

JUMP INTO SUMMER



BECKET DAY CAMP SUMMER GUIDE 2024

WELCOME TO BECKET DAY CAMP



Becket Day Camp encourages children to grow socially, physically and intellectually through positive summer memories and friendships.

At Day Camp, your camper will:

- Explore hiking trails and natural habitats.
- Beat the heat by swimming or canoeing around Rudd Pond.
- Enjoy camp favorites such as: archery, campfire cooking, arts & crafts, and more!

FIND US



bccymca.org



[BECKETDAYCAMPYMCA](https://www.instagram.com/BECKETDAYCAMPYMCA)

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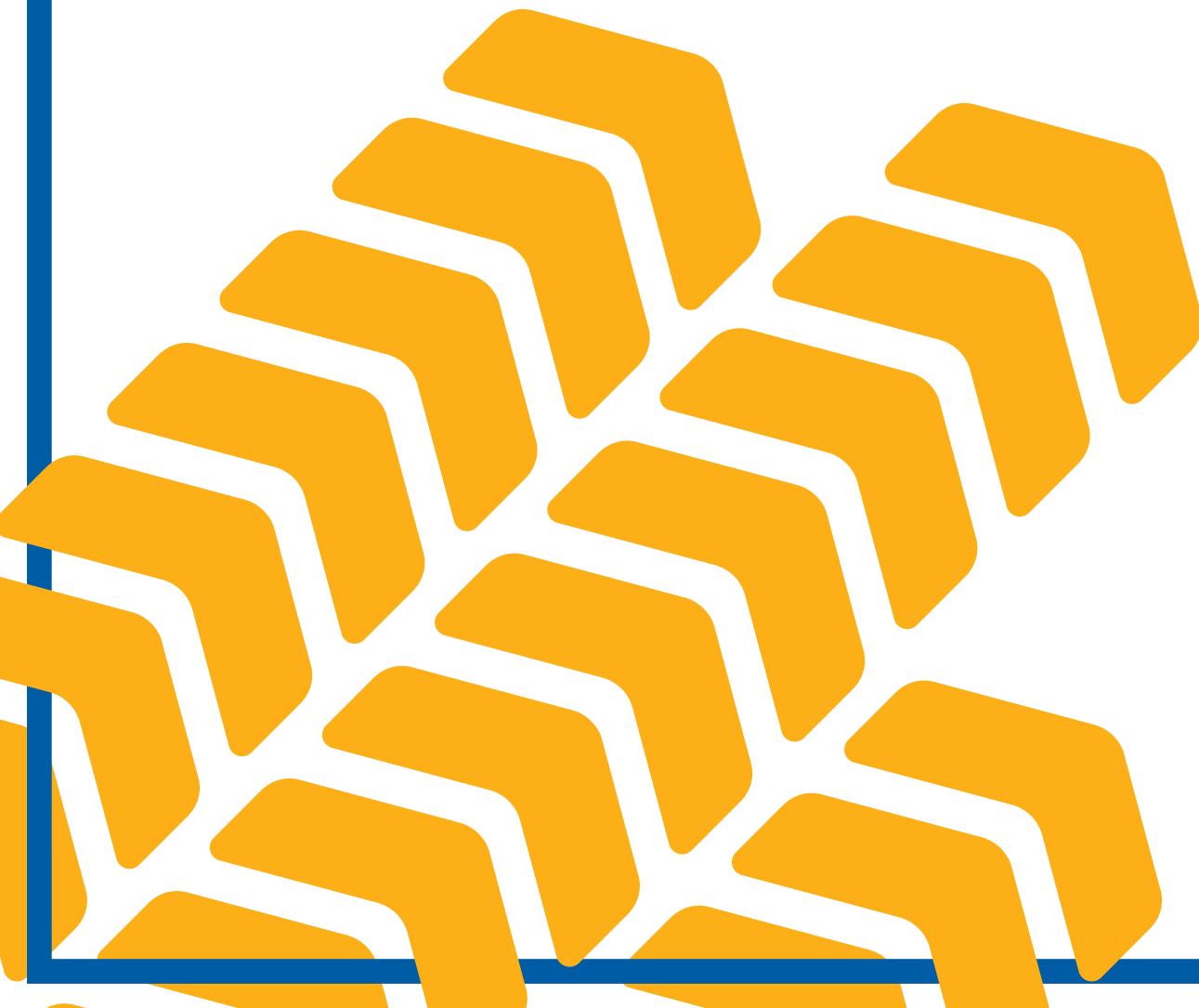
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|--------------|
| PICK-UP & DROP-OFF..... | 1 |
| BUS INFORMATION..... | 2 |
| DAILY SCHEDULE & PACKING LIST..... | 3 |
| POLICIES..... | 4-10 |
| HEALTH & SAFETY..... | 11-14 |



