

2022 JEMS Mount Hermon Youth Camp FAQ's

(Revised 3/2/22)

General Questions

- **Why was it decided to meet in-person at this year's Conference? Is it safe?**

Since the start of the pandemic, all of our Mount Hermon conference sites have been closely aligning themselves with both the official CDC guidelines and those of the County of Santa Cruz. Currently, each of them is open and operating their regular schedule and feel (at this time) that they could safely operate their summer youth camp programs while still complying with both the CDC guidelines and the State of CA restrictions. With this in mind, and with the exception of Special Camp (which will be virtual once again), all of our youth and Main Camp conferences will be in-person this year for the 74th annual JEMS Mount Hermon Conference.

- **Does my child need to be vaccinated in order to attend the youth conferences?**

Although vaccination is highly recommended, it is not a requirement in order for your child to attend.

- **Why aren't we requiring vaccination for all conferees?**

We recognize that vaccination is a private, parental decision. Additionally, research has shown that the Omicron variant is transmissible regardless of whether a person has been vaccinated or not. So there really is no way to guarantee the camp environment to be 100% safe. That being said, in the days leading up to camp, it would be appreciated if all parents could be extra diligent to minimize the chances that your child gets exposed to someone with COVID-19 (by avoiding large gatherings, etc.) and unknowingly brings the virus into camp.

- **Will my child have to be tested prior to being allowed to enter the Conference grounds?**

JEMS is still working out the details on this. At the very least, your child's temperature will be taken and they'll be asked some health questions before being allowed to come onto the grounds. It's quite possible that your child might also have to provide proof of a negative COVID test within 72 hours of coming to camp (or getting on the bus if you send them on the bus), but we don't have that specific directive in place as of yet. We don't plan to do testing throughout the week of camp either, but we will have test kits on hand.

Regardless of vaccination status, please **do not** send your child to camp if:

- Your child has been diagnosed with or tested for COVID in the 5 days prior to the start of camp on June 26th

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- Your child has **not** been fever-free without medication for the 24 hour prior to the start of camp on June 26th
- Your child is experiencing any of these COVID-19 symptoms (new or unexplained)
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Fever or chills
 - Fatigue
 - Unexplained muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- Your child has been in "close contact" (by CDC definition – less than 6 ft. for more than 15 minutes in a 24-hour period) with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 **within 5 days or less from the start of camp.** Camp begins on Sunday, June 26th, so if your child is exposed anytime between **June 21, 2022 – June 26th**, please **DO NOT** send them or bring them to Camp Often times, symptoms do not show for 3-5 days after exposure and we want to minimize the risk of bringing the virus into camp.
 - Note: If the new "close contact" exposure date falls within 90 days of your child's own positive COVID-19 test result, and your child is symptom free – your child **does not** have to wait the 5 days and is cleared to come to camp
- **Are the JEMS Staff volunteers (core staff and cabin leaders) required to be vaccinated?**

Yes. The health and safety of our conferees is our first priority. With that in mind, since JEMS is responsible for all of the leaders that are sent to serve our youth camps, the JEMS Board has decided that all of our Staff volunteers must be fully-vaccinated (not necessarily including the booster) before the start of camp in order to participate.

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- **Are the employed Staff at our Youth Camp sites (MayMac, Redwood, and Koinonia) required to be vaccinated?**

No, not at this time, and it's not expected that this will change. JEMS has no jurisdiction to require the campsites to vaccinate their staff.

- **What if my child gets sick during the week?**

If your child starts to experience COVID symptoms, they will be placed in a supervised quarantine location immediately. With the inability to have close interaction with others for 5 days, you will be notified to make arrangement to pick up your child as soon as possible.

- **What if my child is exposed to the virus from another person in his/her cabin who becomes symptomatic or tests positive for COVID-19 during the week of camp?**

- Your child will be isolated from the symptomatic or positive test conferee as soon as possible, and you will be contacted.
- If your child **is** vaccinated, but is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, he/she will be placed in a supervised quarantine location immediately. With the inability to have close interaction with others for 5 days, you will be notified to make arrangements to pick them up as soon as possible.
- If your child **is** vaccinated and is **not** experiencing symptoms, he/she will be allowed to remain at camp but must wear a mask at all times until 5 days after the exposure. After daily checks, if they begin to experience symptoms or test positive, you will be notified to make arrangements to pick them up as soon as possible.
- If your child is **not** vaccinated, regardless of whether they are experiencing symptoms or not, you will be notified to make arrangements to pick them up as soon as possible.

- **Can I expect to get a refund if my child gets sick or exposed to COVID-19 during the week and has to leave camp?**

Yes, you will be refunded a pro-rated portion of your child's camp registration fee.

- **Can I specify that my child be only in a cabin with other vaccinated kids?**

We cannot guarantee this. Although we are going to encourage social distancing, with the level of interaction that occurs at our youth camps, you should expect that your child may come in contact during the week with other conferees who may not be vaccinated.

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- **Will my child have to wear a mask all week?**

We will be complying with the recommended CDC guidelines around mask wearing. The standards are constantly changing, and if the current trend continues here in California, we may have to continue to observe social distance standards (min. 6' apart) but may not be required to wear a mask. Please have your child bring a mask(s) anyways. If at the time of camp, the mask policy changes and we do end up wearing masks, it will need to be a mask that completely covers their mouth and nose. Gators and scarves are **not** considered as an appropriate mask. Double masking is optional, but not required.

Masks will continue to be recommended if your child is immunocompromised or at high risk for severe illness.

- **Can my youth camp age kids come with us to Main Camp like last year?**

It was truly a blessing to be all together last year like in the early days of Main Camp. However, since the youth camps are all in-person, there will be no "watch parties" for any virtual broadcasts for our youth camps, nor will there be any youth camp support staff on-site at Main Camp to supervise or run a program for the kids that are youth camp age. The Youth Camp staffs are working hard to present an excellent program for your child. Please send your children to the youth camps.

- **Where will College Camp be held this year since we are no longer at Monte Vista Christian School?**

College Camp will be held at Camp MayMac alongside Junior High Camp. Special Camp was supposed to be with College Camp at Camp MayMac this year, but since Special Camp decided to go virtual, we slotted Junior High Camp to replace them in order to meet the contractual obligation minimums committed by JEMS to Camp MayMac.

- **Will the youth camps have their regular Programming schedule or have they been modified?**

Yes, all 3 of our campgrounds (MayMac, Redwood, and Koinonia) will be operating their usual schedule and we expect our JEMS youth camp program to do likewise.

Thank you for your patience, cooperation, and understanding. This Q&A is subject to change based on changes to CDC, State of CA, County or Campsite guidelines. If any of these JEMS guidelines conflict with the guidelines from these agencies, the agency guidelines will supersede the JEMS guidelines.

Please be assured that JEMS is committed to doing all that we can to ensure that your child enjoys a safe, and enjoyable week of camp!