



## **Frequently Asked Questions: Inclusion**

- My child (participant) has had an Inclusion Aide in the past, will they get one this summer? How will this be determined?
  - COVID-19 has forced adjustments for the Inclusion Aide Request process. At this time any Inclusion Aide request for in-person programming will require a specialized assessment for each participant that will determine a participant's independent abilities in programming related to safety guidelines recommended by the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) including:
    - Following physical (i.e. social) distancing guidelines of 6 feet distance from others
    - Wearing a face covering (mask) at all times, except when eating/drinking
    - Being independent with personal care (toileting, feeding, hygiene, etc.)
    - Ability to stay with the group at all times
    - Success in participation with verbal prompts rather than physical assistance
  
- 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?
  - Yes, this is accurate based on current COVID-19 safety guidelines stated by the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH).
  
- What types of support are still available, since an Inclusion Aide cannot provide personal care?
  - The support Inclusion Aides are able to provide during COVID-19 adjustments include: verbal cues and verbal support, adaptive equipment, visual supports including picture schedules, social stories, etc., specialized staff training, activity modifications, sensory support, and behavior management support (token systems, coping tools, etc.).
  
- Are face coverings (masks) required?
  - All campers and staff must wear a mask covering their nose and mouth at all times, except when eating or drinking. Parents and caregivers must wear a mask during drop off and pick up. To protect participants and those they interact with, participants who cannot meet this expectation will be removed from camp.
  
- Is social distancing required?
  - All campers must be able to maintain 6 feet of social distancing throughout the program. To protect participants and those they interact with, participants who cannot meet this expectation will be removed from camp.
  
- If my child has received the COVID-19 vaccination and I am comfortable with a staff being within 6 feet and assisting with personal care, are the social distancing guidelines waived?
  - No, whether an individual has been vaccinated or not, the CPHD specify 6 feet of social distance and face coverings at all times. 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 camp 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 personal care and, therefore, is not eligible right now. What if the COVID-19 Guidelines change mid-summer and my child is able to meet the updated guidelines. Can they attend camp then?
  - We suggest registering your participant for camp as soon registration opens and request to be added to the "waitlist". Should the guidelines change mid-summer and there is space and resources available to add more campers, the waitlist will be contacted about opportunities.
  
- I registered on time and my child (participant) got into camp, 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 that 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.
  
- 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 camp without one?
  - Yes!
  
- What happens if a participant becomes ill during camp?
  - A participant displaying symptoms of illness will be removed from the group, 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.**