



# Guide to Pandemic Plan for Zoo Crew

Last updated 7/1/21

This document is used in conjunction with the full "Lake Superior Zoo COVID-19 Preparedness Plan for Summer Youth Programs." At the Lake Superior Zoo, we recognize and appreciate the community we are in and know that everyone has a part in keeping each other safe. The purpose of this document is to clearly communicate with families their role in helping our Zoo Crew community stay safe. Please read through this document completely. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Sarah Wilcox, Education Director via phone [218.730.4500 ext. 214] or email [swilcox@lszoo.org].

## Mask & Glove Requirements

- As of 7/1/21 the Lake Superior Zoo's policies for staff face coverings are as follows:
  - For vaccinated staff, masks are optional if you are socially distanced from visitors and not working around animals or children.
  - Staff speaking to children (Zoo Camp, Zoo School, visitors) should wear a mask.
  - We recommend that unvaccinated staff wear a mask indoors and outdoors.
- Because children under age 12 are not eligible for vaccination and many over the age of 12 may not yet be fully vaccinated, there is a risk that COVID-19 transmission will occur in camp settings. Therefore, Lake Superior Zoo asks that campers and Zoo Crew wear face coverings during all indoor programming. Face coverings should be worn during outdoor programming in instances when social distancing cannot be maintained, when interacting with animals, or when programming occurs near zoo visitors.
- Youth between the ages of 12-17 who have been fully vaccinated (two weeks after completion of a two-dose or one-dose series) must also follow these face covering guidelines since other youth in their group may not be vaccinated.
- Zoo Crew will wear masks while handling animals and speaking to visitors.
- Any youth preparing an animal's diet must wear a mask and gloves.
- Gloves will be provided by the zoo. Youth should provide their own masks, but disposable face masks will be available for youth who need them.
- If face covering recommendations for youth programs are relaxed by the Governor or MDH this summer, for the protection of the animals, the zoo will still require that youth wear masks while working with animals.

## Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures

Please follow these procedures for a safe drop off and pick up.

- Zoo Crew teens should be wearing a mask when they arrive at the zoo.
- **Teens will enter the zoo using Gate #4.**
  - 9:00 shift: Teens will be arriving at the same time as campers and a camp teacher will have the gate open for you. If you are more than 10 minutes late, the gate may be locked. Call the Gift Shop at 218-730-4500 ext. 200 so they can radio the Zoo Crew Coordinator.
  - 1:00 shift: The Zoo Crew Coordinator will meet you at the gate.
- After entering the zoo, teens will gather on the patio outside the Main Building.
- The Zoo Crew Coordinator (ZCC) will verbally confirm with each teen that a health screening was conducted at home. If it was not, it will be conducted at this time using the [Home Screening Tool for COVID-19 Symptoms](#).
- Teens will sanitize their hands upon arrival.
- **At the end of their shift, teens will exit the zoo using Gate #4.**

## Daily Screening Procedure

Before coming to the zoo, you will need to do a health screening so we can ensure youth with symptoms are not attending Zoo Crew.

- Use the Home Screening Tool for COVID-19 Symptoms:  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/homescreen.pdf>

When you arrive at the zoo, the ZCC will ask if this was done. If you were unable to complete the health screening at home, the ZCC will do a health screening by asking you the questions in the Home Screening Tool.

## Stay Home if Sick

Teens must not come to the zoo if they:

- Test positive for COVID-19.
- May have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Are waiting to get tested, or waiting for COVID-19 test results.
- Show symptoms of COVID-19.
  - Stay home if you have ONE of these symptoms: Fever of 100.4 °F or higher, difficulty or trouble breathing, new cough or a cough that gets worse, new loss of taste or smell.
  - Stay home if you have TWO of these symptoms: Sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, muscle pain, excessive fatigue (extreme tiredness), new or severe headache, new nasal congestion or runny nose.

## Communication Plan for Positive Cases

In the event that a youth, employee, or volunteer tests positive for COVID-19, Lake Superior Zoo will:

- Notify MDH through the COVID-19 Information Submission Form for K-12 Schools, Childcare, or Youth Camps and follow their direction:  
<https://redcap.health.state.mn.us/redcap/surveys/?s=KKWLDH3ARC>.
- Notify parents/guardians and staff via email if after hours, or by phone if during operating hours.
- Conduct a contact tracing investigation and quarantine all employees who have been in CDC-defined close contact with the positive case.
- Communicate to families any necessary information as soon as possible to provide time to plan.
- Honor confidentiality when communicating about a case or outbreak.

If you or anyone in your family tests positive for COVID-19, your parent/guardian must communicate immediately with zoo staff by contacting Sarah Wilcox, Director of Education, at 218-730-4500 x214 or [swilcox@lszoo.org](mailto:swilcox@lszoo.org).

If a teen starts to feel sick during Zoo Crew:

- They will be isolated by sitting in an area nearby, still visible and in earshot of the rest of the group.
- The ZCC will call the teen's parent/guardian to come pick them up.

## Other measures the Zoo is taking to keep you safe

- Handwashing and hand sanitizing will take place throughout the day.
- Cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces and program materials will take place routinely.
- Zoo Crew will spend as much time outside as possible in a small group of 8 or fewer people.
- Social distancing will be practiced as much as possible.
- There will be five teachers and one AmeriCorps member working in the Zoo's Education Department this summer. **All six of these staff are fully vaccinated.**
- A primary role of Zoo Crew is to educate visitors. Safe practices will include:
  - Wearing a mask at all times.
  - Ensuring at least 6 feet of distance between the teen and visitors using marks on the ground or roped off teaching areas.

- Not allowing visitors to touch any animals or biofacts.
- More details are available in the full “COVID-19 Preparedness Plan for Summer Youth Programs” on our website.

**More information will be provided during the June Orientation on Zoom.**