

Camp Northland

Camper and Staff Immunization Policy

Date: April 6, 2017

Date last reviewed: **April 5, 2017**

Background

Vaccines have saved the lives of more children than any other medical intervention in the past 50 years. The vaccination of all members of the camp community ranks as a key component in maintaining a safe environment and in decreasing the risk of transmission of contagious illness. The determination of mandatory immunization requirements is consistent with Ontario guidelines and based on current clinical guidelines for the best protection of the population against vaccine-preventable diseases. Mandatory immunization for school-aged children is legislated by the Ontario government (Immunizations of Schools Pupil Act).

These changes are being made to improve the health and safety of campers. The changes will help protect children and staff from vaccine-preventable diseases and reduce the risk of disease outbreaks. These changes also align the immunization requirements for camp with Ontario's publicly funded immunization schedule, which is based on current clinical guidelines for the best protection of the population against vaccine-preventable diseases.

Policy

Camp Northland requires that any member of the camp community in residence (camper or staff) receive up to date, age appropriate immunizations. The list of required immunizations is based on the most recent requirements mandated by the Province of Ontario for school aged children.

It is the responsibility of each resident at camp [and their families if under 18], to meet the immunization requirement. Disclosure on the health form or other records of failure to immunize does not exempt from this requirement except in accordance with the exemption policies as outlined below. If a camper or staff file is reviewed and identified by the Health Care staff that a camper or staff member has not been adequately immunized, the child or staff member will be sent home immediately or required to be picked up by the parent(s) at the camp's sole discretion. Staff and parents of campers will self-report the status of their immunizations on the Health Information Form submitted annually.

Exemptions from the mandated immunization requirements are allowed for (1) medical reasons (i.e., prior immunity or medical contraindication) or (2) based on an affidavit of conscience or religious belief. In these cases the following is required:

- A statement of medical exemption completed by a physician. Exemptions due to medical contraindication can be provided for any reason determined by the physician and can either be permanent or limited to a specified period of time. Evidence of immunity against measles, mumps, or rubella requires laboratory confirmation of immunity or infection. Evidence of immunity against varicella (chickenpox) requires either: a diagnosis or verification of a history of varicella or herpes zoster infection by a health care provider; or a laboratory confirmation of immunity or infection.
- A statement of conscience or religious belief must be sworn before a commissioner for taking affidavits in and for the courts in Ontario.

Without exception, and at the sole discretion of Camp Northland and its medical advisors, the camper or staff may be excluded from camp if there is an outbreak or immediate risk of outbreak of a designated disease in the camp where the required immunizations have not been received. Any cost for excluding the camper or staff will be paid for by the parents and a refund for the days missed will not be provided.

All staff or campers that have exemptions from immunizations, are not considered exempt until Camp Northland has reviewed the exemption documentation and indicated its acceptance of same. All approved exemptions will still be informed of the Camp Northland Policy.

References

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/docs/ispa_hcp_ga_en.pdf
accessed online on May 31, 2016.