

Camp Rise Above Immunization Policy

Background:

As we serve medically complex children, safety and public health are top priorities for Camp Rise Above. Each year, the American Academy of Pediatrics publishes a “Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule.” Pediatricians across North America consider this the standard of care. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has established vaccine standards for both children and adults. The vaccination of all members of a community creates conditions that protect everyone in it, but especially young children, babies, the elderly, pregnant women, and those who cannot be immunized from harmful and life-threatening diseases. **Camp Rise Above requires that all campers and staff attending camp be immunized as outlined below.**

While parents may choose to defer the vaccination of their children, for Camp Rise Above this is not an issue of individual rights and choice, but an issue of public health and policy. The routine vaccination of all campers and staff is an important public health matter especially in the confined environment of a residential summer camp with round-the-clock communal living where illnesses spread much more easily.

Policy:

ALL THOSE WHO ARE ATTENDING CAMP RISE ABOVE OVERNIGHT PROGRAMS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE AGE APPROPRIATE VACCINES as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Minimum Requirements:

-  MMR
-  Varicella
-  DPT, DT, Tdap
-  Hep B
-  Polio
-  Meningococcal for ages 11-21
-  Hib

May be recommended by provider, not required for summer camp:

-  Hep A
-  Pneumococcal

Policy Exceptions:

We recognize that individuals, who have had a documented allergy or severe adverse reaction to a particular vaccine, will not be able to receive further doses of that individual vaccine. In addition, individuals with medical conditions such as congenital immunodeficiency or HIV, malignancies receiving chemotherapy, transplant patients, and persons receiving immunosuppressive drugs and chronic steroids, will not be able to receive certain vaccines. In these instances, a physician documenting the problem and exempting the child from further doses of that specific vaccine must be furnished to Camp Rise Above. In addition, if an individual or his/her family believes that a specific situation poses extenuating circumstances, and furnishes a letter from a medical doctor (MD) substantiating this contention, the Executive Director and Medical Team will review such situations on a case-by-case basis.

With these exceptions, a camper who attends camp without immunizations may be dismissed from Camp in the event of an outbreak of a disease that the camper is not immunized for. Dismissal may be for all or part of the remaining session. This both protects the camper who isn't immunized and any other participant in Camp's program who may be at risk.