



Department of Health
1 Geneva Road, Brewster, New York 10509
(845) 808-1390



MaryEllen Odell
County Executive

Michael J. Nesheiwat, M.D.
Interim Commissioner of Health

April 5, 2017

Dear Camp Operator,

For your information, the following children's camp program guidance information is offered for your use during the 2017 season.

1) Children with Disabilities:

Attached is a safety plan template addendum to address code amendments for campers with disabilities and the updated guidance document for camps enrolling 20 percent of the children having a developmental disability. Very minor edits were made to the guidance document including adding a reference to the FAQ document for all camps enrolling a child with a disability and a statement regarding notifying member of the camp's incident review committee that incident details discussed are confidential.

The Requirements for Campers with Disabilities at Children's Camps FAQ document will soon be available on the NYSDOH's website. The FAQ document is not exclusive to the amendments effective on October 1, 2016. It provides guidance for all camps including those enrolling 20 percent or more children having a developmental disability.

2) Epinephrine Auto-Injectors:

Section 3000-c of Public Health Law (PHL), which allows children's camps to stock and administer epinephrine auto-injectors, has been amended. The amendments were effective on March 29, 2017 and allow additional groups to stock and administer epinephrine auto-injectors for the emergency treatment of people experiencing a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis). Additional significant changes include:

- The elimination of the requirements for a physician or hospital to oversee the program and to establish a collaborative agreement with the camp.
- The elimination of the requirement for participants to file a Notice of Intent to Provide Epinephrine Auto-Injector and other documents with a Regional Emergency Medical Services Council (REMSCO).
- The addition of language allowing physicians to write non-patient-specific prescription for epinephrine auto-injectors and for a pharmacy to dispense epinephrine auto-injectors to a camp.

Because the legislation has been expanded to allow other entities to administer epinephrine auto-injector, the children's camp program no longer has oversight for program implementation at camps. The Bureau of Community Environmental Health and Food Protection has rescinded the fact sheet

pertaining to the implementation of an epinephrine auto-injector program at camps and will no longer review training programs for staff. The NYS Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (BEMS) [Policy Statement for Epinephrine Auto-Injectors](#), which is posted on the NYSDOH's website, will replace the camp fact sheet for procedures to stock and administer epinephrine auto-injectors. Camps participating in an epinephrine auto-injector program should obtain training and incorporate policies and procedures regarding epinephrine auto-injectors in their safety plan as outlined in the BEMS Policy Statement. Camp operators are still required to report epinephrine auto-injector administrations to the Putnam County Department of Health. Questions regarding establishing an epinephrine auto-injector program should be directed to the BEMS at (518) 402-0996.

3) Swimming:

- In some swimming pools, the minimum water depth is greater than chest deep for young non-swimmers, which requires camps to provide one counselor for every three of these non-swimmers during open swimming activities. A one to three ratio is difficult for many camps to maintain causing them to limit the number of non-swimmers in the pool at one time. As a result, the Bureau of Community Health and Food Protection has evaluated and approved an alternative, which allows camps to use standard supervision ratios for the age group when these non-swimmers wear U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets in shallow water. This alternative can be implemented upon request of the operator by issuance of a waiver with the following conditions:
 - The swimming activity occurs in a **pool** where the minimum water depth is greater than chest deep of non-swimmers. (We do not support this at shallow pools or beaches where non-swimmers can be restricted to water less than chest deep.)
 - Appropriate type I, II, or III US Coast Guard approved life jackets are worn and maintained in good condition (e.g. no tears, broken buckles/zippers, torn straps, signs of being waterlogged, etc.). Other flotation devices, such as pool noodles, inflatable arm bands, instructional devices designed to teach swimming, or similar devices/inflatables are not acceptable.
 - Staff are trained on how to properly size and fit a life jacket. See attached document for information regarding proper life jacket fit.
 - Non-swimmers are restricted to shallow water (5 feet or less).
 - Non-swimmers are 6 years of age or older.
 - Counselors are in the water directly supervising and within close proximity to non-swimmers, so that they can immediately support the camper if he/she slips out of the life jacket or needs immediate assistance.
 - Supervising staff are instructed that life jackets do not replace proper supervision and are trained to monitor life jacket use to ensure they remain on and properly secured (e.g. straps, buckles, and/or zippers are used and tight).
 - A supervision ratio is proposed that does not exceed the code required ratio for swimming based on camper's age and setting (i.e. on-site vs. off-site).

