



## PARD ON-SITE PROGRAMMING PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES COVID-19 EVENTS

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) will offer modified youth out-of-school-time programming in accordance with the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Austin Public Health (APH), The American Camp Association (ACA) and State guidelines for operating youth programs and services to assist in protecting participants and families from COVID-19.

This document covers COVID-19 modifications to the existing PARD Youth Programs Parent Handbook. Please review the Youth Programs Parent Handbook for more detailed information regarding PARD program responsibilities and guidelines.

Please note program guidelines and participation requirements are subject to change at any time based on local health conditions and guidance as provided by local health authorities. Any changes to program guidelines and participation requirements will be communicated appropriately. Furthermore, program schedules may be **changed or cancelled** at any time based on the business need of the City of Austin/PARD or public health safety concerns.

### RISK FOR EXPOSURE

While PARD will take necessary precautions and follow approved guidelines in accordance with the CDC and state/local health authorities, this cannot fully eliminate the inherent risks of exposure to COVID-19 that are associated with being around other individuals who are outside one's household. The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages. While the risk of serious illness or loss of life is greatest in those 65 years of age or older with pre-existing health conditions, persons in every age group can become infected with COVID-19 and some may become seriously ill or even die. By participating in PARD programs you understand this risk and agree to follow all safety and wellness guidelines as outlined by the Department.

### MODIFIED PROGRAMMING AND SCHEDULE

Modified youth out-of-school-time programming will include indoor and outside activities, physical activities, arts and crafts, games, nature education and various other fun activities. Physical activities will include, but not be limited to, running, jumping, changing directions quickly, throwing, catching and climbing activities. Please note the need for program modification on the registration waiver so that PARD-Inclusion Services can be notified.

Per the guidelines of Austin Public Health, CDC and both local and state authorities, all participants will be required to thoroughly sanitize or wash their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds prior to entering program areas. Participants will be required to wash/sanitize their hands frequently throughout the day as well as prior to eating, after visiting the restroom, after returning indoors from playing outside, and following any exposure to respiratory droplets such as coughing or sneezing. Physical distancing (6 ft.) will also be required of all participants throughout the program. Participants will be placed in a pod and stay with an assigned group throughout the program. Pods and their assigned staff will not be mixed throughout the day.

## BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

PARD reserves the right to remove any participant from a program or facility without warning when it is determined that the participant's behavior poses a direct threat to other participants, themselves and/or staff. Practicing and maintaining social distance and good hygiene is an expected behavior and any disregard or inability to follow may result in removal from the program. In accordance with our modified program and participation guidelines, PARD has adopted eligibility requirements necessary for participation. Please read the section below titled Essential Eligibility Requirements for more information.

## REGISTRATION WAIVERS

It is imperative that parents/guardians fully complete the program registration/waiver form for each participant and include any medical conditions that will impact participation in the program. To ensure safety of the participant, please provide notification of any modification that the participant may require under the Americans with Disability Act (ADA).

## PRESCREENING PRIOR TO PARTICIPATION

### ALL ON-SITE PROGRAMS

- If you have someone at home who is considered high risk (heart condition, elderly, lung issues, etc.) consider the risk prior to participating.
- Parents/guardians must answer general COVID-19 Health Questions each day to satisfy admission into the program. If the answer to any of these questions is "yes", you and/or your child(ren) will not be able to participate.
- All program participants must wash/sanitize hands at a designated station(s) upon entering the program area or facility each day.
- All program participants must practice social distancing and good hygiene while participating in the program.
- All program participants should bring their own meals and a reusable water bottles. Some sites may provide meals through the Central Texas Food Bank. Please check with the program location for more information on the meals program.

### INDOOR YOUTH PROGRAMS

- Parents/guardians are encouraged to pick up and drop off youth participants outside of the facility in order to limit the number of individuals coming inside the facility. Entry will be granted when requested. Youth program participants will be escorted into the facility by PARD staff.
- All youth programming participants will have their temperature checked prior to entering the facility. **Should a participant's temperature exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit, they will not be permitted to attend that day.**

## ILLNESS WITHIN THE PROGRAM

Any participant who is sick, has a positive confirmed case of COVID-19, or showing signs of sickness such as a fever, cough, or shortness of breath, should stay home and not attend programming. Individuals experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should contact their health care provider for immediate assistance. All positive confirmed cases of COVID-19 should be reported to PARD program staff immediately.

Should a participant start to feel ill, or begin to show symptoms of COVID-19 during PARD programming, the following steps will be taken:

- Participant will immediately be separated from the group and moved to a designated isolated area away from others.
- Parents/Guardians will be contacted immediately and asked to pick up the ill individual.
- All individuals will be provided additional contact information for assistance with health monitoring and access to COVID-19 testing.

