

Camp Policies and Procedures Regarding the H1N1 Flu Virus

At the South Mountain YMCA, the safety and well-being of our members, program participants and staff is a top priority. We are closely monitoring information about the H1N1 (swine) flu from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and our local health and human services agencies. We take this matter very seriously. We have put in place the following safeguards designed and recommended by the CDC to protect our campers and staff:

1. All camp staff will promote cough and sneeze hygiene among our staff and campers, i.e. sneezing into your elbow or a tissue.
2. All camp staff will promote and encourage frequent hand washing to prevent the spread of germs. Campers will be asked to wash their hands after bathroom use, prior to eating and after sneezing or coughing. Alcohol based hand sanitizer dispensers will be strategically placed throughout the camp site for use when soap and water is not immediately available.
3. Parents are required to keep their children at home and away from camp if their child develops these symptoms at home. In this case the children are required to be kept at home for 7 days before returning to camp. To help in determining whether your camper has flu like symptoms and what action to take the following checklist may be helpful to parents:

ASSESSING THE HEALTH STATUS OF YOUR CAMPER.

Does your child have:

1. Fever of 100°F or Greater? Yes No
2. Sore throat? Yes No
3. Cough? Yes No

If you checked "yes" for fever AND one or two of the other symptoms, keep your child at home because of an influenza-like illness. Call our office to discuss program participation options. Current recommendation is that children remain home for seven days after symptoms start, even if the child is no longer ill. If your child is still sick after seven days, keep your child at home until well for 24 hours. If you have questions about your child's health or symptoms, call your child's healthcare provider.

If your child has been diagnosed by a healthcare provider with a different disease – such as strep – follow your healthcare provider's recommendation. This questionnaire is based on information from CDC, WHO, and several State Departments of Health as of 26 May 2009.

We will continue to monitor new developments from the CDC and the NJ Department of Health and we will remain very proactive by following the aforementioned policies and procedures. We hope that parents can partner with us to help prevent and reduce the incidence of flu at camp by making sure their child practices effective hand-washing and cough/sneeze behaviors at home. Should you have any further questions don't hesitate to contact your camp director.