PICK-UP & DROP-OFF

DROPPING OFF

Whether you're dropping off a first-time camper or a veteran camper, arrival at camp can be a time of apprehension, excitement, and wonder. The best thing you can do for your child is to get them checked in, kiss them goodbye, and let the counselor take it from there.

Each morning, campers are dropped off between 8:30-9:00 AM at the check in station located in the turnaround circle. Extended hours are provided to those who select the Before/After Care option during registration. Before Care is from 8:00-8:30 AM.

If you need to speak with the Camp Director, please alert the staff that are assigned to check in and they will call for the Director. Please pull off to the side, as the car line needs to keep moving and parking in the line leads to congestion.

Please look for signs at camp indicating where you should pull in.

If you know that you will be arriving after drop off has ended, please alert the Director in advance if it is possible by calling 413.623.8991 ext. 165 or emailing us at: hduval@bccymca.org

PICKING UP

Afternoon pickup is from 4:00-4:30 PM. After Care is provided to those who select the Before/After Care option during registration. After Care is from 4:30-5:30 PM.

Please have your photo identification ready at check-out.

Only individuals on a camper's Authorized Pickup List with a valid, government issues photo ID are permitted to check out a child.

If you need to have someone pick up your child who is not listed as approved for pickup, please make sure to let the office or Camp Director know PRIOR to 4:00 PM.

All children must be buckled up (including in requisite car seats) before leaving camp. Counselors are not permitted to secure a child into a car seat or buckle their seatbelt.

LATE ARRIVAL or EARLY PICK UP

Programming will start promptly at 9:00 AM. If you know that you will be arriving after drop off has ended, please call the office or Camp Director.

If you are picking up early, please give a note to the camp staff in the morning or call the Registrar or Director ahead of time to ensure our counselors can have your camper(s) ready when you arrive. Please park off to the side in the turnaround circle so as to not stop traffic in the pick-up lane.

If campers are not picked up by their scheduled departure time, staff will contact parents or guardians via all phone numbers provided. If staff are unable to reach parents or guardians, they will contact alternate and emergency contacts in order to find an approved adult to pick up the camper.

BUSING INFORMATION

BUS PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF SERVICES

Bus services are included in the cost of camp.

Please stay with your child until you have signed them in with camp staff and your child has boarded the bus or van. Help your child to be aware of other vehicles in the parking lot and use caution moving between vehicles.

Camp staff will travel with the campers during bus pick-up and drop-off and will require a signature from an approved adult in order to release a child. **Please have your photo identification ready at bus drop-off location.**

Any camper not met by an approved adult will be transported back to Becket Day Camp and will need to be collected by a parent or guardian. If staff are unable to reach parents or guardians, they will contact alternate and emergency contacts in order to find an authorized adult to pick up the child.

A minimum of two camp staff will travel with the campers during bus pick-up and

drop-off. Bus staff will inform camp and parents of any issues on the bus (teasing, bullying, inappropriate language, etc). Constant behavioral issues or substantial safety issues will result in the loss of bus riding privileges.

If the bus is more than 20 minutes late, staff will contact parents/guardians using the numbers listed in their camper account.

