

May 2, 2024

As we are preparing and looking forward to another safe and life-changing summer season at Silver Lake, please read the following message from the Silver Lake Health and Wellness Director:

Dear Silver Lake Friend,

As we begin the 2024 camp season I am once again filled with the promise and joy of a new spring and eager to share in the fruits of the spirit and the fellowship and friendship being at Silver Lake provides. This summer, as in the past, our team of health professionals, Silver Lake volunteers, and staff have come together to develop a Health and Wellness plan that allows campers to enjoy all that camp has to offer while also providing for a healthy and safe environment for everyone. To accomplish this, we will continue to require all CDC-recommended vaccinations inclusive of COVID-19 vaccination in the last 12 months. Doing so reduces the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and its complications including Long Covid, hospitalization, death, and having to cancel camp/ send campers home early. Additionally, requiring vaccination contributes to a just and equitable community where those at increased risk of illness (children with asthma, adults over 55, people and children on certain medications) can feel safe and welcome. I am confident that these steps will help us to ensure a fun and healthy summer for all. Please don't hesitate to review our Health and Wellness FAQs and reach out if you have other questions.

See you at camp,
Dr. Jamie Gooch, DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC
Silver Lake Health and Wellness Director.

What does this mean?

All participants (campers, staff, volunteers, etc.) in summer camp programs at Silver Lake Camp & Retreat Center must have received a COVID-19 vaccination **within the last 12 months**.

Getting Vaccines If You Recently Had COVID-19

If you recently had COVID-19, you still need to stay up to date with your vaccines.

Health History Form

When reviewing and updating your Health History form (<https://www.ultracamp.com/forms.aspx?idCamp=399&campCode=slc&idF=1945>) through your online registration account, please be sure to include the date of your most recent COVID-19 vaccination in the immunization section.

Read through all our summer camp health and safety policies and updates - <https://www.silverlakect.org/health>

Updated May 2, 2024

COVID-19 Vaccination Resources – from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

1. Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines
 - a. Everyone aged 5 years and older should get 1 dose of an updated COVID-19 vaccine to protect against serious illness from COVID-19.
 - b. Learn more - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>
2. Getting Your COVID-19 Vaccine
 - a. To find COVID-19 vaccine locations near you: Search www.vaccines.gov, text your ZIP code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233.
 - b. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect.html>
3. COVID-19 Vaccines Are Safe, Effective, and Free
 - a. Learn more: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/>

Health and Wellness FAQ's

My child's school does not require an up to date Covid vaccination. Why does camp?

While Silver Lake is similar to schools in some ways it is also different in other important aspects. The risk of infection from all respiratory illnesses is much greater at camp than at school. This is due to “congregate living” – children and volunteers sleep in the same spaces and are in close proximity for prolonged periods of time. These factors increase the chance of spreading and catching respiratory illnesses including Covid -19. Vaccination reduces the likelihood of infections spreading at camp.

Can my child take a Covid test instead of the vaccine?

We encourage everyone coming to camp to take a rapid COVID test before heading out the door. While testing adds an additional layer of protection it is not a replacement for vaccination which both reduces severity of illness and transmissibility. Requiring COVID and all other CDC recommended vaccinations is consistent with a multi-layered strategy to prevent the spread of infectious diseases as recommended by the American Camp Association and has been our policy since reopening after the pandemic.

Are there exceptions to the vaccinations required to attend camp?

For children/volunteers who have a documented allergy, medical issue, or specific unique circumstance (i.e.- custody arrangement, foster situation) that would be a contraindication for any required vaccination a request for exemption, along with documentation from your medical professional may be submitted to our Health and Wellness Director for consideration. Exemptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

My child has asthma, diabetes, is immunocompromised or takes medications that put them at higher risk of illness/death from Covid. Is it safe for them to come to camp?

Our mission at Silver Lake includes “creating an intentional, welcoming Christian community accessible to all”. Our multi-layered infectious disease policy ensures that all who come to camp have been vaccinated against common childhood illnesses/ respiratory infections including COVID-19, and employs a policy of testing, hand washing, and screening to provide the safest environment possible for all who love camp and the outdoors. Additionally, we staff a Registered Nurse at all times who is available to evaluate and treat a range of health issues from bug bites to severe allergic reactions and many others. We believe these strategies, when used together, provide for a fun-filled and healthy week.