

COVID-19 and In-Person programming

The Chicago Park District in-person programming will be operated in accordance with the City of Chicago Phase IV Program guidelines as well as all other applicable guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH).

“POD” or Group Sizes

In accordance with the City’s Program guidelines, the Park District will operate youth in-person programming with participants in small groups, or “Pods.”

- Group(s) or “Pod(s)” will be limited to no more than 11 individuals
- Staff to participant ratio will be 1:9 for 6-12 year olds and 10:1 ratio for 3-5 year olds
- Multiple Pods may utilize the same facility as long as 30 feet of distance can be maintained between Pods, but outdoor programming will be prioritized
- Pod members will become stable cohorts that will remain together for the duration of the programming season without intermingling with other Pods and without new members being added

Social Distancing

In accordance with the City’s health guidelines, social interactions between all participants will be minimized. A distance of 6 feet will be maintained by the participants where possible; however, individuals within the same Pod may interact within 6 feet of distance in some circumstances, provided all participants are wearing a proper face covering. A distance of 30 feet will be maintained between pods.

Face Coverings/Masks

All participants and staff will be required to wear face coverings that cover both their nose and mouth at all times. Participants will need to bring their own face coverings that may be comfortably worn throughout their time at the Park. A limited number of additional face coverings will be available for participants and staff should their face coverings get lost or damaged.

Hygiene Requirements

The Park District will follow the CDC, IDPH, and CDPH hygiene guidance to promote a healthy environment for staff and participants. Participants and staff will be required to wash their hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer regularly.

COVID-19 Safety Captain

The Park District has implemented a Safety Captain program to promote the health and safety of those who use our parks. At each park the Park Supervisor is designated as "Safety Captain" and they have been trained in all proper safety protocols. Any COVID-19 inquiries should be directed to them.

Daily Drop Off/Pick Up

Each Park has been advised to modify their drop off and pick up procedures. One of the following options will be utilized at your Park, and modified based on the facility and the need of the community. The follow options include: Curbside, Outdoor and Indoor (inclement weather plan).

Self-Screening Checklist

Staff and participants are encouraged to self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 and stay home if they feel sick. Staff and participants should also stay home if they have been in close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the past 14 days.

Prior to entering the facility all staff, patrons and participants will be asked to Self-Screen (parents are responsible for self-screening child(ren) by asking themselves the following questions each day:

- Have you had a body temperature over 100 degrees Fahrenheit or have you used a fever reducer in the previous 24 hours to treat a body temperature over 100 degrees Fahrenheit?
- Do you have a new cough that you cannot attribute to another health condition?
- Do you have a new or worsening sore throat that you cannot attribute to another health condition?
- Do you have a new shortness of breath that you cannot attribute to another health condition?
- Have you recently developed a complete loss of smell or taste?

Illness-COVID-19 Specific

In the event that it has been reported that a confirmed case of COVID-19 park staff will do the following, immediately:

1. Staff will call Risk Management and document
2. Parent will be notified
3. Child will be separated from pod and taken to the park "Isolation Zone"
4. Area where child was will be cleaned and disinfected

Cleaning/Disinfecting

All Parks hosting in-person programming will have appropriate and increased cleaning and disinfecting plans in place, to ensure the utmost safety of each staff and participant. Cleaning and disinfecting plans have been created with guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC): Guidance for Administrators in Parks and Recreational Facilities, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/park-administrators.html>