Bus Route 1: Lee-Lenox

Morris Elementary School, Lenox

Depart: 7:30am

Return: 5:15pm

Lee High School, Lee

Depart: 7:45am

Return: 5:00pm

Farmington River Elementary, Otis

Depart: 8:05am

Return: 4:50pm

Bus Route 2: Pittsfield-Dalton- Hinsdale

Williams Elementary, Pittsfield

Depart: 7:30am

Return: 5:30pm

Craneville Elementary, Dalton

Depart: 7:50am

Return: 5:15pm

Kittredge Elementary, Hinsdale

Depart: 8:10am

Return: 5:00pm



DAILY SCHEDULE

| | |
|-----------|---------------------|
| 8:30-9:00 | Drop Off |
| 9:15 | Morning Assembly |
| 10:00 | Activity 1/Choice 1 |
| 11:00 | Activity 2/Choice 2 |
| 12:00 | Lunch |
| 1:00 | Activity 3 |
| 2:00 | Activity 4 |
| 3:15 | Snack |
| 3:45 | Afternoon Assembly |
| 4:00-4:30 | Pickup/Load Bus |

Before Care - 8:00-8:30
After Care - 4:30-5:30

*Included in the cost of camp, must sign up during registration

PACKING LIST

DEFINITELY BRING

- Non-perishable lunch
- Two snacks
- Refillable water bottle
- Backpack
- Swimsuit
- Towel
- Plastic bag for wet swimsuit
- Extra change of clothes
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray
- Close-toed shoes & socks*

* Close-toed shoes with socks are REQUIRED daily.

CONSIDER BRINGING

- Quiet activity (book, drawing pad, etc)
- Sunhat or ball cap
- Sandals (to wear during water activities only)
- Personal Flotation Device (lifejacket)*

* Life jackets are provided, but campers have the option to bring their own life jacket to camp.

DON'T BRING

- Phones or Electronics
- Weapons or Firearms
- Ammunition
- Illicit drugs or alcohol
- Toys
- Animals or Pets
- Marijuana or Tobacco
- Fireworks
- Sports Equipment
- Cash or Valuables
- Personal Vehicles

DAY CAMP POLICIES

MEALS

Parents/Guardians are required to provide a packed lunch, water, and two snacks each day. Becket Day Camp also provides an afternoon snack each day. We ask that you follow the below guidelines when packing your camper's lunch each day:

- We recommend including whole grains, healthy proteins, and fresh fruits and vegetables in your camper's lunch.
- Be sure to pack an ice pack if your camper's lunch needs to be kept cool.
- Do not send items that require reheating or cooking.

SWIMMING

On the first day of each session, all new campers who wish to swim will be given a swim test. Campers are required to take the swim test every summer. This allows our water-front staff to determine whether campers are shallow or deep water swimmers. Campers that are unable to complete the swim test will be required to wear a lifejacket. Campers may choose to bring a lifejacket from home to use at camp.

RAINY DAYS

Campers will take part in a fully scheduled program of activities regardless of weather. We are prepared with a rainy day schedule for each group which focus on crafts, group games, and special events. Be sure to dress campers appropriately for the weather.

FEES, PAYMENTS AND REFUNDS

Fees must be paid in full prior to the start of every session. We may refuse to accept campers who still owe a balance for the current week. Please notify the registrar at cporter@bccymca.org if you have any concerns.

Payments should be made online through your UltraCamp account.

Deposits are non-refundable and non-transferable.

DAY CAMP POLICIES

If a participant cancels prior to 30 days before the start of your camper's session, any tuition paid above the \$50 deposit will be refunded.

No tuition fees will be refunded or transferred if a camper cancels from the program within 30 days before the start of your camper's session. If there is space available in a future week at Becket Day Camp in Summer 2024, credit may be considered less the deposit.

If your child is unable to attend due to illness or injury, we ask you to notify us as early as possible. In the case of illness or injury that occurs before the camper's session begins, all paid fees/tuition (except for the \$50 deposit per session) may be refunded upon receipt of a written notice from the camper's physician. For refunds to be considered, the camp must be contacted prior to noon on the first day of the session, and a refund will not be issued if no notice is provided from a physician.

