

## **Preparing to Reopen Community of Christ Campgrounds** Effective April 1, 2021 until further notice

Use of Community of Christ campgrounds by Community of Christ groups and other groups will follow the same criteria as Preparing to Reopen In-person Congregation Gatherings. The criteria are outlined below:

### **Criteria for reopening campgrounds for in-person gatherings**

- a. Campgrounds and camps must comply with local government guidelines that stipulate how and when religious organizations can meet in-person. The decision for a campground to begin in-person gatherings must include consultation with the mission center president and field apostle to ensure the well-being of all participants and the community. Note: This includes monitoring data that suggest when a campground must be closed again for a changing risk to the members and community.
- b. A sustainable decline in COVID-19 cases has occurred for three (3) weeks or as recommended by the local government, and the new infection rate in the county or counties served by the campground must be below 10 per 100,000 population on a seven-day moving average at <https://globalepidemics.org/key-metrics-for-covid-suppression/> (see counties).
- c. Testing for COVID-19 is available locally.
- d. Local hospitals are not overloaded with COVID-19 patients and can provide treatment for all patients and health conditions needing hospital care.
- e. Masks (over the age of 2) are required in order to participate in gatherings. Additional personal protective equipment (gloves, sanitizer) should be made available for use as needed during group gatherings.

### **Principles upheld during the COVID-19 pandemic and for reopening campgrounds**

1. The church's response should emphasize "protecting the most vulnerable" (Doctrine and Covenants 164:6a) in our congregations, cities, towns, and villages. This includes our senior members and those already affected by other health challenges.
2. The church's actions should emphasize preventative strategies to keep COVID-19 from spreading. Beyond managing risk, we are trying to be good world citizens, taking the lead on implementing solutions and not adding to the problem.
3. Primary prevention strategies are the use of masks and "social (physical) distancing." This requires wearing masks (over the age of 2) and maintaining a minimum separation of six (6) feet, or two (2) metres, and limiting the size of gatherings as prescribed by the local government.
4. The church, as a part of society, should comply with local government guidelines to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
5. Campground leaders need to consult with their mission center president and field apostle in making decisions for reopening based on the criteria for reopening above.
6. Church leaders should proceed cautiously and make responsible choices that emphasize the well-being of individuals, camp participants, and their communities in which

members and friends live. Patience and restraint now may reduce suffering and death for some later.

7. People should not be pressured to attend in-person gatherings during the pandemic, and attendance at in-person gatherings never should be presented as a “test of faith” or measure of commitment. Concerned people should be encouraged to do what is best, given their personal situation and risk factors.
8. Campgrounds and program directors should consider the best combination of in-person and online ministries to move forward.
9. If a conflict exists between local requirements and guidance in this document, the most restrictive requirements should be followed.
10. The mission center president should consult with the supervising apostle if there are questions or requested exceptions to these guidelines.

### **Guidelines for Reopening Community of Christ Campgrounds**

Once the criteria above are met, Community of Christ will follow the American Camp Association (ACA) Field Guide for Camps on Implementation of CDC Guidance. Campgrounds should not reopen unless they can meet the guidelines outlined in the field guide and meet all the requirements outlined in the Suggestions for Youth Programs and Camps: Readiness and Planning Tool. Infection rates in the county where the campground is located and counties serviced by the campground should be monitored to determine if conditions remain safe for campground use.

Mission center presidents in consultation with campground board chairs will determine if there are individuals with the expertise required to consistently apply the Field Guide and Readiness and Planning Tool guidance. When there are questions about the ability of a particular group or campground staff to provide a safe in-person camping experience, principles #1 and #2 above should inform our decisions. Questions about application of these guidelines can be directed to the field apostle.

Groups outside Community of Christ are expected to follow the ACA guidance and provide staff to fulfill the guidelines when those staff are not provided by the campground. Current COVID-19 Campground Use Event Template should be utilized for groups outside Community of Christ using our campgrounds during the pandemic.