COVID-19 AND CAMPS
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the policy requirements for COVID-19 vaccination?
The safety of all campers and staff is always the highest priority of the American Diabetes Association® (ADA). With the spread of COVID-19 within the United States, we are following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance to update health-related plans and procedures. The CDC recommends COVID-19 vaccination as an important tool to protect the health and safety of Americans and to end the pandemic, which has taken a staggering toll on people living with diabetes and other underlying health conditions.

Immunization against COVID-19 will be required for all people at camps in 2022, including campers, paid staff, volunteers, and medical staff, except where prohibited by State laws.

We will continue to monitor the situation and provide resources and up-to-date guidance as we plan for summer 2022.

What does it mean to be “fully” vaccinated?
Per the CDC guidelines, an individual is fully vaccinated two weeks after the second shot of a two-dose vaccine like Pfizer’s or Moderna’s or after a single-dose vaccine like Johnson & Johnson. For more information on vaccines, visit the CDC website.

When will children need to be vaccinated for COVID-19 to attend camp?
Campers must be fully vaccinated at least two weeks prior to the first day of their camp program.

To ensure adequate time for an immune response to occur, all attendees will be considered fully vaccinated two weeks after completion of a two-dose mRNA series (Pfizer or Moderna) or one dose of Janssen vaccine, please plan accordingly.

Is the booster shot required to attend camp?
A booster shot is not required. The ADA strongly encourages people who are medically eligible to get the booster shot. For more information on boosters, visit the CDC website.

Why are you implementing this policy?
The CDC recommends COVID-19 vaccination as an important tool to protect the health and safety of Americans and to end the pandemic, which has taken a staggering toll on people living with diabetes and other underlying health conditions.

The ADA understands the invaluable experience that camps have on a young person’s life, from learning how to administer their own insulin and diabetes management, to forming lifelong connections with others living with diabetes. The ADA also recognizes the need to have camp in-person because of the toll the pandemic has had on children’s mental health. The safety and health of our attendees is our top priority.

Will medical waivers be accepted for COVID-19 vaccination exemption?
Please submit all medical waivers to campsupport@diabetes.org for review by the Medical Advisory Board.
Will religious waivers be accepted for COVID-19 vaccination exemption?
At this time, medical waivers will be reviewed by the Medical Advisory Board. For the health and safety of our campers, families, staff, and volunteers, religious and philosophical waivers will not be accepted as exemption to the COVID-19 vaccination.

Are there other options for my child to experience camp?
ADA Imagine Camp is designed to facilitate an at-home, virtual experience connecting kids and their families. ADA Imagine Camp is offered year-round to families and youth with diabetes across the United States and around the world. For more information on ADA Imagine Camp, contact campsupport@diabetes.org. Please allow 24–48 hours for a response.

Are the risks different for people with type 1 diabetes?
Based on what the CDC is reporting at this time, people with type 1 or gestational diabetes might be at an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19. All information regarding COVID-19 is fluid and ever-changing and we plan to remain in close communication with the CDC. We do know that certain underlying medical conditions, like diabetes, increase the risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

It’s important to remember that people with either type of diabetes can vary in their age, complications they’ve developed, and how well they have been able to manage their diabetes. People who contract COVID-19 and already have diabetes-related health problems are likely to have worse outcomes than people with diabetes who are otherwise healthy, whichever type of diabetes they have. You can find the latest COVID-19 information for people living with diabetes on the ADA’s COVID-19 Hub.

What has the ADA done to support people living with diabetes and COVID-19?
As a result of advocacy by the ADA and other groups, in March 2021, the CDC moved to prioritize all Americans living with diabetes for COVID-19 vaccination, marking an important step forward for our community. The CDC now recognizes that people with type 1 diabetes and type 2 diabetes are equally at risk, and most states prioritize both groups equally for access to vaccines. Even so, if you have not been vaccinated, you should check the rules and availability in your state.

If I have a question about this policy or camps, who should I contact?
Please send all questions and comments to campsupport@diabetes.org. Please allow 24–48 hours for a response.