There is no pro-rating of fees for days missed during a session, or substituting days in another session for any reason. If the camper is a no-show (camp was not contacted prior to noon on the first day of the session), all fees are non-refundable.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Becket Day Camp assumes no responsibility for loss or damage by any cause to personal property of campers. Campers must be responsible for their belongings. We strongly discourage money or valuable items being brought to camp.

BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT

All camp staff members participate in a staff training program in which they learn about camp life and caring for campers. During training, we teach positive discipline techniques that staff members use to guide and encourage children. Staff members use techniques based on the camper's level of development to create clear guidelines for behavior. Severe or cruel forms of punishment such as corporal, humiliation, shaming (including shaming or punishment for soiling, wetting, or not using the toilet), or the withholding of food or any other basic necessity as a form of punishment are strictly prohibited.

At all times, staff members are guided by the principle that all children and adults deserve to be treated in a respectful and caring manner. Campers are expected to treat fellow

DAY CAMP POLICIES

campers and staff with respect and abide by all camp rules. Camp rules are discussed on the first day of camp, and campers are given the opportunity to ask questions and learn the consequences of not following the rules. Individuals are accountable for their actions. When behavior problems do arise, the camp staff may consult with parents/caregivers, and together they will develop a plan for behavior management. In the event that the camper's behavior does not improve after staff members have exhausted all reasonable avenues of intervention, or when one camper's actions are detracting from the experience of others, the camper will be sent home.

DISMISSAL FROM CAMP

There are some actions that require immediate dismissal from camp. Campers sent home for any reason will not be entitled to any refund of fees, and parents will be responsible for all transportation. Campers dismissed from camp, for any reason, may not be eligible to return to camp programs in the future.

Becket Day Camp staff are not equipped to deal with (nor is the staff trained to handle) campers with severe emotional and behavioral issues, chemical dependency, severe eating disorders, violent behavior, or campers who routinely violate rules and policies. Campers who require a disproportionate amount of counselor's attention (or need consistent one-on-one support) which takes attention away from the other campers in their group, or who purposefully and routinely harm or threaten to harm themselves or others may be asked to leave camp.

VISITORS

There are no visitors allowed during any camp session. This is first and foremost to protect our campers from unknown or unauthorized adults being on camp. Staff is trained to approach and handle all unknown people and escort them to the Camp Director.

Drop-in visits can disrupt programs, divert staff from their jobs, and sometimes set off homesickness in your own or other campers. If you have any questions or concerns about your child, please feel free to contact the Camp Director.

DAY CAMP POLICIES

CAMPER CODE OF CONDUCT

The staff at Becket Day Camp is dedicated to helping each camper develop to their full potential. We believe that personal respect, honor, and integrity are vital to the success of the camp community. For such ideals to thrive in our community, it is essential that each member believe in and support the mission and principles upon which the system is based upon.

Please review the following code of conduct with your camper to ensure they understand what is expected of them while at camp. Campers are responsible for their behavior at camp and will be held accountable for the code of conduct.

All campers are expected to model these expectations during camp hours:

Treat everyone with respect:

- Speak in a courteous tone of voice (no whining, yelling, or dissing)
- Use respectful language (no curses, swears, putdowns, namecalling)
- Disagree without being disagreeable
- Take turns
- Wait patiently
- Listen when someone else is speaking

Behave Safely:

- Walk with their group and remain with counselors during transitions
- Leave dangerous objects out of camp (weapons, matches, and lighters)
- Follow safety rules of the waterfront
- Follow safety while participating in activities
- Follow directions of staff in charge of the bus, arrival/dismissal, counselors
- Follow immediate directions in regards to wildlife and weather

Parents/Guardians have the right to request copies or review background checks, discipline policies, and grievance procedures upon request.

