

2022 JEMS Mount Hermon Youth Camp FAQ's

(Revised 6/19/22)

Covid Rapid Test Donation

If you have extra rapid COVID tests that you'd be willing to donate to the camp, we would greatly appreciate that and welcome any that we can get. If we end up not using the tests, we will send them back with your child.

General Questions

1. What are the COVID requirement for this year's Conference? Does my child need to show proof of vaccination or a negative test before coming to camp?

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. JEMS strongly recommends that prior to arrival your child be either fully vaccinated and without symptoms, or if unvaccinated, to get tested and receive a negative result for COVID-19 infection within 72 hours of the retreat start date on 6/26. We cannot stress how important this is, particularly if your child is taking the bus to camp to ensure (as best as possible) the safety of the other children on the bus. I

2. Will my child have to be tested prior to being allowed to enter the Conference grounds?

No. We will have COVID rapid test kits available at each camp (if someone is symptomatic or has been exposed), but we will not be testing anyone proactively.

3. Does my child need to be vaccinated or boosted in order to attend the youth conferences?

Although vaccination and the booster (if eligible) is highly recommended, it is not a requirement in order for your child to attend. However, regardless of vaccination status, do not send your child to camp if they have COVID symptoms.

4. 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.

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5. Will my child have to wear a mask all week?

We will be complying with the recommended CDC guidelines around mask wearing. Effective March 1, 2022, regardless of vaccination status, face coverings are no longer required. **However, please have your child bring a mask(s) anyways. Due to limited ability to social distance in our meeting rooms, we highly encourage wearing masks while indoors during sessions.** Masks that completely cover the mouth and nose, such as a KN95 or KF94 are strongly recommended. Double masking is optional, but not required. A limited supply of disposable face masks will also be on hand at each camp.

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

Note: As a safety precaution, if your child is riding the bus to camp, we will be requiring that your child wears a mask (when medically possible) that completely covers their nose and mouth while on the bus. Masks can be temporarily removed while eating or drinking (or for temporary relief from car sickness), but must be put back on as soon as they are able.

6. What are the circumstances that would preclude my child from attending camp?

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

- 1) Your child has been diagnosed with or tested positive for COVID within the 5 days prior to the start of camp on June 26th
- 2) Your child has **not** been symptom-free without medication for the 24hr prior to the start of camp on June 26th
- 3) Your child is experiencing any of these COVID-19 symptoms (**new or unexplained no matter how minor, regardless of a negative home test**)
 - 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

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- Diarrhea

4) Your child has been in "close contact" (by CDC definition – less than 6 ft. for more than 15 minutes in a 24 hr. 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 26, 2022** please **DO NOT** send them or bring them to Camp until after completion of 5 days quarantine from the date of exposure. 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.

IMPORTANT: Please notify the camp director as soon as your child has exposure (**between June 21 -25**) & knows they will not be able to attend camp. This will help them better plan cabins.

7. 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.

8. Are the employed Staff at our Youth Camp sites (May Mac, 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.

9. 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. You will be notified and must arrange to pick up your child ASAP, but no later than 24 hrs from the time that you are notified.

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10. What if my child's cabin leader gets sick during the week?

The cabin leader will be isolated, and a replacement leader from our Youth Camp Staff will fill in. All conferees will be tested and required to wear masks in the cabin from this point forward and will be monitored for symptoms daily. You will be notified as well, and given the option to come pick up your child.

11. 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 (or cabin leader) as soon as possible, tested, and you will be contacted. If your child tests positive or is experiencing any symptoms, you must come pick your child up **within 24 hrs** of notification. If your child tests negative, you will still be given the option to pick up your child.
- If your child is or is not 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 must come pick up your child **within 24 hrs** of notification.

12. Who do I contact at camp in order to make arrangements for picking up my child?

1. Jr. High – Cynthia Tsushima (JEMS Camp Co-Director) – cell 714-785-4811
2. Inter High – Joel or Kacy Nagatoshi (JEMS Camp Directors) – Joel's cell 661-476-6580, Kacy's cell – 562-881-3105
3. High School – Connor or Kristin Kobayashi (JEMS Camp Directors) – Connor's cell 714-600-8887, Kristin's cell 310-697-6465 or email connorkoby@gmail.com or kristinckoby@gmail.com
4. College- Ryan Najima (JEMS Camp Director) – cell 408-230-8722

13. What if my child gets sick and I can't get there in 24 hours to pick him/her up?

You agreed to comply with this when you signed your parent release form. Please understand that our camp sites do not have long term quarantine facilities and that a staff person will have to be assigned to oversee your child's care until you arrive. If you cannot personally pick up your child, please advise our Youth Camp staff regarding who will pick up your child within 24 hrs.

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

No, we don't know who is or isn't, so 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.

15. Will the youth camps have their regular Programming schedule or have they been modified?

Yes, all 3 of our campgrounds (May Mac, Redwood, and Koinonia) will be operating their usual schedule.

16. Will I still be able to visit my child at the youth camp(s)?

Yes, the parent visitation schedule is as follows:

- Junior High (May Mac) – Tues, 6/28 from 3:00 – 4:30pm
- Inter High (Redwood) – Thurs 6/30 from 3:00 – 4:30pm
- Sr Hi / College (Koinonia) – Wed 6/29 from 3:00 – 4:30pm

Thank you for your continued 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!