



July 11, 2022

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Since last week's news of the COVID exposure from one of our volunteers, it has been brought to our attention that one of our staff members has now also tested positive for COVID-19. We are no longer considering the visiting volunteer to have been the only source of COVID-19 infection as this staff member would have also been contagious throughout the week before the volunteer visited. We are working with contact tracing resources to learn more, but at this time we know this:

This staff member was asymptomatic and present at camp July 6th – 8th. They were not wearing a mask during the camp session. They have since reported experiencing flu-like symptoms starting Saturday and tested positive the same day for COVID-19 on an at-home BinaxNOW test. This staff member was housed in Woodside and in close proximity with these campers during the day and night, thus any campers who were in this cabin have an even greater risk for exposure than what was reported in our last notice. All campers, adults and staff present at DuBois Center week 6 camp have been exposed to COVID-19 and are considered to be CLOSE CONTACTS according to current federal and CDC guidelines. Other staff members in quarantine have reported developing worsening symptoms common to COVID-19 but have not yet had positive test results.

What we recommend:

- Test your camper now and self-isolate to prevent any further spread
- Tuesday, July 12th will be the first accurate day for testing
- Contact your County Health Department if you or your camper test positive or develop symptoms
- Notify DuBois Center if you or your camper test positive

False negative at-home tests are extremely common during the early stages of COVID-19. Rapid tests can give both false positives and false negatives. Your county health department or primary care provider can assist you in locating non-rapid PCR tests which are covered by most insurance and available in many counties for free or on a sliding scale for the uninsured. If your family is unable to access PCR testing due to insurance or financial issues, please contact us for assistance.

We highly recommend taking two PCR tests at least 36 hours apart, and both at least 5 days after initial exposure on separate days with Tuesday the 12th and Friday the 15th being optimal testing for the most accurate result.

We will continue to provide regular updates, as needed and appropriate, and will provide prompt notification of any additional COVID-19 diagnosis or other health-related concerns that require your attention. We hope that you will also reach out to us in the case that an illness is confirmed in your family. We observe HIPAA confidentiality and will not publicize any identifying information. This information will help us to track contact as we attempt to do some in-house contact tracing and work with the Washington County Health Department to contain the spread of this outbreak.

We hope that you contact us with any questions or concerns. If your child tests positive or develops respiratory symptoms, please call us at the Health and Safety department hotline 618-417-2654 and leave a message with the following information:

- Your name and camper's name
- Name of camp session
- Results of COVID-19 test (if taken)
- Anything else we should know

We are at a loss for how to express our regret. We are totally committed to transparency about our response, and to protect the privacy of all those involved. We have appreciated the patience and gratitude for our safety measures, and we have understood the frustration and anger. We are available to you throughout this crisis. Please stay in touch.

Sincerely,

DuBois Center Health and Safety Department:

Camp Nurse X-Ray and Safety Officer Bones

Corinne Weber and Ferris McEvoy

The Camp & Retreat Center of the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ

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