



St. Vincent De Paul 2021 COVID-19 Update

As we begin to prepare for a time where we can host students in person again, the staff at the SVDP YAC is mindful of the challenges that we will be facing in these uncertain times. We want to reiterate that safety has been and will remain our top priority! We will not host programs unless it is safe to do so for our participants, volunteers, staff, along with our host sites and those they serve.

Based on what we know today (winter 2021), and following the recommendations and guidelines of our partners and neighboring school districts, SVDP plans to offer downsized, adjusted programs in the spring of 2021. We will implement the following safety measures for all planned programs:

- In accordance with state guidelines, participants must receive a negative corona virus test within 72 hours before arriving in PA.
- Masks will be mandatory at all times unless engaging in an activity that requires otherwise (eating, drinking, etc.)
 - Neck gaiters are not allowed
- Daily temperature checks for both staff and students
- Consistent hand washing and sanitizing of shared spaces
- Physical distancing between “pods” as much as possible (see below)
- Emphasizing outdoor time, weather permitting, for large group activities, eating, and community time

These are discussed below in greater detail along with some “Frequently Asked Questions.”

As always, we will ask for parent cooperation in this process. If your child is sick, experiencing COVID symptoms, or has come in contact with someone who has COVID prior to a scheduled program, please refrain from sending them. We will work with you to find an alternative way for them to participate. It is in the best interest of all involved that we protect ourselves and one another. Thank you!

FAQ

What protocols will be in place?

While it is hard to predict what the spring and summer will look like in terms of COVID-19 and required safety measures, we have learned a great deal from “back to school” this fall and remain committed to implementing the best known practices for ensuring a safe program season. In addition to the measures outlined above, we will also be reducing the volume of participants on our programs, require daily temperature checks and mask-wearing, eating outside as much as possible and keeping students in pods that will limit their exposure. Participants will be asked to wash hands for 20 seconds frequently and maintain physical distancing when possible.

What is a pod?

In the past, on a typical Encounter Week Long Program, students would be assigned with different groups of students and individuals during their experience to expose them to diversity of perspectives and encourage new friendships. Due to COVID-19, we think that it is best for students to be assigned to one pod with one core group of students instead of intermingling. While we will still have large group discussions and activities, their pod will be limited to the other students and staff member(s) with whom they are spending the majority of their time. This means that the service group will be the same as their reflection group all with a consistent chaperone.

What happens if a student gets sick?

If while on our program, a student has a fever or another symptom of COVID-19, they will be asked to quarantine immediately in a separate and designated space. The parent will be notified immediately and asked to pick their students up and tested as soon as possible.

What will lunch look like?

During the summer months, we are hopeful for nice weather to allow students to eat outside. We will encourage outdoor activities as much as possible. If there is inclement weather, we will use the several large rooms throughout the center (including two kitchens and two dining rooms) to provide enough space for students to remain socially distanced.

We will designate safe areas for students to remove their mask to eat and drink. We will take water breaks throughout the day to ensure that students are properly hydrated.