If a participant has symptoms of COVID-19, or is a close contact of someone with COVID-19, they may be permitted to return to PARD programming only when the following conditions are met:

- If the participant has had a fever, cough, or shortness of breath and has not been around anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, they should stay home and away from others until 24 hours after the fever is gone and symptoms resolved. If symptoms worsen during that time, contact your healthcare provider to determine if they should be tested for COVID-19.
- If a participant is diagnosed with COVID-19, they must remain out of the facility for a minimum of ten (10) days after the onset of first symptoms. The participant may return under the following conditions:
  - If they had a fever, 24 hours fever free without the use of fever-reducing medication **AND** they see an improvement in their initial symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath); **AND**
  - Ten (10) days after symptom onset.
- If a participant believes they have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 but are not currently sick or showing symptoms, they should monitor their health for fever, cough or shortness of breath during the 14 days after they last had contact with the sick person with COVID-19. Public gatherings, such as camps and participation in programs, should be avoided for 14 days.
- If a positive case is reported within a program, any individual deemed to be a close contact will be **required** to quarantine from all PARD programs for 10 days.
  - PARD will provide a letter to all parents upon becoming aware of an active case, outlining whether their child is believed to be a close contact or not.
  - A close contact is defined as any individual who was within 6 ft. of an infected person for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
  - Fully vaccinated individuals will not be required to quarantine, only monitor for symptoms.
  - Those who do not show symptoms can return early (7 days minimum) if they receive a doctor's note stating they do not have COVID-19 or receive a negative test result from a PCR test no less than five (5) days after initial exposure.

## MASKING

- In response to the [Mayor's Order](#) issued on August 11, 2021, all youth program participants over the age of two (2) are **required** to wear a cloth face covering (mask) during program hours and while on or in City property, unless otherwise exempted. Face coverings should be provided by the parent/guardian. All PARD staff will be **required** to wear a cloth face covering (mask), as well as any parent/guardian picking up or dropping off participants.
  - Face coverings should not be placed on:
    - Children younger than 2 years old.
    - Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious.
    - Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance.
    - A child with a significant behavioral or psychological issue undergoing treatment that is exacerbated specifically by a face covering.
    - A child with severe autism or with extreme developmental delay who may become agitated or anxious wearing a mask.
    - A child with a facial deformity that causes airway obstruction.
    - Anyone participating in activities where the mask could get wet, like swimming or water play.

## TRANSPORTATION

- All youth programs providing transportation in City vehicles will **require** individuals to wear a mask inside the vehicle, at all times, regardless of vaccination status.
- Vehicles transporting youth will be limited to no more than 12 individuals inside the vehicle at one time; **equivalent to a maximum of 10 participants and 2 staff.**

## CONFIRMED POSITIVE CASE WITHIN A PROGRAM

PARD staff will follow guidelines set forth by the CDC, APH, local and state authorities. If a COVID-19 exposure or risk occurs in any of our programs, health authorities will be notified and PARD will follow their directives which may include cancellation of programs and closing the facility immediately for deep cleaning, quarantine of staff and participants in their own homes and other steps as required. Once PARD receives confirmation of a confirmed COVID-19 exposure, all parents/guardians in the program will be notified.

## ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with our modified program and participation guidelines, the following participant eligibility requirements are in effect for all Austin Parks & Recreation Department (PARD) youth programs and services.

All individuals must be able to:

- Maintain a safe social distance from Austin Parks and Recreation staff, volunteers, other participants, members of the general public, etc.
- In accordance with local orders, wear a face covering/mask, except while eating, drinking, during designated mask breaks, or unless otherwise exempted.
- Perform all aspects of personal care, to include but not limited to toilet hygiene, bowel/bladder management, changing clothes, etc. independently of Austin Parks and Recreation staff, volunteers or other participants.
- Perform all aspects of eating or feeding independently of Austin Parks and Recreation staff, volunteers or other participants.
- Self-administer any routine medications or medical care needed during program participation. Please refer to our medication release and standards in the Parent Handbook for more information.
- Practice positive hygiene related to personal cleanliness (using tissues for sneezing/coughing) and handwashing, including the ability to wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and water and dry hands after washing, independently of physical assistance from Austin Parks and Recreation staff, volunteers or other participants.
- Self-manage behaviors and reactions to a variety of situations and environments that may elicit various physical and/or emotional responses without the physical intervention of Austin Parks and Recreation staff or volunteers, or without physical contact with other participants. Please refer to PARD's behavior management policy found in the Parent Handbook for more information.
- Maintain specific proximity to the Austin Parks and Recreation staff and facility space as designated without physical intervention of Austin Parks and Recreation staff, volunteers or other participants.
- Move safely in program environment, around facility and outdoor spaces on varied surfaces, on/off toilet, etc. without the physical assistance of Austin Parks and Recreation staff, volunteers, or other participants.

Eligibility requirements will be applied to all Austin Parks & Recreation Department (PARD) youth programs and services until the recommendations related to COVID-19 have been removed or reduced. If an individual registered for a program demonstrates the inability to follow the requirements noted above, they may be removed from the program and may not be allowed to return for the duration of the program. If the participant is removed, a parent/guardian will be expected to pick up immediately. The participant will be withdrawn from the program and a full refund will be granted.

## ADA ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS

Participants requesting ADA accommodations or modifications to participate in PARD programs should do so at the time of registration by selecting "yes" to Accessibility Accommodation Request on the registration form, or at any time by contacting the PARD Inclusion Unit at (512) 974-3914 or via email at [Inclusion@austintexas.gov](mailto:Inclusion@austintexas.gov). Participants may disclose specific disability and/or medical information at the time of registration to assist program staff in best meeting the needs of the individual. Due to operational guidelines and safety measures outlined above, as related to COVID-19, PARD may not be able to offer specific accommodations and supports to assist participants in meeting the eligibility requirements. Accommodations or supports provided will be done so during

recreation program components only. Please contact the PARD Inclusion Unit directly to discuss the participant's support needs, and the available accommodations under our current operational guidelines