



MCC's program, as always, will aim to keep campers as safe and healthy as possible while still maintaining the essence of the camp experience with fun, outdoor adventure, social connections and relationship building, biblical lessons, and a quality summer program.

Because of how Merriwood is permitted, we will be following all of the **required** summer camp guidelines from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) as well as some of the **recommended** guidelines. Please see our current protocol below. This protocol is subject to change if/as NCDHHS guidance changes.

MCC's Summer Camp Protocol Concerning COVID-19 (updated 5/12/21):

- MCC is offering a Junior Day Camp option for rising 4th-rising 6th graders (in addition to the overnight option) this summer, for those feeling more comfortable with a day option this year.
- To minimize outside exposure, MCC's summer team will be primarily on site for 14 days of staff training, leading into the start of camp weeks.
- MCC encourages campers (if possible) to limit their exposure (beyond their household) for the 14 days leading up to their camp week. While we recognize this may not be entirely possible, those who are able to do so will minimize bringing germs to camp with them.
- All campers will be asked health screening questions and will have their temperature taken at arrival.
 - Day campers will undergo this health screening daily at arrival.
 - Overnight campers will have additional temperature checks daily, throughout the week.
 - [Click here to see health screening questions asked at arrival.](#)
- Arrival and Departure: In order to minimize exposure, arrival and departure will be drive-through for all day camp week. Overnight camp arrival times will be staggered in the gymnasium/chapel area with social distancing and masks. Overnight camper parents will be able to walk the camper to the cabin, meet the counselor outside, and leave the luggage there (but not enter the cabin). Pick-up for all weeks will be drive through.
- MCC will increase cleaning and sanitation, especially on heavily-used surfaces.
- MCC will encourage hand-washing frequently, as well as offer multiple hand-sanitizer stations.
- MCC will encourage social distancing as recommended by NCDHHS or as much as is reasonably possible.
- Face coverings will only be enforced in accordance with NCDHHS requirements. Masks are not required when with their cabin unit. While most of camp's activities take place outside, masks are currently required when indoors (like during chapels and during minimal indoor game times.) When outside, campers will maintain physical distance from those not in their cabin unit. Overnight campers should bring at least one mask per day. (Day campers should bring a back-up mask daily.)
- MCC staff will plate or serve food items to campers to cut down on contamination (rather than each camper serving themselves).
- MCC will reduce capacity in the dining hall and chapel area to allow for better social distancing.
- Campers will remain in cohorts throughout the day to limit contact and exposure to the entire camp body.
- MCC will follow CDC's social distancing guidelines for overnight campers' sleeping arrangements, which means heads will be 6' apart.
- If a camper becomes symptomatic, they will be isolated and parents will be contacted to pick up their child. Campers will be sent home if they have unexplained and/or ongoing headache, vomiting, or diarrhea; fever of 100.4 or above; loss of taste or smell, are feeling unwell; or are exhibiting symptoms that could be contagious.