



RESIDENTIAL SUMMER CAMP TESTING GUIDANCE

Michigan.gov/Coronavirus

Updated: June 10, 2021

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends residential summer camps institute a COVID-19 testing program. Along with other mitigation practices, like screening for symptoms and frequent cleaning, COVID-19 testing can be used as part of a comprehensive strategy for residential summer camps to operate more safely during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mitigation efforts can reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19; however, mitigation efforts will not eliminate COVID-19 risk. Camps, families, campers, local health departments, and communities should assess the risk versus benefit of participating in summer camps. Individual circumstances, including underlying health conditions that put participants or household contacts at increased risk of severe disease if they should contract COVID-19, should be considered before participating. The local characteristics of spread of the virus should also be considered.

A higher rate of vaccination among participants is the most effective way to reduce the risk of transmission at residential summer camps and may allow participants to engage in more activities more safely. MDHHS highly encourages eligible participants to complete their vaccination series (or single dose) at least two weeks prior to attending residential summer camps to maximize the risk reductions.

Recommended Residential Summer Camp COVID-19 Testing Options before Arrival to Camp

Option 1: PCR Test

Unvaccinated residential camp participants – including campers and staff – obtain a PCR test within 72 hours of arrival to camp.

- NOTE: PCR tests can take several days for test results to return. Before booking your appointment, ask the clinic how long their typical test result turn-around time is to ensure that results can be completed within the 72-hour timeframe.

Option 2: At-Home Antigen Tests

Unvaccinated residential camp participants – including campers and staff – get tested at home, within 24 hours of arrival at the camp. Follow the manufacturer instructions for testing.

- For example, for the Abbott BinaxNow test:
 - The at home kit contains two tests, the testing should be timed so that the second test is conducted within 24 hours of arrival to the camp. The first and second test should be administered 36 hours apart.
- For kits that are sold as a single at home test, MDHHS recommends taking that test within 24 hours of arrival to the camp.

At-home COVID-19 antigen tests do not require a CLIA waiver. At-home COVID-19 antigen tests may be disposed of with routine household waste as per the manufacturer's package insert.

General Notes

If a participant tests positive for COVID-19, they should remain at home to isolate. However, if a negative PCR test is obtained within 48 hours of the positive antigen test, and the individual remains asymptomatic, the antigen test may be considered a false positive and would not exclude the individual from attending camp.

If [fully vaccinated](#), a participant does not need to be tested before arrival to camp as long as they are not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If fully vaccinated

participants should bring COVID-19 vaccination documentation to be cleared by camp staff upon arrival, the Michigan Care Improvement Registry details how to request a copy of immunization records here:

[RequestCopyChildDependent_5.7.2021.pdf \(mcir.org\)](#).

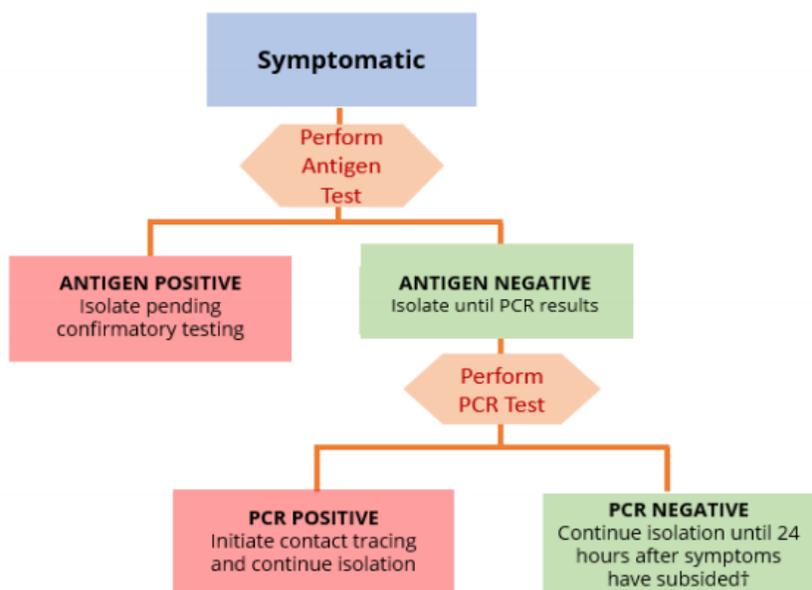
Recommended Residential Summer Camp COVID-19 Testing Protocol for Symptomatic Individuals

Any residential camp participant – attendees and staff – that displays COVID-19 symptoms at any time, regardless of vaccination status, should be tested and isolate in accordance with [CDC guidance](#).

Camps can choose to administer tests for symptomatic individuals on-site by administering antigen tests or at-home antigen tests. If a symptomatic individual tests positive via antigen or at-home test, that individual should not gather with other camp participants for the duration of their infectious period as determined by [current CDC guidance](#), unless that individual obtains a negative PCR test within 48 hours of the initial positive antigen test.

If a symptomatic individual has a negative antigen test, MDHHS recommends following up with a confirmatory PCR test. The individual should not gather with others unless a PCR result is negative AND until symptoms have resolved.

If a symptomatic individual tests positive via PCR test, that individual should not gather with other camp participants for the duration of their infectious period as determined by [current CDC guidance](#). PCR COVID-19 testing locations can be found at www.Michigan.gov/coronavirustest.



Any of the following symptoms:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

† At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **and** at least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication **and** other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving

Recommended Residential Summer Camp COVID-19 Testing Protocol for Staff who are Not Fully Vaccinated

Camps should consider implementing screening testing for staff who are not fully vaccinated when they return after spending time away from camp – for example, during days off. For individuals who are not fully vaccinated, screening testing can help to identify cases of COVID-19 and prevent secondary transmission.

Camps can also choose to implement weekly screening testing of staff who are not fully vaccinated and who may oversee multiple cohorts of campers over the summer to help identify those who might be asymptotically infected to prevent further transmission.

Tests results should be interpreted as outlined above.

How to Obtain COVID-19 Tests

1. You can find options for free COVID-19 PCR testing locations here: <https://www.solvehealth.com/search?cobrandedSrpLocation=MI>.
 - NOTE: PCR tests can take several days for test results to return. Before booking your appointment, ask the clinic how long their typical test result turn-around time is to ensure that results can be completed within the timeframe outlined above.

2. At-home Antigen Tests can be purchased at many local pharmacies and supermarkets.
 - Participants can purchase their own at-home tests and administer them according to manufacturer guidelines before arrival to camp, as outlined above.
3. Residential camps can purchase at-home Antigen tests and give them to their participants.
 - MDHHS is able to provide a limited number of antigen tests to summer camps. MDHHS will also provide training and rapid antigen testing materials to camps that qualify to receive these tests.
 - Camps interested in obtaining tests from MDHHS can make that request **here**.
 - Camps should follow manufacturer instructions found in package inserts when administering at-home tests.

Reporting Requirements for Antigen Tests

For residential camps that choose to implement antigen testing programs, please follow these guidelines for reporting:

- For the Ellume at-home test, participants should use the accompanying smart phone app to receive results and submit data about their tests.
- For the BinaxNOW at-home test, participants should report their test results to their camp for aggregate reporting to MDHHS.

Camps should utilize the MDHHS online reporting form to submit test results, which can be found [here](#).

For More Information

- [MDHHS Antigen Test FAQ](#)
- [CDC Guidance for Operating Youth and Summer Camps](#)