DAY CAMP POLICIES

PARENT/CAREGIVER CODE OF CONDUCT

We view our relationship with the parents/caregivers as a partnership where we have the shared goals of helping our campers learn and grow in a supportive environment. Parents/Caregivers can support our programs by following these guidelines:

Open and Honest Communication

It is vital that parents/caregivers complete all forms and honestly share their child's needs in advance of the camp program. We cannot support your camper if we don't know what they need and sharing information in advance allows staff to be best prepared for the summer. It is not helpful to wait until the first day of camp to ask to discuss issues with staff. It is extremely difficult for staff to give their undivided attention or have long discussions with parents on opening day due to the demands of the day. Please contact camp in advance with anything you wish to discuss or any concerns you have.

Behavior at Camp

Whether talking to your child, other children, camp staff, or other families, we expect everyone to use respectful language and behavior. Avoid aggression, threats, profanity, or any inappropriate comments. Respecting others is key to maintaining a supportive and inclusive camp environment for all.

Any visitor to camp is expected to adhere to all safety rules, follow all instructions from staff and to be free of any impairment that could endanger others. Any visitor who acts inappropriately or in an unsafe manner will be asked to leave.

Reserve Judgment

When your child shares a negative experience or has strong feelings about something that happened at camp, it's natural to feel protective and want to address their concerns immediately. However, we encourage parents to engage with the camp staff first before forming strong opinions. Time will have gone by and things may well have changed for the better.

It's vital to maintain perspective and reach out to camp staff to discuss any concerns you have, ensuring that your child is having the best possible experience at camp. By keeping an open mind and collaborating with us, we can work together to support your child's camp journey effectively.

DAY CAMP POLICIES

Support Conflict Resolution

If your child experiences a conflict with another camper at camp, we will support them in finding a resolution. We are fortunate that we have a team of leadership staff in place to support campers when issues arise. When you hear about a conflict from your child, it's important to remember that you are hearing one side of the story.

It's natural for parents to see their child as the "good" or "right" one in a conflict; these labels can be limiting and may not reflect the full situation. Before coming to a conclusion we encourage everyone to consider the good intentions of all involved and focus on finding solutions rather than assigning blame.

While certain behaviors are not tolerated at camp, we believe in the learning process and view mistakes as opportunities for growth. Children are still learning how to navigate relationships, and our camp environment aims to help them develop better communication and conflict resolution skills. It's essential to avoid labeling other children as "bullies" and collaborate with our staff to reach the best possible outcome for everyone.

If we identify bullying behavior, we will step in promptly to address the situation. By working together and maintaining a positive approach, we can create a supportive and inclusive camp environment for all campers to learn and grow.

Your cooperation and support are vital in creating a welcoming and safe camp community for all children. Thank you for partnering with us to make the camp experience memorable and enjoyable for everyone involved.

CAMPER PHOTOS

We post photos daily to our SmugMug account. Enrolled families will be sent a link and password for access before their camper's first day. Please note that we will take as many photos as possible at camp each day. While we try to take a variety of shots, not every camper will necessarily be in a photo each day.

DAY CAMP POLICIES

LOST & FOUND POLICY

All items brought to camp should be labeled with the camper's first and last name in permanent marker to reduce the amount of lost and found. Any items that are in the lost and found for two camp sessions will be donated to charity. At the completion of each camp day, the property is searched by our staff, and items are brought to the lost and found. If your camper loses an item, be sure to contact camp, as we will have someone look for your item or schedule a time for you to come and look. Please note that these items will be held at the discretion of camp staff. Items that are soiled, damaged, or otherwise deemed not able to safely stored will be disposed of.

FRIEND REQUESTS

All campers are placed into groups based on their age. Since camp is about making new friends and friend requests are key to creating a positive camp environment, the Camp Director will place campers in groups based on the following criteria:

- An exclusive mutual request made by two campers who are the same age, known as a buddy request

If campers are more than 1 year apart and request to be together, their requests may be honored, but the older camper will be placed with the younger camper's group.

Camp will make every effort to honor friend requests (up to 1), but due to the number of campers registered per session, we do not guarantee requests.

