

June 2025

Dear Children's Camp Operator:



HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT

Welcome to camp season of 2025! In addition to the communication sent by the NYSDOH Environmental Health District Office, I am reaching out regarding topics this Local Health Department is most likely to work with you on over this summer. Our staff may join Field Staff for pre-operation visits or may reach out for meet and greet opportunities with your camps. This will allow us to cover topics and forms covered in this letter in person and more completely.

### ILL CAMPERS

NYSDOH sent a letter to camps dated April 15, 2025 about the increase of Vaccine-Preventable-Diseases in the United States over the last few years. Most notably, as of May 29, 2025 the CDC reported 1,088 confirmed cases of measles in the US.

As camps welcome campers from across states, the US and the world, please remember that NYS Sanitary Code requires camps to maintain immunization records for all campers and should also maintain complete immunization records for all camp staff. This facilitates a quick public health response in any instances of suspected or confirmed vaccine-preventable diseases.

Please find that letter including important vaccination recommendations for staff and campers here:

Vaccine Preventable Diseases Camp Letter 4-15-2025

If you suspect any acute illness, please institute your isolation protocol and notify us immediately (within 24 hours) once you have **2 or more sick camp-community members**. Guidance and forms you are likely to use include:

[Communicable Disease Reporting Requirements](#)

[Outbreak Procedures at Camps](#)

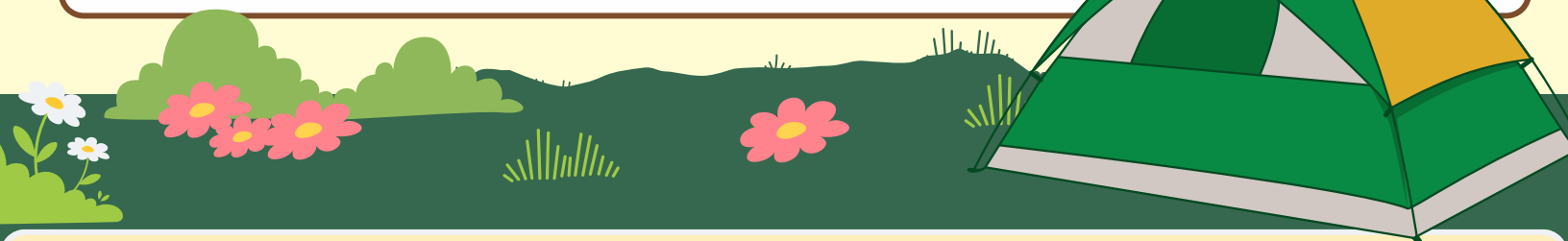
[Outbreak Report to DOH](#)

[Outbreak Line List](#) - Send an updated outbreak line list daily if/when an active outbreak occurs

We will collaborate with you on each unique situation to determine if a person-to-person, water or food-borne illness is cause for the outbreak. Because we know it can be difficult to get campers to healthcare for testing we are increasing our efforts to support your smooth operations. We will:

- \* provide specimen collection kits;
- \* submit specimens for testing;
- \* provide templates to notify parents and/or camp families;
- \* work with camp health and administrative leaders on mitigation strategies.

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## **MEASLES**

NYSDOH is emphasizing awareness of Measles for camps in 2025 given cases in 2025 have already surpassed those confirmed in 2024 including 2 pediatric & 1 adult death. The following attachments and link below provide more information.

[Measles Reference Guide for Camp Operators](#)

[Measles Fact Sheet](#)

[Measles\\_Recognizing Measles](#)

[Measles\\_Prevent the Spread of Measles in Summer Camps](#)

More information about measles for camp health and administrative leaders is available here: <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/measles/>

It is recommended that all children receive 2 doses of the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) Vaccine. Knowing staff and camper vaccination status can help if illness occurs at camp.

## **EPI-PENS**

Our Department often fields calls about Epi-pen protocols. Please find the helpful policy guidance from the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and as available from the NYSDOH Children's Camps Operators website.

[Epinephrine Auto-Injector Guidance](#)

## **HEAT RISK DASHBOARD**

Heat injuries can be more of a problem for those most vulnerable such as those very young or old, an individual's general health and one's access to or cooling relief during extended periods of heat such as air conditioning. The link below provides a dashboard with risk injuries on a scale of 0-5, who is at risk & what to do. [https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/environmental/heat\\_dashboard/](https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/environmental/heat_dashboard/)

## **PREVENTING TICK BITES**

Diseases caused through tick bites, including Lyme, Babesiosis and Anaplasmosis, continue to rise in Essex County. The greatest risk of tick bites is in the Champlain Valley. Applying bug spray and other repellants and encouraging campers and staff to perform daily tick checks (and removal) is paramount for preventing tick-borne diseases. The attached posters are handy to post around camp:

[Tick Check\\_Ten Count Children](#)

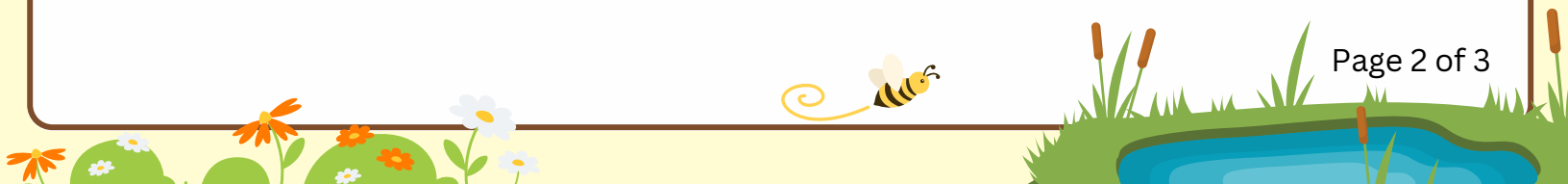
[Tick Check\\_Ten Count Teens](#)



## **HARMFUL ALGAE BLOOMS (BLUE-GREEN ALGAE)**

Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs) might arise with increases in temperatures and most especially where water is still or flows less. Be sure not to wade, swim, fish or boat in water with blooms. Water with HABs may contain bacteria, parasites, or viruses that could cause illness if consumed. Learn more and kindly report HABs. <https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/bluegreenalgae/>

[BlueGreenAlgae Brochure](#)



## PREVENTING RABIES EXPOSURES

Please remind counselors, campers and staff that it is important to avoid encounters with wildlife.

In 2025 to date there has been 1 raccoon that tested positive for rabies. In 2024 there were 3 raccoon, 2 skunk and 1 woodchuck that tested positive for rabies. But did you know – most *potential exposures* to rabies at camps is due to bats? It's true. Bats love to nest in cabins and buildings just like our summer campers!

Please safely capture bats at your camp. We will work with you to submit for testing and rule-out rabies. The guidance and forms you may use for bat scenarios & exposure reporting include:

[Batproofing in Children's Camps](#)

[Guidelines for Management of Bat-Related Incidents at Camps](#)

[Bat Capture Kit for Children's camps](#)

[Potential Rabies Exposure Report](#)



## **NYSDOH CHILDREN'S CAMPS WEBSITE**

**for Children's Camps Directors, Administrators and Infirmary staff.**

**Regulations, Required Certifications, Safety Plan Templates, Fact Sheets, Forms and so much more is here.**

### **Essex County Health Department Camp Team**

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This letter and all forms available on our [WEBSITE](#)

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