Prior to a waiver request being approved, the camp safety plan must be updated to adequately address the items listed above.

- The use of life jackets to allow non-swimmers to enter water greater than chest deep to utilize floating water structures such as trampolines, climbing walls, and similar floating water devices is not acceptable. Please review camp policies and procedures to ensure non-swimmers are prohibited from these activities.

4) Buddy/Board System PowerPoint Presentation

We posted the Children's Camp Buddy/Board System PowerPoint presentation on the Putnam County Department of Health website in the Children's Camp Section and you can access it at <http://www.putnamcountyny.com/health/environmental/>

This presentation was originally distributed in 2007 for use during staff and camp operator training, as needed. Minor revisions were made to the presentation and included the removal of safety plan information not related to a buddy/board system and the addition of a sample buddy board. Speaking points and other supplemental information for each topic are included in the "notes" section of the presentations. Please contact your Inspector if you have any questions.

5) Meningococcal Meningitis Information:

Attached is a revised sample parent letter regarding meningococcal disease and a sample vaccination response form. These materials can be utilized by overnight camps to meet the requirements of Public Health Law (PHL) §2167 and Section 7- 2.8(c)(2)(ii) of Subpart 7-2 of the State Sanitary Code to inform parents or guardians of campers, who remain overnight for seven or more consecutive nights, about meningococcal meningitis. The materials replace previously distributed versions and have been updated to include current information regarding meningococcal disease and vaccine information. As noted in the letter, the Meningococcal Fact Sheet has also been updated and should be included with the information to parents.

Spanish versions of the parent letter and response form are also posted on the NYSDOH [Department's website](#) for camp operators to download. If you have any questions concerning meningococcal disease immunization or the use of the sample letter/response form please contact your Inspector at 845-808-1390.

6) Vaccine Preventable Diseases:

The attached "Dear Children's Camp Operator" letter dated Summer 2017 was prepared by the NYSDOH's Bureau of Immunization and provides information about vaccine-preventable diseases and vaccine recommendations for campers and staff. The letter is also posted on the NYSDOH [Department's website](#).

7) Diseases Transmitted by Ticks and Insects:

The PCDOH recommends that protective measures are used in areas where Lyme and other diseases transmitted by ticks and insects are present. This includes but is not limited to wearing clothing to cover legs and arms, eliminating standing water where mosquitoes breed, keeping outdoor play areas well maintained, avoiding areas of tall grass and brush, checking oneself for ticks, and considering the use of repellents.

If your camp decides to use repellents, the products must have a US EPA registration number on the label and the camp must obtain written permission from a parent or guardian that is specific to the repellent being used. Camp policies for repellents use should include but are not limited to:

- Instructions to follow directions on the label, not over apply, and determine whether product can be used on skin, or if it can only be applied to clothing and gear.
- Train staff on the appropriate use of repellents.

- Avoid the use of DEET products containing more than 30-35% DEET.
- Discontinue use and seek medical attention if a rash or other reaction occurs.

Additional information:

- EPA's website (<https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents>) which includes information regarding regulations for repellents, using repellents safely and effectively, and ingredients used in repellents.
- NYS Department of Health Tick and Lyme Disease information <http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2813.pdf>
- The NYS Department of Health Dress to Repel Poster http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/pests/dress_to_repel.pdf
- The NYS Department of Health brochure Tick and Insect Repellents: Deciding on Their Use <http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2749.pdf>

8) Opioid Overdose Prevention Program

At the last State Camp Safety Advisory Council meeting, staff from the NYSDOH's Opioid Overdose Program presented information on the opioid epidemic and overdose prevention programs in New York State. The Council recommended that information regarding opioid overdose programs be shared with camp operators. The following is provided for your information.

