



Infectious Disease Protocols

As we read every day about Coronavirus it is a good time for all camps to take a close look at their Infectious Disease Protocols or create protocols if they are not already in place.

Infectious diseases are diseases caused by living organisms like viruses and bacteria. They can be passed from person to person through body secretions, insects or other means. Examples are influenza (flu), the common cold, measles, tuberculosis (TB), Hepatitis A and B, Coronavirus (2019-nCoV; SARS) to name just a few.

Infectious Disease protocols should include the following topics:

Identify who is responsible for managing outbreaks at camp.

Some infectious diseases must be reported to Public Health (PH) - be aware of all reportable diseases to PH – check with your local PH each year to obtain an up to date list of reportable diseases.

Reducing the risk

- Immunization policy (The Health Care Committee is working on Best Practises for camps)
- Education for all staff and campers on how infections are spread

How to protect from spreading illness and getting sick

- Proper Handwashing Techniques and protocols

Control of Infectious Diseases / Outbreak Plans

- Identification of illnesses; Surveillance records
- Know how the illness is spread and set up processes to decrease the risk of infecting others
- Proper use of PPE (personal protective equipment) – gloves, gowns, masks, eye protection
- Proper Handwashing Techniques and protocols for campers and staff when ill and before meals
- Management of those who are ill - Isolation or containment of infected persons
- Management of those who have been in contact
- Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection
- Blood and Body Fluids - Disposal of soiled items and body waste

Reporting

- Contacting Public Health - know when it is time to contact PH? Who will contact?
- It is imperative to follow the lead of PH for all reportable disease outbreaks
- The earlier PH is involved the more they can help you - PH is your friend and has resources to help you get through an outbreak!
- Communication with all stakeholders, media

Post Outbreak plans / Follow up care

- What do you do after the outbreak? (campers, staff, families, other stakeholders, media, etc)
- Your local PH department is an excellent source for all infectious disease information - call them or check your local PH websites

As always, if you have any questions regarding your camp you can reach out to your local public health department or the OCA office, who will direct your questions and comments to one of the Health Care Committee members.

For up to date information on the coronavirus you can check out the [World Health Organization](#), [CDC](#), and head to your local Public Health Department.

Planning for a Healthy and Happy Camp,

The OCA Health Care Committee