HEALTH & SAFETY

CAMP HEALTH

Good health and safety are top priorities at camp. While the staff will make every reasonable effort to minimize exposure to the known risks associated with activities, all hazards cannot be overseen. By participating in our programs, campers and their parents/guardians willingly and knowingly assume all risks/hazards associated with participating in a summer camp program. Campers and their parents/guardians should understand that occasional accidents do happen even after reasonable precautions have been taken.

Health Policy: If a camper goes home sick, or is sick when not at camp, the camp requires the child to stay home from camp for at least 24 hours. This will reduce the chance of infection shared to other campers. Please do not send your child to camp if he/she is sick and/or has a fever. A camper will be sent home if they are too sick to stay at camp.

Symptoms may include: vomiting, having a fever over 100 degrees, diarrhea, or any other signs of serious illness.

If a child becomes ill or is injured and needs to leave camp, the Camp Director will contact parents or emergency contact to pick up the child. If a child sustains a minor injury during the day, the parent or guardian will be notified at pick-up unless it is an emergency that requires an ambulance.

- **Hand washing:** Before camp, talk to your camper about the importance of washing hands regularly and the risks of sharing personal items such as hair brushes and water bottles. Camp staff will reinforce these practices, but depend on the cooperation of the campers.
- **Drinking water:** Explain to campers how important it is to drink plenty of water while at camp. Camp staff encourage campers to bring water to activities.
- **Sunscreen/Bug Repellent:** Our camp encourages campers to protect themselves from exposure to ultraviolet rays from the sun. Please review how to apply and encourage your camper to use sunscreen regularly. We also encourage a conversation about the proper use of bug repellent. It is important to have a conversation with your campers about self-checks for ticks. Please approve the use of sunscreen and bug repellent on your camper Permission Form.

HEALTH & SAFETY

MEDICATIONS

All medication, including non-prescription medication, must be in its original container and must be labeled with the child's name, correct dosage, and the name of the drug.

The Camp Nurse or designated staff member will administer the medication. If your child rides the bus, please send one container with enough medication for the entire week. This will help ensure that there is the correct dosage at camp each day. Please hand all labeled medication directly to a Becket Day Camp staff member who is supervising the bus. Please do not leave medications with your child.

Inhalers and Epi-Pens will be checked in with the Camp Nurse/Medical Staff and will remain with the camper or staff supervising the camper throughout the day.

SPECIAL MEDICAL NEEDS

While we can accommodate a wide range of special needs, we recommend speaking with our Registrar or Camp Director prior to enrollment if you have any concerns. We have a member of the BCCYMCA medical team who visits camp regularly, but the majority of our staff are only first aid and CPR trained. Campers need to be able to follow safety directions given by our staff. Our program may need to be modified for campers with mobility issues.

REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS

GRADES K-6

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Tdap | 1 dose; and history of DTaP primary series or age appropriate catch-up vaccination. Tdap given at ≥ 7 years may be counted, but a dose at age 11-12 is recommended if Tdap was given earlier as part of a catch-up schedule. Td should be given if it has been ≥ 10 years since Tdap. |
| Polio | 4 doses; 4th dose must be given on or after the 4th birthday and ≥ 6 months after the previous dose, or a 5th dose is required. 3 doses are acceptable if the 3rd dose is given on or after the 4th birthday and ≥ 6 months after the previous dose. |
| Hepatitis B | 3 doses; laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable. 2 doses of Heplisav-B given on or after 18 years of age are acceptable. |
| MMR | 2 doses; first dose must be given on or after the 1st birthday and the 2nd dose must be given ≥ 28 days after dose 1; laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable. |
| Varicella | 2 doses; first dose must be given on or after the 1st birthday and 2nd dose must be given ≥ 28 days after dose 1; a reliable history of chickenpox* or laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable. |

HEALTH & SAFETY

RECOMMENDED VACCINES

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health requires that all campers be immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, measles, mumps, rubella (German measles), hepatitis B, and varicella (chickenpox, unless they have had the disease). These are all part of your camper's routine immunizations.

