



June 25, 2021

Dear Scouting Families:

The New York State Department of Health, which regulates summer camps, has informed us that all previously published rules regarding COVID-19 for children's camps in New York State have been rescinded. Unfortunately **NO** similar changes have occurred for New Jersey.

As a result, the previously discussed requirement for non-vaccinated individuals to arrive at Forestburg Scout Reservation with a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours will not be in force. However, the health departments have to continued to stress the value of vaccination for all those attending camp.

In addition, while camps have been permitted to discontinue all provisions for COVID-19, Monmouth Council feels that it is prudent to maintain some of the precautions associated with maintaining a healthy and consistent cohort of people in camp each week. Units will still screen their members for symptoms of illness prior to departure for camp and we will do the same with temperature checks upon arrival. Once in camp, Scouts and Scouters will need to remain on site during the week, except for emergencies, and we will do the same with the camp staff. No daily visitors will be permitted, although midweek changes in adult leadership are allowed, as needed.

For meals, we will continue dining in troop cohorts with distinct assigned mealtimes, distanced tables, windows open, fans on, and cleaning between groups. We will continue to spread out participants in merit badge classes and utilize a consistent "buddy" in those classes that require work with partners, like Lifesaving Merit Badge. Our very limited indoor programs, like those in the Tech Center, will require masks, regardless of vaccination status.

Regardless of changes in COVID-19 rules, the orders from the Sullivan County Department of Health regarding the prevention of Measles remain in force. All youth and adults coming to camp will need to provide written evidence of immunity to measles in one of four ways:

- 1) Documentation from a healthcare provider of at least one dose of MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine. High risk individuals, defined as school-age children, college students, international travels, or healthcare workers, must have documentation of two doses.
- 2) Laboratory evidence of immunity through a titer.
- 3) Laboratory confirmation of measles infection.
- 4) Born before 1957.

However unlikely, we ask that you notify us of any exposure to measles in the 21 days prior to arrival at camp. This is another requirement of the public health order.

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As noted in our earlier letter, we wish to comply, in good faith, with all measures required by law. With the repeal of these requirements, we have the ability to relax some of the most burdensome rules, while maintaining those that we believe best enhance the safety and health of our camp community during this unique season.

Thanks for your patience and we look forward to seeing you in camp soon.

Yours in Scouting,

*Michael P. Mahon*

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Scout Executive/CEO

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Council Health and Safety Chairman

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