



Camp Oasis 2023

Health & Safety FAQs

Overview:

The mission of Camp Oasis Crohn's & Colitis Foundation is to enrich the lives of children with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis by providing a safe and supportive camp community. To that end, the Foundation has reviewed the latest research and CDC guidelines and solicited insights from camp parents, volunteers, and staff to help inform its annual safety protocols. In collaboration with the Camp Oasis Medical Advisory Task Force, the Foundation has developed COVID-19 guidelines, outlined below, as the framework for hosting in-person sessions in 2023.

NOTE: The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation reserves the right to make policy changes, limit the number of campers allowed per site, and/or cancel a session should safety conditions, low registration, or proper staffing ratios warrant it.

FAQs:

Do these national guidelines apply to all Camp Oasis sessions?

All residential sessions must follow our COVID-19 safety guidelines. Additional precautions may be put in place if community spread is high and will be shared as appropriate.

What safety precautions are being implemented for residential camps in 2023?

- We strongly encourage all 2023 Camp Oasis applicants be [up to date on COVID-19](#) vaccinations.
- Anyone who exhibits symptoms or has a known exposure to COVID-19 within the 10 days prior to camp's start will be asked not to attend camp.
- As we do every year, the Foundation will conduct a health screening for all Camp Oasis campers, volunteers, and staff at check-in.
- The Foundation will be following the best available science and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines as we approach the summer camp season regarding testing protocols prior to and/or at camp. Protocols may include all campers, volunteers, staff, and visitors being tested at the time of arrival at their camp check-in site, as well as testing of symptomatic individuals. Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 will not be allowed to attend Camp Oasis or will be asked to leave camp.

How did you come to the decision to allow COVID-19 vaccination exemptions for in-person camps?

We have had ongoing discussions with the Medical Advisory Task Force of our National Camp Oasis Advisory Committee to review existing safety guidelines, scientific data, and insights from the Camp Oasis community. We have also reviewed and are in alignment with the latest protocols from the American Camp Association and the CDC's guidance for schools. Camp Oasis has traditionally allowed exemptions for other vaccines and immunizations. Ultimately, we have concluded that hosting in-person sessions and our virtual CampOasis@Home best serves our community this summer.

If we want to follow the recommendation to be vaccinated for COVID-19, how do I know which series of COVID-19 vaccinations meet CDC guidelines?

You can find [the current CDC recommendations on their website](#). The recommendations will be different depending on age, health status, and the amount of time since receiving the primary series of vaccination. People who are [immunocompromised](#) may need an additional dose as part of their primary vaccine series, [per the CDC guidelines](#).

To learn more, go to the [Foundation's website](#).

If a participant has been vaccinated for COVID-19, how do they add that to their health history?

You will be able to add the dates of vaccination in the immunization portion of the online application.

Will Camp Oasis be testing everyone for COVID-19 at arrival this year?

The Foundation will be following the best available science and CDC guidelines as we approach the summer camp season regarding testing protocols prior to and/or at camp. Protocols may include all campers, volunteers, staff, and visitors being tested at the time of arrival at their camp check-in site, as well as testing of symptomatic individuals. Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 will not be allowed to attend Camp Oasis or asked to leave camp.

What happens if someone becomes symptomatic at camp?

Individuals exhibiting symptoms or suspected of an exposure will be isolated and tested. If an individual has a positive rapid test, they will continue to isolate until they are able to leave camp. Parents are required to pick up their campers as soon as possible after notification as our camp isolation facilities will have a limited capacity.

If a counselor or camper tests positive during camp, what will happen to the rest of the cabin?

If someone tests positive for COVID-19, the rest of their cabin mates will also be tested. Those testing positive will need to leave camp. Those testing negative will be allowed to stay; however, additional precautions may be required.

Will wearing a mask be required?

At this time, masking will be not required in summer 2023. However, anyone feeling more comfortable wearing a mask at camp is encouraged to do so.

Will campers be allowed to socialize with other campers?

Camp will run on a traditional schedule with small activities being grouped by cabin or age, and larger activities attended by all cabins.

What is the cost of virtual camp – CampOasis@Home?

We will once again be offering our virtual Camp Oasis program free of charge.

What activities are available for CampOasis@Home?

We will continue to offer online sessions including camper favorites like cabin chats, arts & crafts, interactive games, Oasis Fest, and more. Campers will receive a camp-in-the-box with supplies, attend live sessions with awesome volunteers, and make new friends. Campers cannot register for both in-person camp and CampOasis@Home.

How do I apply for 2023 camp?

Registration for each in-person camp and CampOasis@Home virtual sessions will open on February 1, 2023. The 2023 application and more information about camp dates and sites can be found on our [Find a Camp webpage](#).

I have some specific questions – who should I contact?

For any questions, please contact camp@crohnscolitisfoundation.org

References

According to Surveillance Epidemiology of Coronavirus Under Research Exclusion (SECURE-IBD),

[Research published in *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology*](#) analyzed data from SECURE-IBD and the PORTO group of COVID-19 in pediatric IBD patients and found that **pediatric patients have very low risk of developing severe COVID-19**. During the course of its data collection, no pediatric deaths were reported due to COVID-19.

[COVID-19 Infections in Vaccinated Patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Outcomes and Risk Factors for Severe Disease.](#)“ was published online by *Inflammatory Bowel Diseases and Gastroenterology*. The study found that **fully-vaccinated patients with [inflammatory bowel disease](#) (IBD) are at a lower risk of severe [COVID-19](#) outcomes, hospitalizations, and death than their unvaccinated counterparts.**