

Camp Peniel COVID-19 Protocols

The health and safety of your camper is our top priority. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, we think it is important that you understand our efforts to manage your campers health and safety so that you can make an informed choice. We are focused on taking all reasonable measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at Camp Peniel this summer.

We have strengthened our standard cleaning procedures, while adding increased frequency measures for things such as wiping down common touch points, dining hall areas, and activity equipment. Additionally, we have taken measures to monitor and address symptomatic campers by introducing a pre-camp health screener, daily temperature checks, and protocols to isolate, confirm, respond, and remove any camper or staff with suspected COVID-19.

This situation remains very fluid, and as such, we will adapt & adjust our protocols & procedures as we follow the guidance provided by the CDC and local health department, in our efforts to help keep our campers, staff, and families safe. Information in these protocols may be added to, retracted from, and/or revised if/when new information is shared.

Ultimately, the choice for your child to attend summer camp at Camp Peniel is a personal one. If you are uncomfortable with the risks of COVID-19 in a summer camp setting, having to travel to our location, or having your child interact with our staff and other campers, please contact us at camp as we have several options available to you.

In response, we've identified several commitments for the health and safety of your child we'll make this summer at Camp Peniel. If you have questions re: the health of your camper and/or the protocols listed below please feel free to contact our [Health Services Manager](#).

1. Prayer

Camp Peniel employs numerous layers of systems and protocols to ensure that our facilities, staff, and campers stay safe, clean, and healthy. However, **the most important thing we do as a ministry is spend countless hours praying in advance for every camper and staff who crosses our cattle guard.** Our prayer is that they experience an unforgettable summer of friendships, fun, and growing in their relationship with the Lord in a healthy and safe environment.

2. It's a Team Effort!

Camp Peniel is blessed to partner with an incredible medical team. This team works tirelessly to monitor and support camper health in our 24/7 Health Center. Additionally, our Camp Physician, Health Services Manager, and Medical Advisory Team informs and reviews our health protocols to help ensure we're providing the best possible care for our campers and staff.

3. Consistent Hand Sanitation

Our staff is trained to encourage every camper to use hand sanitizer each time they enter and exit a building. This simple system keeps campers and staff hands sanitized throughout the day. ALL campers and staff will wash their hands before entering the Lodge for meals as well as use hand sanitizer before entering and exiting the Lodge.

4. Keeping Separate

Camp's health center has isolation facilities for use in the unfortunate event that one or more campers contract an illness that might spread. Our health center team employs specific quarantine protocols at camp to ensure that illnesses are caught and contained quickly.

5. Let's Keep it Clean

Every cabin at Camp Peniel is rigorously cleaned daily by campers and staff according to our disinfectant protocol. This process is something we intentionally train our staff on, and one we oversee with daily checklists and accountability. Bathrooms are sanitized, floors are mopped, and surfaces disinfected. Additionally, each term change means we take the opportunity to perform a deep and intensive cabin sanitizing protocol.

6. Staff & Camper Training

Every camper and staff at Peniel is trained to keep their hands clean. For campers, we specifically cover good hygiene – including proper handwashing – during camper orientation on the first day of their term. Additionally, our staff is trained on Peniel's policies and standards for ensuring campers are taking advantage of the handwashing stations and hand sanitizer.

7. Let's Check the Temp

At camp we will utilize infrared thermometers to scan every incoming camper for fever. If a camper is found to have an elevated temperature, they are sensitively and lovingly guided to our 24/7 health center for further evaluation away from other campers and staff.

8. Partnering with Parents

We know that you want the best for your child, and we want them to have the best experience possible at Peniel. That's why any parent whose child has had a fever or illness within 72 hours of their term, is asked to contact our Health Services Manager to evaluate the best options for everyone's health and safety.

10. Lowering Health Risk

ALL participants – campers and staff – will monitor their temperature prior to their arrival at Camp Peniel. We'll be partnering with families and staff to identify anyone who has had relevant exposure, symptoms, or elevated temperature. We will not be allowing anyone into camp who is identified as posing a health risk to our campers and staff.

11. Limiting Exposure

We will be severely limiting access of non-program participants onto our property such as our families and vendors.

12. Daily Checks

Staff will keep campers safe by adhering to many new protocols including enhanced sanitation, daily temperature checks and more. Beyond daily staff and camper temperature checks, our summer staff will consistently monitor campers and frequently ask the question "How are you feeling?" Of course, this is Camp Peniel, so we will make it fun and friendly, but focused on health and safety!

13. No "Shared" Items

New procedures will prohibit campers from handling shared items. Our staff will distribute mealtime items so that campers are not handling each other's plates, utensils, etc.

14. Hand Touching

Staff and campers will practice social distancing such as no hand touching while praying or singing, no “high-fives”, or congregating closely for a celebration... These will be replaced with practices that support our stringent focus on health safety and sanitation.

15. Spread It Out

Throughout our program, including mealtimes, activities, and events, we are encouraging our campers and staff to ‘Spread it Out’ and follow good social distancing guidelines. To allow us to keep our campers’ distancing in check, we’ll be implementing mealtime changes, offering multiple, smaller activity groups, and generally looking for opportunities to reduce large group gatherings.

16. Testing

We will be testing any campers who present with suspected COVID-19 symptoms. We are monitoring possible guidelines that will be given for camps in TX and will thoroughly communicate with parents any testing requirements for campers and staff prior to their camp experience.

17. Rapid Response

In the event that an illness – including COVID-19 – presents at Camp Peniel, our protocol is structured to Isolate, Confirm, Respond, and Remove the impacted camper. Of course, we will be communicating closely with the camper’s family and handle any case with Peniel love and care.

18. Help From Home

We are partnering with our camp families to help keep campers safe by asking parents to contact our [Health Services Manager](#) if their camper has a fever or illness within 72 hours of their term. Additionally, parents will be asked to answer a robust screening questionnaire and inform us of any exposure that might be relevant.

19. Modified Drop-Off/Pick-Up Procedures

We will be modifying our drop-off and pick-up procedures to help prevent any unnecessary exposure and will thoroughly communicate with parents those modifications for campers and staff prior to their camp experience.

20. Activity Enhancements

We’re evaluating all of our activities and programs to determine opportunities to alter, enhance, or swap out to keep them in compliance with our many policies and protocols. Each activity will be subject to additional sanitation and hygiene protocols.

21. Resting Well & Healthy

Rested campers are healthy campers, so we’re revising our programs to spread out activities and allow campers and staff to rest and recharge. While they are resting, campers and staff bunks are being configured for Head to Toe arrangements to provide additional distancing.

22. Partnering with our Summer Staff

Our summer staff will be provided additional guidelines and expectations to help them reduce their exposure to the public and potential COVID-19 exposure. All summer staff will spend their nights off with restricted movement and will sleep in camp.

We have found that the CDC continues to maintain that COVID-19 generally presents with mild symptoms, and appears to occur more commonly in adults than children. In addition, the CDC has found that the age demographic Camp Peniel primarily serves (ages 5-17) has a very low percentage (<1%) of contacting COVID-19 and transmitting it to others. We have also seen the trend in TX of hospitalizations due to COVID-19 complications continue to decline.

For more information you can visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention webpages <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/children-faq.html>; https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/COVIDNet/COVID19_3.html; <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/covidview/index.html>

The primary guidance of the CDC continues to revolve around following best practices:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
 - Stay home when you are sick.
 - Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

You can find more information about COVID-19 and its signs and symptoms at websites for the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and [World Health Organization](#).