Drug overdose is a serious public health concern and opioid-related overdose has increased as a health threat. Since April 2006, New York State Public Health Law has allowed non-medical personnel, including camp staff, to administer naloxone to another person to prevent an opioid/heroin overdose from becoming fatal. Free training to individuals for administering naloxone and naloxone kits are provided by the nearly 400 registered Opioid Overdose Programs throughout the State. Children's camps interested in obtaining detailed information regarding opioid overdose programs, free training and naloxone kits can go to the Department's website (www.health.ny.gov/overdose), or contact the NYSDOH Opioid Overdose Program by email overdose@health.ny.gov or calling 1-800-692-8528.

9) Wilderness Activities:

Camp operators must provide safe drinking water during backcountry activities to prevent waterborne illness. Whenever practical, camps should bring a supply of water from an approved source; however, for extended backcountry trips that require the use of surface water from lakes, rivers or streams, treatment with one of the following methods that is effective against all pathogens (protozoa, bacteria and viruses) is required.

Treatment Options:

- Boiling - Bring water to a rolling boil for 1 minute (at altitudes greater than 6,562 feet, boil water for 3 minutes). Boiling is the most effective method for destroying pathogens.
- If boiling water is not possible, a combination of filtration and chemical disinfection must be used.
 - **Filtration** - Manufactures instructions for use and maintenance of filters must be followed. Filters must be:

- NSF Standard 53 or 58 rated “cyst removal or reduction”;
 - NSF Protocol P231 rated;
 - Rated with an *absolute* pore size of 1 micron or smaller (with or without NSF 53 or NSF 58 labeling); or
 - Rated for removal of protozoa (e.g. Cryptosporidium, Giardia) and bacteria (e.g. Campylobacter, E. coli).
- **Disinfection** - Products (e.g. chlorine, iodine) must be [NSF Standard 60 certified](#). Manufactures instructions for use must be followed. Prior to using iodine ensure that there are no allergies or medical condition such as thyroid problems that would result in an adverse effect from its use.

In addition to treating water, good sanitation practices must be implemented in the backcountry to prevent illness including:

- Burying human waste 8 inches deep and at least 200 feet away from natural waters.
- Practicing good personal hygiene. Wash hands before handling food, eating, and after using the toilet.

10) Updated Fact Sheets:

The 2017 Department of Health Fact Sheets for aquatics, first aid, and CPR are posted on the NYSDOH’s website at www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/camps/.

The following table contains updates to regional Red Cross contacts for obtaining local information on the availability of courses and ARC Lifeguard Management in- person testing information.

| Aquatic Specialist | Territory | Email | Phone |
|---------------------------|---|--|-----------------------|
| Diana Price | Metro NY South: Long Island, Brooklyn, Staten Island & Queens | Diana.price@redcross.org | 516-747-3500 ext. 227 |
| Gwen McNamara | Metro NY North: Manhattan through Sullivan County and Northern NJ | Gwen.mcnamara3@redcross.org | 732-956-8105 |
| Kimberly King | Upstate NY except Hudson Valley | Kimberly.King4@redcross.org | 315-264-9427 |

Attachments

- Safety Plan Addendum for Campers with Disabilities
- Requirements for Camps for children with Developmental Disabilities
- Epinephrine Auto-Injector Legislation
- Life Jackets – The Fit is It
- Meningococcal Parent Letter 2017
- Meningococcal Response Form 2017
- Meningococcal Fact Sheet
- VPD Camp Operator Letter 2017
- Children’s Camp Program eHIPS Data Entry Guidance