



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

CONSUMER, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE
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June 1, 2016

Dear Youth Camp Owners/Operators/Directors:

Prior to this coming summer youth camp season, the Public Health and Food Protection Program (PHFPP) is reminding all camps about the importance of recognizing, reporting and mitigating communicable disease outbreaks in a timely manner. The New Jersey Department of Health's Communicable Disease Service (CDS) has recently posted a new guidance document, *General Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Outbreaks in Camp Settings*, on their website at <http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/find.shtml#C>. **Please review this document carefully.** This guidance document provides essential information to camps regarding the prevention and management of communicable disease outbreaks. Ongoing and effective disease surveillance will allow camps to immediately implement control measures, and timely reporting will allow both local and state health authorities to provide assistance as needed. **Outbreaks must be immediately reported by telephone to the local health department with jurisdiction for the camp's location and within 24 hours to the PHFPP at (609) 826-4935 or by fax at (609) 826-4992. See the *Directory of Local Health Departments in New Jersey* at <http://www.state.nj.us/health/lh/directory/lhdselectcounty.shtml>**

Please note that for instances when disease transmission is not effectively controlled, the PHSSP has the authority to suspend a camp's Certificate of Approval and close the camp until control measures are proven effective and camper health and safety are assured. Therefore, it is very important that camps react promptly to indications of disease presence and possible transmission concerning both campers and staff.

Camps are further reminded that health histories for all campers (and minor staff) must include documentation of the immunizations required for Preschool and K-12 school age children as specified on in the Youth Camp rule at N.J.A.C. 8:25-5.5(g) and as listed on the CDS *Immunization Requirements* webpage at <http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/imm.shtml>.

And finally, we are emphasizing that all Camp Health Directors (and backups, as needed) are required to possess a current professional-level cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training certification. Please see the *Currently Recognized Certifications* list on our Youth Camp webpage at <http://www.state.nj.us/health/phss/envhealthhaz.shtml#youth>. Failure to conform to this standard may result in suspension of a camp's *Certificate of Approval* and substantial monetary penalties.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and please contact Timothy Smith, Youth Camp Safety Team Leader, PHFPP at (609) 826-4943 with any questions or comments.