

Green River Preserve Policies and Procedures

School of Environmental Education

Thank you for choosing GRP for your school trip. After navigating the pandemic for two years, we have all learned a thing or two about operating programs safely for children. Like in-person school, we know the importance of gathering together as a community and enhancing not only our ecological knowledge but our sense of belonging at GRP. Together, our goal is to work with you to create a memorable experience for your school and your students. Thank you for taking the time to review our procedures for rental groups. Please reach out if you have questions.

Our Approach

A Closed Community - The Imperfect Bubble

Think of your school as a bubble. You want to leave your school, participate in the program, and return without testing positive or contracting COVID. That being said, you may be attending GRP with another school. We intend to supply participating schools with guidelines to help drive decisions and keep us all safe together on The Preserve.

No one thing we do will protect our participants completely, but each adds a layer of security. We also understand that none of these layers can be done perfectly, which is why having multiple layers is important. A relatively closed community will be an especially important layer, and it is something that will make camp better, too. With the exception of our school groups and staff, the only people allowed on property will be food delivery drivers and other essential service workers, and these will be monitored by our administrative staff and not have direct contact with our participants.

Guiding Principles: Green River Preserve has adopted the following guiding principles in our approach to maintaining a safe, healthy, and successful camp community during the COVID-19 pandemic. They include:

- Outdoor Programming
- Vaccinating (required for staff, highly encouraged for all participants)
- Ventilating
- Testing (highly recommended by the school prior to departure)
- Sanitizing
- Rethinking and empowering
- Communicating

Prevention Prior to Arrival

In order to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 being brought into camp, we will ask all school groups to take additional safety measures in the two weeks prior to their arrival. We reserve the right to update these procedures at any time based on the latest data and guidance from public health officials.

1. Vaccination

Studies show that COVID-19 vaccines are the most effective tool against COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines are effective in keeping you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19. GRP staff who work with campers are required to be vaccinated.

2. Low Risk COVID Cautious Behaviors

In order to ensure no one is arriving at camp carrying the virus, we are asking for your partnership in engaging in low-risk COVID-cautious behaviors.

Using the [Risk Assessment Chart](#) developed by Hartford HealthCare, we ask overnight school participants to restrict all activities the 10 days prior to camp to Moderate Risk and below.

3. COVID 19 Testing

GRP **highly encourages** school administration to conduct a rapid test on all student participants prior to departing. This will ensure all participants on the bus traveling to GRP are negative at the time of departure.

GRP suggests schools conduct the testing on school property on the morning of departure. Another, less controlled option, is to allow participants to arrive at the school with a negative rapid test. Rapid tests are now easily accessible in most major pharmaceutical stores.

GRP also encourages the school to bring several rapid tests in case a participant is symptomatic. GRP has limited tests on site and will charge the school \$15 for every test used.

If a member of the school community exhibits COVID-19 symptoms in the 10 days prior to camp or tests positive for COVID-19, they will not be permitted to join us at camp for that school trip. We understand how much schools look forward to this trip and we want to share the GRP experience with them; but, it is critical that anyone who exhibits symptoms or tests positive stays home for the safety of the entire GRP community.

Prevention During the School Trip

1. Masking

Because of our program design and structure, we anticipate that participants will not be required to wear a mask during a vast majority of their program days. There are times when we will have multiple schools on-site at the same time. If this is the case while you are here, we ask that during meals in the lodge your group masks while not seated at their tables (for example, entering & exiting the lodge, getting up to get more food/drink, etc.) If more than one school group is on a bus, all participants will be asked to mask. As always, if students or staff feel more comfortable wearing masks when not required, they are welcome to make that choice.

GRP has limited masks on site and will charge the school \$25 for a box of 50 masks.

2. Cleaning, Handwashing, and Sanitization Procedures

We will have hand sanitizer stations near the entrance of each building, on buses, and at activity areas. We will ask students and staff to use these upon entering and exiting. Campers will wash hands with soap and water under staff guidance before every meal.

3. Coronavirus Outdoors

A large amount of the GRP program is spent outdoors. Being outdoors is the best way to limit the potential spread of coronavirus at camp. Additionally, all of our buildings have screened windows and fans for ventilation. So even our indoor spaces are set-up to maintain a predominantly outdoor program.

4. Personal Hygiene

At the beginning of each session, staff members will train participants on behaviors and precautions they should abide by to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including:

- How and when to effectively wash and sanitize hands
- How to practice physical distancing in various settings (Lodge, activity spaces, cabins, etc)
- Face covering policy
- Which symptoms to look out for and when to report them and to whom.
- Coughing etiquette.

Response

A student or staff member identified as having a potential case of COVID-19 will remain in an isolation room designated in our Health Hut as part of camp's communicable disease plan.

Students and staff will only be tested if symptomatic. Again, as stated above, GRP encourages

the school to bring several rapid tests in the case of a symptomatic participant. GRP has limited tests on site and will charge the school \$15 for every test used.

If a participant tests positive for COVID-19:

- Positive student(s) will be sent home. Parents/Guardians will be notified by the school and either the parent/guardian must pick up their child at camp or the school must transport them back to school within the day.
- Unvaccinated campers in the cabin of a participant with a positive test will be sent home. This is hard, we know, but the [recommendation](#) for an unvaccinated individual is to quarantine and mask for 5 days. This is not tenable with our programming and facilities.
- Vaccinated campers in the cabin can continue on at camp.
- Unvaccinated campers who have tested positive with COVID within 90 days can stay (with verification from DR.).
- There will be no refunds for missed days for any amount of participants.

If a fully vaccinated GRP staff member tests positive for COVID-19:

- We will have them isolated on property for a minimum of 5 days ([pre recommended by the CDC](#)).

Thank you for reading our policies and procedures and sharing this information with your school participants. This information organizes COVID-19 best practices for summer camp published by the [CDC](#), [American Camp Association](#), and the of [State of North Carolina](#), as well as multiple discussions we have had with pediatricians, epidemiologists, infectious disease experts, and other camp directors into one place. It is intended to provide camp families and staff with information about how GRP is adapting policies and procedures this season to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 while at camp.