



C.Y.O. Summer Camps 2009

Communicable Infections and Diseases Update (including Influenza A Novel H1N1 Virus)

How do we plan for health care of campers and staff?

Camp Brébeuf is committed to ensuring and nurturing a safe and healthy environment for campers and staff. Camp provides an amazing and life changing experience of living in outdoors in community, however these factors (close living, time outdoors, busy days) also can increase risk of spreading communicable infections and diseases.

Camp Brébeuf has been an accredited member of the Ontario Camps Association since 1964; the association maintains a rigorous set of standards related to all aspects of camping operations, including health care. Camp Brébeuf was most recently re-accredited by the association's standards committee in 2008 after a peer-conducted review of all our programs and operations.

The health care standards member camps agree to follow can be found at the association's website as can other information about summer camps in Ontario.

<http://www.ontariocamps.ca/about/standards.html>

These healthcare standards encourage cooperation with applicable provincial and regional public health directives, which we follow. These guidelines and other information about Novel H1N1 Influenza virus can be found at the Ontario government's website listed below.

We also follow other relevant health guidelines, such as recent directives from the Diocese of Hamilton related to communicable diseases and the celebration of the Eucharist.

What is Novel H1N1 Influenza virus?

The novel H1N1 influenza virus has rapidly spread across the world. In Ontario, the majority of confirmed cases of the novel strain have been reported in healthy young adults.

While influenza activity would normally be expected to wane during summer months, the novel H1N1 influenza virus strain has not and surveillance data suggest that community spread has continued. Thus, unusual levels of influenza activity may be expected in the upcoming summer months.

More details are available at

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/emu/health_notices/summer_camps/sc_guidelines_20090626.pdf

What guidelines apply to Camp Brébeuf? How is the camp following them?

Some of the relevant Ontario Camping Association Standards

(note: OCA standards are written in the form of questions to which member camps must respond affirmatively or provide an acceptable reason for not meeting the standard)

Are written procedures and equipment available for all campers and staff to prevent spread of infections?

Yes! We have a written health care objectives, directions from our camp physician and adequate health supplies (gloves, soap, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, masks etc) to respond to and prevent infections.

Does the camp have a health record giving the camper's and staff's health history, health care needs and limits of his/her participation?

Yes! All campers complete a detailed medical history which documents significant illness, immunizations etc prior to enrolling in camp, and families are required to notify the camp in writing if their child has been in contact with a communicable disease within three weeks prior to arrival at camp.

Is there a procedure for the early identification of health issues?

Yes! All campers complete a health assessments and brief screening procedures at registration. We ask for an update on camper's current health including any communicable conditions (head lice, flu, pink eye etc). Campers with communicable conditions are not permitted to continue registration. Depending on the condition, they may go home, seek treatment and return to camp as appropriate or register in another week if space is available. Throughout the week camp staff monitor camper health daily and respond as necessary.

Some of the other guidelines issued to Ontario summer camps by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care that we are following at Camp Brébeuf

(note full list of recommendations are available at the Ontario website listed above).

Alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) with 60-90% alcohol, or facilities for hand washing (running water, supply of soap in a dispenser and paper towels) should be located at multiple sites around the camp

Campers should be distanced approximately an arm's length away from one another while sleeping, and placed head-to-foot in bunk beds. The head to foot orientation also applies in the tents.

Every camp should have a designated area or health care centre, which allows a sick person to be isolated from other campers. The designated health care centre must have supplies such as surgical masks and disinfectants to ensure IPAC practices can be followed.

Routine screening of campers should be done at the point where they are dropped off or enter

camp. If the child has H1N1 symptoms, they should be sent home with their parent/guardian at this point before exposing any other campers. Staff should monitor campers for symptoms of H1N1 on a regular basis.

At a minimum, campers and staff should be performing hand hygiene after coughing and sneezing into their hands, before communal activities, after using the bathroom and before preparing or eating food

Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces that are commonly touched by multiple campers/staff such as doorknobs, faucet handles to prevent the transmission of viruses from person to person through contaminated hands. Regular disinfectants are sufficient for this purpose.

Campers/staff who begin to show symptoms of H1N1 while at camp should be separated from other campers/staff as quickly as possible.

Ill campers may be sent home depending on the severity of the illness, the remoteness of the camp location, the duration of the camp, and at the discretion of camp health care staff and parents.

If a camp has several campers/staff ill due to H1N1, public health should be consulted to assist with laboratory testing and to advise on control measures. Public health should be notified of any outbreaks, and may be consulted for advice at any time.

Applicable directives being observed in the Diocese of Hamilton related to the celebration of the Eucharist until further notice.

Campers are advised to refrain from shaking hands during the sign of peace. Bow or say "Peace be with you" to fellow campers and staff.

Extraordinary ministers should receive communion only in the hand, not the cup.

Communion will be distributed only in the hand.