program OR use a different clean mask each day.
- Wash masks with detergent and hot water and dry on a hot cycle.
- Wash their hands immediately after putting a mask back on and avoid touching their face if a mask is removed during a day of programming.
- Discard cloth face coverings that:
 - No longer cover the nose and mouth.
 - Have stretched out or damaged ties or straps
 - Do not fit snugly on the face.
 - Have holes or tears in the fabric.

In line with recommendations from the CDC, the following individuals should not wear face coverings⁷:

- Children under age 2.
- Anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, or incapacitated.
- Anyone unable to remove the mask without assistance.

POST-PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Pick-up procedure: Similar to our new drop-off procedure, our pick-up procedure requires that parent/guardians should remain in their vehicles to support social distancing. As with our additional drop-off procedures, Wild Whatcom staff will walk

⁵ Centers for Disease Control. DIY Cloth Face Covering Instructions. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/DIY-cloth-face-covering-instructions.pdf>

⁶ Washington Department of Health. Cloth Facemasks. Available at: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/ClothFacemasks.pdf>

⁷ Centers for Disease Control. How to Wear Cloth Face Coverings. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-wear-cloth-face-coverings.html>

you through the process in person. More information will also be provided closer to the program start date to support these additional safety precautions.

Post-Program Symptom Tracking:

The health community now understands that an individual may experience symptoms of COVID-19 up to 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.⁸ This means that should your child be exposed to the virus during Wild Whatcom programming, they may not present any symptoms until after the program is over.

We strongly recommend that if your household experiences illness after participating in Wild Whatcom programming that you:

- Visit your doctor. Your doctor will recommend a COVID-19 test, if deemed appropriate.
- Get tested when appropriate. Please see Whatcom County's Health Department page on [COVID-19 Testing](#) for more information on who should get tested and testing locations in Whatcom County.
 - In the event of a positive test result, contact tracing will be performed by the Whatcom County Health Department. Please see the Department of Health's website on [Contact Tracing](#) to learn more about the process and how it helps the community.

AGREEMENT OF RISK AND LIABILITY RELEASE COVID-19 In-Person Programming

During registration for our in-person programs, you will be required to sign that you have read, understood, and agree to adhere to the above-mentioned protocols.

Again, this plan outlines the main components of our new safety procedures and protocols. Our staff will also be guided by a more comprehensive COVID-19 Risk Management Plan for Staff.

If you would like to see additional information or documentation about our safety protocols or have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us: camps@wildwhatcom.org.

⁸ Centers for Disease Control. Symptoms of Coronavirus. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>