In addition, current recommendations include a booster dose of the varicella vaccine for all children over the age of 4-6 years. Immunization with both Tdap (tetanus and whooping cough) and meningococcal vaccine (often referred to as "the meningitis vaccine") is also recommended for all children over the age of 11 years. Hepatitis A and COVID-19 vaccine are also recommended for all children. Though none of these are requirements, we strongly recommend that you discuss these with your camper's pediatrician if they have not been given.

Exceptions

- Religious Exceptions: If a camper or staff member has religious objections to physical examinations or immunizations, the camper or staff member shall submit a written statement, signed by a parent or legal guardian of the camper, to the effect that the individual is in good health and stating the reason for such objections.
- Immunization Contraindicated: Any immunization specified in 105 CMR 430.152 shall not be required if the health history required by 105 CMR 430.151 includes a certification by a physician that they have examined the individual and that in the physician's opinion the physical condition of the individual is such that their health would be endangered by such immunization.
- For information regarding an exception to required immunizations, please contact our COO, Matt Scholl, mscholl@bccymca.org.

MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE AND CAMP ATTENDEES: COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is meningococcal disease?

Meningococcal disease is caused by infection with bacteria called *Neisseria meningitidis*. These bacteria can infect the tissue (the "meninges") that surrounds the brain and spinal cord and cause meningitis, or they may infect the blood or other organs of the body. Symptoms of meningococcal disease may appear suddenly. Fever, severe and constant headache, stiff neck or neck pain, nausea and vomiting, and rash can all be signs of meningococcal disease. Changes in behavior such as confusion, sleepiness, and trouble waking up can also be important symptoms. In the US, about 350-550 people get meningococcal disease each year and 10-15% die despite receiving antibiotic treatment. Of those who survive, about 10-20% may lose limbs, become hard of hearing or deaf, have problems with their nervous system, including long term neurologic problems, or have seizures or strokes. Less common presentations include pneumonia and arthritis.

How is meningococcal disease spread?

These bacteria are passed from person-to-person through saliva (spit). You must be in close contact with an infected person's saliva in order for the bacteria to spread. Close contact includes activities such as kissing, sharing water bottles, sharing eating/drinking utensils or sharing cigarettes with someone who is infected; or being within 3-6 feet of someone who is infected and is coughing and sneezing.

Who is most at risk for getting meningococcal disease?

People who travel to certain parts of the world where the disease is very common, microbiologists, people with HIV infection and those exposed to meningococcal disease during an outbreak are at risk for meningococcal disease. Children and adults with damaged or removed spleens or persistent complement component deficiency (an inherited immune disorder) are at risk. Adolescents, and people who live in certain settings such as college freshmen living in dormitories and military recruits are at greater risk of disease from some of the serotypes.

Are camp attendees at increased risk for meningococcal disease?

Children attending day or residential camps are not considered to be at an increased risk for meningococcal disease because of their participation.

Is there a vaccine against meningococcal disease?

Yes, there are 2 different meningococcal vaccines. Quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (Menactra, Menveo and MenQuadfi) protects against 4 serotypes (A, C, W and Y) of meningococcal disease. Meningococcal serogroup B vaccine (Bexsero and Trumenba) protects against serogroup B meningococcal disease, for age 10 and older.

Should my child or adolescent receive meningococcal vaccine?

That depends. Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY) is routinely recommended at age 11-12 years with a booster at age 16 and is required for school entry for grades 7 and 11. In addition, these vaccines may be recommended for additional children with certain high-risk health conditions, such as those described above. Meningococcal serogroup B vaccine (Bexsero and Trumenba) is recommended for people with certain relatively rare high-risk health conditions (examples: persons with a damaged spleen or whose spleen has been removed, those with persistent complement component deficiency (an inherited disorder), and people who may have been exposed during an outbreak). Adolescents and young adults (16 through 23 years of age) who do not have high risk conditions may be vaccinated with a serogroup B meningococcal vaccine, preferably at 16 through 18 years of age, to provide short term protection for most strains of serogroup B meningococcal disease. Parents of adolescents and children who are at higher risk of infection, because of certain medical conditions or other circumstances, should discuss vaccination with their child's healthcare provider.

