SAFETY
Run a Safe Program

There are many questions to consider when choosing whether or not to open a summer program. The CDC recommendations include 3 basic questions:

- Will reopening be consistent with applicable state and local orders?
- Are you ready to protect children and employees at higher risk for severe illness?
- Are you able to screen children and employees upon arrival for symptoms and history of exposure?
- After these questions have been answered with a yes, then you are prepared to start figuring out the next steps. You will want to be prepared with guidelines and procedures for handwashing, sanitizing and group structures.

Due to the changing risk level in the state and across the nation, we recommend that you closely follow updates from the state, OEC, CDC and local health officials. However, here are a few key practices that should be in place regardless of risk level.

- Practices to consider would include doing a "Wellness Check" of staff and participants upon arrival, limiting outside visitors, frequent handwashing, and social distancing.
- When planning your groups, arranging for small group sizes is encouraged. These groups (including the assigned staff) should be kept separate so that participants only have contact with the others in their group while at your program.

Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Guidance on whether or not you should open up, disinfecting strategies, and social distancing for child cares can be found on this website.
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html

Child Care and COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions for Providers
A collection of answers to Frequently Asked Questions provided by the Office of Early Chilldhood which covers safety measures, staffing and ratios, and other essential practices for youth camps.
https://www.ctoec.org/covid-19/child-care-covid-19-faq/

Connecticut Office of Early Childhood
https://www.ctoec.org/covid-19/

Connecticut's Health Guidance System
Connecticut's COVID-19 resource page consists of statewide updates, resources, and general guidance.
https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus

American Camp Association Summer Planning Guide

The American Camp Association (ACA) and the YMCA of the USA (Y-USA) are engaged together to provide educational resources to both day and overnight camps, state and local health departments, and parents/guardians and campers regarding the safe operation of summer programs and camps. https://www.acacamps.org/resource-library/coronavirus/camp-business/camp-operations-guide-summer-2020

CDC Considerations for Youth and Summer Camps

As some communities in the United States begin to convene youth camps, CDC offers the following considerations for ways in which camp administrators can help protect campers, staff, and communities, and slow the spread of COVID-19. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/summer-camps.html

CDC Decision Tree

The CDC has provided a simple decision tree to guide you assess your preparedness to open. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/Camps-Decision-Tree.pdf

Connecticut State Department of Education information on Coronavirus

This website is being frequently updated as changes occur. https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/COVID19/COVID-19-Resources-for-Families-and-Educators

Found in the Quality Tool   http://ctafterschoolnetwork.org/program-quality-tools/

The following indicators in the Quality Self-Assessment Tool support safety

Be Safe:
3- Environment
   6- Program space is clean and safe.
   9- Program's space meet or exceed local health and safety codes.
5- Safety
   1- Staff should be aware of all requirements regarding health and safety procedures.