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## **Health and Safety Protocol and Guidelines for Youth Programs Fall 2022-Winter 2023**

### **Introduction**

Seacoast Science Center (SSC) believes that the safety of its visitors, program participants, and staff and volunteers is of paramount importance. SSC has established a 30-year track record for putting the safety of its program participants first. SSC continues to provide its safe and trusted educational child care services today with additional safety measures in accordance with [State of NH Covid-19 Response Universal Best Practices](#) and [US Centers for Disease Control](#). This document outlines SSC's Environmental Day Camp and Marine Science Fellowship health and safety protocols, as well as specific measures that we believe are required to foster a safe and healthy program experience at Seacoast Science Center and within Odiorne Point State Park (OPSP).

**Please note:** the health and safety protocols outlined in this document are subject to change in response to the changing COVID-19 pandemic conditions. In the event changes are made, we will promptly communicate them to all registered program participants, in detail, via email.

### **Environmental Day Camps**

Environmental Day Camps for preschoolers to grade 5 is offered during regional public school vacation weeks in February, April, and December, and all summer long, Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm, with extended care options. Maximum of 14 students per group; maximum child to staff ratio is 7:1. Camp programs for children in grades 6-12 are offered on select weeks during the summer only.

## Marine Science Fellowship

Marine Science Fellowship, for high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors, is offered per semester. Sessions are held on Saturdays, 10am-1pm with additional, flexible hours. Maximum of 14 students per semester; maximum student to staff ratio is 7:1.

## Health and Safety Guidelines for Youth Programs, Fall 2022-Winter 2023

1. Program participants or participants with parents or caregivers that exhibit COVID-19 symptoms or have come in known contact with someone tested positive for COVID-19, cannot attend any SSC program until after completion of the CDC recommended quarantine period.
2. Staff and program participants will be asked to stay home if they are not feeling well, independent of suspected COVID-19 infection.
3. Students will be moved to designated and isolated quarantine space if they develop symptoms of COVID-19 or other illness while in attendance and parent/guardian will be contacted for immediate pick up.
4. Programs will emphasize outdoor activities in lieu of indoor activities whenever possible.
5. Camp counselors will remain with the same camp group for the entire week, whenever possible.
6. Under the supervision of the Camp Director and/or Assistant Camp Director, counselors/educators will ensure that all attendees practice infectious disease control hygiene measures at all times in SSC programs.
7. Face masks are OPTIONAL for both program attendees and staff, both indoors and outdoors.
8. Should a counselor call out sick, a substitute will be assigned. That substitute will be trained in SSC safety protocol.
9. During summer camp only, an EMT will be on-site during regular camp hours to provide emergency medical assistance and oversee infectious disease protocols.
10. SSC commits to keep in close communication with all parents, notifying them of instances of sickness and potential or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in youth programs or involving SSC staff.

## TRAINING

SSC Staff and Camp Counselors/Educators will participate in safety protocol and procedures training in advance of Fall Programs, including:

- Infectious disease sanitation and proper use of PPE
- Recognition of potential COVID-19 symptoms and process for quarantining persons suspected of showing symptoms
- Bathroom procedures, including disinfecting, cleaning and safe, respectful monitoring of children while they are in the bathroom.