

# Hitchcock Center for the Environment COVID-19 Program Participant Guidelines

(Updated 1/4/22)

Our programs are designed to be fun and engaging and above all **safe**. The COVID-19 program guidelines below are designed to help protect everyone as we meet the strict health and safety requirements of the CDC and our state. Please take the time to read the information below thoroughly. If you feel that you or your child(ren) cannot follow these guidelines, we ask that you wait until these restrictions have been lifted to join one of our programs or events. We may change our guidelines to reflect new guidance from CDC and Massachusetts.

- We strongly encourage vaccination for all eligible people.
- We will be following these [Mass Gov Guidelines](#).
  - If participant as had-
    - Close contact - Do not attend programs until receiving a negative test result on day 5 after exposure
    - A positive test - Do not attend programs until symptoms have been resolved and then strictly mask inside and outside for an additional 5 days after symptoms have resolved.
- If a participant (including vaccinated participants), has had a fever above 100 degrees or exhibits one or more symptoms indicating the possibility of COVID-19 infection they cannot attend our programs, and we request a negative COVID test before returning to our program.
- If a non-vaccinated participant or a non-vaccinated member of the participant's household has travelled out of state to a location that has a high infection rate within 14 days of a program date, they cannot attend our programs unless the participant provides a negative covid test from at least 5 days after their return. A high infection rate is a county with either very high, or extremely high risk ratings according to [COVID ACTNOW](#).
- Participants must complete a health-screening checklist, either verbally or written each day they attend a program. This includes questions about any household contacts with COVID-19 positive individuals or symptoms (e.g., fever, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath, loss of smell or taste, or diarrhea) they might be experiencing.
- If a child becomes sick while attending a program, the parent or caregiver will be notified immediately and asked to arrange for the child's pick up as soon as possible. If the participant is an adult, they will be asked to go home and seek medical advice.

## Mask Usage:

- Participants will be required to bring their own masks. If the participant does not have a mask, and it is a hardship to get one, please contact the Hitchcock Center so that we can make arrangements to provide one. If a mask becomes dirty or wet it should be replaced with a clean one as soon as possible.
- Indoors - Program participants will need to be masked at all times, except if eating in which case a minimum of 6ft of social distance will be required.
- Outdoors - In general, masks will not be required except in circumstances where social distancing is not possible, and the duration when social distancing is not possible is going to be more than 5 minutes.

## Cohorts:

All of our programs will be divided into Cohorts - which are groups of people that will stay

together to minimize exposure to other groups. During our programs we will use the following physical distancing protocols to reduce risk of exposure and limit the number of close contacts when someone is infected with COVID-19 for indoors and outdoors.

- Each Cohort will be assigned a different indoor classroom space to use to warm up and if there is extreme weather
- At least 6 feet between all participants outside of their cohort when stationary. As noted above, if the risk of COVID for the county is low, we may have some outdoor all camp activities with masks on.
- At least 6 feet while eating and drinking, or singing without masks, including among people within the same cohort.
- For field trips, we will have masks on and windows open, and will select locations within 20 minutes drive of the Center. To the extent possible, we will have spaces between campers.
- If we use public transportation everyone will be required to use masks.
- During our program we will not be sharing items that are difficult to clean. We will ensure that we have adequate supplies to minimize touching of high-touch materials such as art supplies or limit use of supplies and equipment to a cohort and clean between usage.
- If a participant or a member of the participant's household has been tested positive for COVID-19 within 10 days of attending a Hitchcock program, please contact Billy Spitzer, Executive Director ([billy@hitchcockcenter.org](mailto:billy@hitchcockcenter.org)) or Colleen Kelley, Education Director ([colleen@hitchcockcenter.org](mailto:colleen@hitchcockcenter.org)), or for summer camp Jeffrey Mazur, Camp Director ([jeff@hitchcockcenter.org](mailto:jeff@hitchcockcenter.org)).
- Hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use of hand sanitizer is required when beginning a program, prior to and after eating, after using the bathroom, as well as other times when advised. Participants will be asked to use hand sanitizer during times when hand-washing is not available and handwashing is advised. A Hitchcock Center staff member will provide hand sanitizer if the participant has not brought their own. Parents and caregivers of child participants are asked to give their child permission to use hand sanitizer when asked by a Hitchcock Center staff member.
- If you have a pre-existing health condition or are defined as an "at-risk" person by the CDC, we do not recommend you attend Hitchcock Center programs.
- All program participants are expected to bring their own snacks, food, water, sunblock, bug spray and proper attire including hats and footwear. The Hitchcock Center will not be providing any of these items to share. Our building is closed to the public other than for bathroom use. Our indoor water bottle refill station will be available to be used by camp.
- Non-essential visitors, who are not vaccinated, (including parents or other individuals with no essential purpose for coming onsite) will not be permitted.

**Thank you for taking these guidelines seriously.**

**We look forward to happier, healthier and more carefree times!!**