



## **Frequently Asked Questions: Inclusion**

- My child (participant) has had an Inclusion Aide in the past, will they get one this fall? How will this be determined?
  - COVID-19 has forced adjustments for the Inclusion Aide Request process.
    - If your participant did not complete an in-person specialized assessment with the Inclusion team for the summer session, that will be necessary to determine the participant's needs including needs requiring services that are affected by COVID-19 Guidelines recommended by the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH).
    - If your participant completed an in-person specialized assessment with the Inclusion Team for the summer session, a phone assessment only will be necessary to determine any updates to needs including needs requiring services that are affected by COVID-19 Guidelines recommended by CDPH.
      - Following physical (i.e. social) distancing guidelines of 3-6 feet distance from others.
      - Wearing a face covering (mask) indoors at all times, except when eating/drinking and outdoors when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
      - Being independent in the bathroom
      - Ability to stay with the group at all times including brief accommodations made with close contact support.
- Is it accurate that the Chicago Park District cannot provide an Inclusion Aide if my child/participant needs personal care such as toileting, changing, transferring, hygiene support, hand over hand assistance, hand holding, or elopement redirection?
  - This has been updated to reflect age groups that have access to the COVID-19 Vaccine.
    - Toileting remains paused for all ages
    - Feeding and hygiene support remain paused for ages 12 and younger
    - Changing, transferring, hand over hand assistance, hand holding and elopement redirection have resumed with a limitation of providing the services for a maximum of 15 minutes within an hour; if more support is needed and a modification is not possible, then the service remains paused.
- Is social distancing required?
  - All participants must be able to maintain a minimum of 3 feet of social distancing throughout the program. To protect participants and those they interact with, participants who cannot meet this expectation with a safe modification will have to pause participation until able to do so or the Guidelines are adjusted to not require physical distancing.
- Are face coverings (masks) required?
  - All participants and staff must wear a mask covering over their nose and mouth at all times indoors, except when eating or drinking and must wear a mask covering outdoors when a physical distance of a minimum of 3ft cannot be maintained. To protect participants and those they interact with, participants who cannot meet this expectation with a safe

modification will have to pause participation until able to do so or the Guidelines are adjusted to not require face coverings.

- If my participant has received the COVID-19 vaccination and I am comfortable with a staff being within 3 feet and assisting with prolonged close contact support, are the social distancing guidelines waived?
  - No, whether an individual has been vaccinated or not, the CDPH specify a minimum of 3 feet of social distance and face coverings at all times. Adjustments have been made to allow only for brief close contact support within 1 hour of a program regardless of vaccination status. The guidance states that it is still unclear if/how effective vaccines are in preventing COVID-19 from being passed from the vaccinated individual to others.
  
- Can you tell me if the staff working with my child is vaccinated?
  - Although the Chicago Park District strongly encourages all staff and participants to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, inoculation is not a requirement of employment and cannot be disclosed.
  
- How do we make sure participants are not attending a program with symptoms?
  - Participants should not come to program if they exhibit any symptoms of illness including but not limited to fever, runny nose, cough, sore throat, body aches, and nausea. Every participant entering the park will confirm each day that they are not experiencing any symptoms described above. Anyone who exhibits symptoms will be isolated with staff supervision and parent/guardian contacted to pick up participant. Participants exhibiting symptoms attributed to a noncontagious condition such as allergies will need to provide a Doctor's note stating such.
  
- My child (participant) needs close contact support for prolonged period of time and, therefore, is not eligible right now. What if the COVID-19 Guidelines change mid-session and my child is able to meet the updated guidelines. Can they attend program then?
  - We suggest registering your participant for program as soon registration opens and request to be added to the "waitlist". Should the guidelines change mid-session and there is space and resources available to add more participants, the waitlist will be contacted about opportunities.
  
- I registered on time and my child (participant) got into the program, knowing the safety guidelines in place, I requested an Inclusion Aide. Now what?
  - An Inclusion Administration staff member will reach out to you to schedule a COVID-19 Safety Specialized Assessment if not recently completed. The in-person Specialized Assessment must be completed ***within two weeks of registration***. A parent/guardian, the participant, and a staff member from the Inclusion Administration team will all need to be present.
  - If an Inclusion Aide is deemed necessary through the Assessment Process, Aides are placed on a first-come, first-serve basis. Families will be notified once an Aide is placed.

- I registered my participant over two weeks ago but have not heard from a member of the Inclusion Administration, what should I do?
  - Contact the Park Supervisor where the participant is registered to ensure that the necessary internal paperwork was submitted to the Inclusion Administration.
  - Contact the Inclusion Administration directly at [special.recreation@chicagoparkdistrict.com](mailto:special.recreation@chicagoparkdistrict.com)
  
- What if I think my child/participant can participate without an Inclusion Aide but I am not 100% certain?
  - Register as usual and request an Inclusion Aide. The Inclusion Administration Staff will communicate with you to set up the COVID-19 Safety Specialized Assessment. Based on the results, they will discuss next steps and recommendations with you.
  
- Can my child that usually has an Inclusion Aide for in person programs participate in virtual programs without one?
  - Yes!
  
- What happens if a participant becomes ill during camp?
  - A participant displaying symptoms of illness will be isolated from the group to ensure the safety of others, and an approved adult will be required to pick them up within 30 minutes of notification.

**Please note: we continue to watch for changes in COVID-19 guidelines and protocol updates, and will make adjustments accordingly.**