How can I protect my child or adolescent from getting meningococcal disease?

The best protection against meningococcal disease and many other infectious diseases is thorough and frequent handwashing, respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette. Individuals should: 1. wash their hands often, especially after using the toilet and before eating or preparing food (hands should be washed with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand gel or rub may be used if hands are not visibly dirty); 2. cover their nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and discard the tissue in a trash can; or if they don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into their upper sleeve. 3. not share food, drinks or eating utensils with other people, especially if they are ill. 4. contact their healthcare provider immediately if they have symptoms of meningococcal disease. If your child is exposed to someone with meningococcal disease, antibiotics may be recommended to keep your child from getting sick.

You can obtain more information about meningococcal disease or vaccination from your healthcare provider, your local Board of Health (listed in the phone book under government), or the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Divisions of Epidemiology and Immunization at (617) 983-6800 or on the MDPH website at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/school-immunizations>. Provided by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in accordance with M.G.L. c.111, s.219 and 105 CMR 430.157(C).

HEALTH & SAFETY

SAFETY AT CAMP

This camp must comply with regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and licensed by the local board of Health. We are also accredited by the American Camp Association (ACA). Both ACA and the State of MA hold camps to a high standard of safety that support the camps in creating the safest environment for campers. You can help us by encouraging campers to take responsibility for their own safety by following camp rules and procedures.

All staff, volunteers and LITs are trained in child abuse prevention and response, clear discipline policies and anti-racism awareness to ensure that camp staff are well aware of best practices for the appropriate care of children. In addition, camp staff are trained to support children who wish to share concerns for their own safety or the safety of others.

Campers should be coached to seek help and support from camp staff for any situation where they feel unsafe or if they are aware of a situation where others are not being safe or not being treated appropriately. While the counselor is the most readily available person to speak with, campers should know that any staff member can help them and will know how to get them the support they need. Campers may also leave an anonymous note for the Camp Director or ask a staff member to share their concern on their behalf. All staff are aware of the support available and will bring matters to the attention of the appropriate staff.

Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA is required to report any allegation of abuse to the state authorities, including incidents that occur between campers or incidents that occurred outside of camp including incidents at school or home. We take every allegation of abuse seriously and will cooperate fully with the authorities and community members to ensure the safest possible environment for all.

If you or anyone you know has concerns about staff, volunteers, or other camper's behavior, please contact the Camp Director or CEO as soon as possible. If you feel uncomfortable speaking directly with staff, you may report concerns confidentially through the Camp Director, Human Resources Manager or CEO. The staff will maintain confidentiality and help you get the information to the right people.

BCCYMCA recognizes that relationships between campers and staff outside of camp may pre-date a relationship with BCCYMCA such as in the case of classmates, neighbors and family friends and in those cases, those relationships should continue as they did before

HEALTH & SAFETY

camp. For relationships that are formed at camp, staff are trained to not make contact with an individual camper outside of the camp program. Families should be aware that staff should not have outside contact with youth they have met in our programs unless they adhere to appropriate outside contact guidelines:

- Staff may never initiate individual, private communication directly with a camper who they have met in their role as camp staff.
- Staff members should make sure that parents/guardians and camp are aware of any plans for contact with a group(s) of youth outside of camp and have given permission.
- Staff members may not work as babysitters or nannies for families whom they meet in the context of camp if their contact with the camper will be unsupervised.
- Staff members should seek guidance from camp if unsure if any contact or communication involving a camp youth is appropriate or permitted.
- Any private electronic communication between staff and youth, including the use of social networking websites like - Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, instant messaging, texting, etc. - is prohibited, even off-season. All communication between staff and youth must be transparent. Please let your campers know about these policies to avoid hurt feelings when staff are unable to respond.
- Please let BCCYMCA know of any concerns regarding communication with camp staff or other participants.

SEE YOU
THIS SUMMER!

