

Enhanced Policies and Procedures due to COVID-19



PLEASE NOTE: As our understanding of COVID-19 and best practices changes, so might the information in this guide. We'll keep parents as up to date as possible with changes.

COVID-19 AND PROGRAMMING: In this guide, you'll find all the ways Frederick County Parks and Recreation is working to minimize the risk of COVID-19 exposure. However, it's important that participants, parents/guardians, staff, and friends realize that we cannot guarantee that there will be no exposure to COVID-19. As you'll read, we're moving all programs outdoors, screening participants and staff, cleaning and sanitizing more, and changing a lot of our policies to make sure the risk is as low as possible, but there's always a chance of exposure.

COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM: If you have questions about COVID-19 and programming, please contact our main office at 301-600-2936 or by email at parksandrecreation@frederickcountymd.gov.

HIGHER RISK: We recommend that higher-risk participants consult their medical provider to assess the risk before attending. For more information, on how to better protect high risk individuals from COVID-19 visit the [CDC Website](https://www.cdc.gov).

PROGRAM OFFERINGS: Please carefully review the information below. It is possible that our health and safety policies will change (either enhanced or relaxed) as new guidance from the Health Department and/or the CDC become available. Frederick County Parks and Recreation is committed to keeping our network informed and will issue updates to our policies as they develop.

INCLEMENT WEATHER: For a forecasted weather event including heavy rain, strong storm, and/or adverse heat conditions, a decision will be made on the status of the program by 7:00am each morning for programs beginning prior to 4:00pm and by 3:00pm each afternoon for programs beginning after to 4:00pm. In the event of questionable weather, please call our inclement weather phone line prior to leaving for the program at **301-600-6291 (option 2)**.

If there is an unforeseen and/or pop-up storm/emergency, participants and staff will seek shelter at a predetermined location. Parents will be notified via phone call if early pickup is required.

For any cancelled day(s) of a program that cannot be rescheduled, participants will receive a pro-rated refund for the number of day(s) missed.

Before Programs Start

REFUND POLICY: In light of COVID-19, we have revised our refund policy for spring 2021. If a participant is unable to continue in a program due to illness or exposure related to Covid-19, they will receive a credit that is pro-rated based on the number of days that is missed of said program(s). The participant may request a refund of the credit via email at parsandrecreation@frederickcountymd.gov or by calling the Central Office at 301-600-2936.

HOME HEALTH SCREENING: Prior to drop-off, we request that participants screen for symptoms of Coronavirus on a daily basis. A full list of symptoms can be found [here on the CDC website](#). If a participant is exhibiting symptoms or has been in close contact with someone that has COVID-19 (or is displaying symptoms), they will be advised to [home isolate](#) and may return to our programs after 10 days of having no symptoms.

WHAT TO BRING: Each participant will need to bring a mask, labeled water bottle, and any program-specific materials. A welcome email will be sent out prior to that start of the program with program-specific information about what a participant should bring.

WHAT NOT TO BRING: In consideration of the health and safety of our staff and participants, we are asking that participants leave personal items at home. Examples of personal items include: toys including but not limited to stuffed animals, action figures, Pokémon cards, tablets or electronics, etc.



Arriving at Programs

CHECK IN PROCEDURES: We have changed our check-in procedure to allow for adequate physical distancing. All participants will receive a welcome email with their “pod” assignment. Please let us know if you plan on carpooling so that we can ensure your children are in the same group. To accommodate our revised check-in procedure, we ask that you adhere to the drop-off and pick-up times included in your welcome email.

PARENTS/AUTHORIZED ADULTS WILL NEED TO STAY IN THEIR CAR. Upon entrance to the park, you will be greeted by a staff member. Participants should come to programs in face coverings. You will be asked if you or your child has shown symptoms of COVID-19 or has been exposed to COVID-19 in the past 10 days. Your or your child’s temperature will be checked. Participants who have a temperature above 100.4, or have confirmed “yes” responses to the pre-screening questions will not be admitted into the program. Participants must be fever-free for at least 3 days before they can return to the program with a doctor’s note. If the fever is a result of COVID-19, participants cannot return to the program for 10 days.

Parents/guardians are not allowed in the program area, unless otherwise noted in the program description or in the welcome email. Parents/guardians who would like to stay at the park during the program will have to stay in their car or enjoy another area of the park away from the program area.

Program Day

Our modified program will adhere to the following guidance:

- Participants will remain in stable “pods” of 6-12 participants (“stable” means that the same group of participants are in the group each day). Participants will not change from one group to another. Each group will participate in activities in separate distanced locations, and groups will not mix with each other. Children from the same household will always be grouped together.
- Staff will be stable and remain with one group of participants.
- Staff will self-screen at home for symptoms and participate in temperature checks daily.
- Staff and participants will practice 6-foot physical distancing as much as possible.
- Staff are required to wear face coverings at all times.
- All participants over the age of 5 will be required to wear face coverings all at times unless it is deemed as unsafe or while swimming or engaging in other physical activities where the use of a face covering is likely to pose a bona fide safety risk. Please use the CDC’s guidelines for [cloth face coverings](#) as a resource in your decision making.
- Staff and participants will wash hands with soap and water, or use alcohol based hand sanitizer before and after eating, drinking, touching eyes/nose/mouth, toileting, and any time there is any physical contact with materials (i.e. sports equipment, craft materials, shared spaces).
- High-contact areas and surfaces (i.e. counters, sports equipment, telephones, doorknobs, etc.) will be cleaned and disinfected frequently.

POSSIBLE EXPOSURE: Administration will implement risk assessment strategies and communicate quickly and openly to parents in the event of any suspected or confirmed exposure to COVID-19. In the situation of a confirmed positive COVID-19 case we will contact local health officials and follow their guidance on next steps.

We hope this guide has been helpful! If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact our main office at parksandrecreation@frederickcountymd.gov. Thank you for your support! - Frederick County Parks and Recreation