

Health & Safety Protocols and Policies

For Learning Outside to offer programs, health and safety protocols must be in place in order to decrease the risk of spreading any air-borne virus, including the novel coronavirus that can lead to COVID-19 ("COVID-19").

Learning Outside has responded to the risks created by COVID-19 with new policies, health and safety guidelines, routines and practices. Learning Outside will continue to adjust its policies, as needed, in response to new information and recommendations provided by the CDC, the American Academy of Pediatrics and both local and NC state health agencies.

For protocols to be effective, we need 100% compliance from enrolled families with the following health and safety protocols and procedures. Families must also be vigilant in monitoring their child's contacts with others, outside of their time at Learning Outside, in order to protect other students, faculty and staff at Learning Outside. With these policies and procedures in place, we believe we can minimize the risk to students, faculty, and staff of contracting COVID-19, but of course there are no guarantees someone within our community will not contract the virus.

Nevertheless, being outdoors significantly decreases the risk of spreading any air-borne virus. In addition, the behaviors that have the largest impact on reducing risk of virus spread remain the same:

- Staying home if one has any sign of illness - including visible, measurable indicators such as a fever or cough as well as subjective ones such as a change in affect, appetite, energy level, etc.
- Physical distancing
- Wearing a mask whenever spending time near anyone who is not part of your household
- Frequent handwashing
- Minimizing time spent in indoor spaces with multiple people
- Moving as many activities as possible outdoors
- Avoiding shared timed in small enclosed spaces outdoors

Families must fully understand our new protocols and must prepare their children prior to the start of programs this summer.

1. Please read this document carefully.
2. If you have questions, ask us now, prior to enrolling your child in any program.
3. Prepare your child.

- Use the time between now and the start of programs to talk with your child about our new guidelines in a way that engenders their comfort and confidence.
- Practice our new routines at home.
- Practice mask-wearing with your child including safely putting-on and taking-off a mask independently, without adult assistance, by only touching the ear loops.

By choosing to participate in Learning Outside's programs you are obligated to do everything you can to minimize your child's exposure to the novel coronavirus. We are relying on you to help keep not only your child safe, but everyone else safe too.

DAILY SCREENING ASSESSMENT PRIOR TO ATTENDING EACH DAY

All instructors, parents, designated drivers, and children must complete a daily screening assessment. Parents and/or guardians are responsible for completing this assessment on their child and on themselves.

Individuals with any of the symptoms below are prohibited from participating in Learning Outside programs. In addition, anyone - instructors, parents, drivers or siblings - is prohibited from being on-site, even if they remain in a vehicle, if they show any signs of illness.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include, but are not limited to, the list below. We rely on you, as parents, to stay up-to-date on latest indicators:

- Fever - daily temperatures must be taken for all
- Headache
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Chills, shivering or sweating
- Lack of appetite or desire to eat or drink
- New loss of taste or smell
- Muscle or body aches
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Any subjective indicators such as: fatigue, flushed cheeks, unusual fussiness, change in a child or adult's usual behavior and affect etc.

The latest CDC guidance can be found here: [CDC Symptom List](#)

In everyone's best interests, Learning Outside reserves the right to send a child home, at check-in, or at any time during the program, if the child exhibits any sign of illness.

MASK PROTOCOLS

Instructors and children **will wear masks** throughout our program day, except when physical distancing can be guaranteed. We will include activities and times, during the day, that allow for breaks from masks. We will also build-in child-friendly rituals and supports for children. Families are responsible for providing their child with masks.

Families are responsible for providing their child with masks; a clean mask each day plus (2) back-up masks in a sealed container/bag in their child's trail backpack.

There are many different styles of masks available - it is important for parents to determine which style their child can put-on and remove independently.

- Face masks must cover both the nose and mouth fully.
- Children must practice, prior to the start of programs, how to put their masks on and how to remove them in order to only touch the ear loops or ties.
- Children must practice not touching their face mask while wearing it.
- Children must practice not touching their eyes, nose or mouth both while wearing their mask as well as during mask-free times.
- Children must carry a personal supply of hand sanitizer in their trail backpack to use (1) after they remove their face masks, and (2) after they put their face mask back on.
- Children will also be required to sanitize their hands if they touch their faces or face masks.
- Hand sanitizer will be used while we are on the trail and therefore unable to use our handwashing sinks. Handwashing sinks will be used whenever we are on Base Camp.

To prepare children, parents need to **practice mask wearing** with them before programs begin. This will ensure that your youngster comes prepared, that mask wearing feels familiar, and that your child can manage their mask independently.

Learning Outside must protect all families and all instructors. To do so, children must comply with our mask guidelines. **In the unlikely event that a child will not comply and does not respond to instructor requests or reminders, parents will be called and the child will need to be picked-up.**

Children, parents and/or their **designated driver must wear masks** throughout drop-off and pick-up, apart from infants and siblings younger than 2-years-old.

Reporting Requirements: If a child or staff member has a **suspected** or **confirmed** case of COVID-19, or has been **exposed** to an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 or has a household member who has been exposed to an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19, this information must be immediately reported to Learning Outside's Director, Wendy Banning, and a response plan will be put in place.

Anyone who has been **exposed** to an individual with either a **suspected** or **confirmed** case of COVID-19 is prohibited from participating in Learning Outside programs for a 14 day quarantine or until they have received a negative PCR test. Test results must be emailed to Learning Outside's Director, Wendy Banning.

Anyone with a **suspected** case of COVID-19, i.e. either exhibiting any of the symptoms of COVID-19 listed above or on any updated CDC guidance, or who has tested positive for the virus, is prohibited from participating in Learning Outside programs for a quarantine period of 14 days starting from the day of symptom onset. Prior to returning to programs, the individual **must be** symptom-free and have received a negative PCR test result.

When making health and safety related decisions, Learning Outside will be guided by CDC recommendations, NC Health Agency Guidelines, and/or the recommendations of the local Public Health Department.

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP PROCEDURES

We need to limit the number of different individuals on our site at any given time. We also need to maintain physical distancing between families. To achieve this, we will create a "one-way only" walking loop through **Base Camp** for families to follow when doing check-in. Waiting spots will be marked along the loop. If all waiting spots are full, families are asked to wait a few moments in their vehicles until a spot becomes available.

- Children and adults must wear a mask whenever on-site, including in the parking lot (apart infants or siblings younger than 2-years-old).
- All children, including siblings, must remain next to parents or their designated driver throughout check-in and check-out.
- The check-in instructor will take each child's temperature using a no-touch infrared thermometer upon arrival.

- A handwashing station will be placed along the walking loop, by our **Kiosk**, for use prior to check-in (please practice handwashing with your child at home prior to the start of programs).
- Parents or their designated driver will assist youngsters in completing a full 20 second handwashing, one family at a time and then move to the next "waiting spot" until called by an instructor for check-in.
- After check-in, parents or their designated driver will assist youngsters in situating their gear - all gear will be stored under our **Small Pole Barn** where we can provide space between children's possessions; a hook for each child's trail pack and a cubby for each child's change of clothes bag.
- Goodbyes will be done at the **Small Pole Barn** and parents or their designated driver will then exit the site, continuing along our walking loop, to return to the parking lot.