

YMCA BRLS 2021 COVID-19 INFORMATION as of February 19, 2021

In this global pandemic environment, we are living in, we all are seeking to balance the potential impact of exposure. YMCA Blue Ridge Leaders' School is keenly aware of the need to protect everyone from spread while being aware of the very real costs of isolation and increased screen time. Therefore, our goal is to host our event while making modifications to the school and its operations and traditions. In consultation with all relevant public health agencies as well as a team of medical folks with deep knowledge of BRLS we will evolve and adapt our plan based upon current data and experiences.

What follows is a list of current COVID modifications we will be making for 2021. This is not a complete and final list as we all know conditions may change based upon what we learn. The Website will be updated as the plan evolves to best protect everyone.

- All attendees will be asked to show a negative COVID test taken 72 hours prior to their arrival at Blue Ridge and have a symptom self-check w/ temperature at time of arrival.
- Morning and evening symptom checks will occur for all attendees.
- Leaders' schedules will reflect moving through the day in their counselor groups.
- Mealtime chants and songs will not be permitted.
- All participants and staff will begin and end class with hand sanitation/hygiene.
- Masks will be worn indoors and when safe distancing cannot be obtained.
- Some class locations will be altered.
- Some traditional activities may be altered or replaced if they cannot be done safely.
- If anyone presents with symptoms, that person will be sent in for testing and isolated until results are back. In the event of a positive result, that person will return home with 24 hours.
- Traditional Senior Leader classes and events will be adjusted to allow more time to directly support the Leaders Division.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is 500 the capacity at camp per session?

We will monitor medical and governmental guidelines throughout the spring and adjust as warranted. As of January, our plan is to limit enrollment to approximately 500.

How many leaders per room? How is room capacity being determined?

We will adhere to ACA guidance of ensuring adequate distance in overnight accommodations. Based upon current conditions we will reduce enrollment numbers that should allow 2 people per room.

What is the screening/ pre-screening process for staff and leaders?

At a minimum, all attendees will be asked to complete a questionnaire regarding symptoms. BRLS reserves the right to increase this policy to include a negative test result, vaccine status or other steps as warranted to ensure minimal chance of exposure.

What mask guidance will be followed? CDC or DHHS?

We will follow CDC as well review current ACA and other guidelines. Masks will be one of multiple layers of protection we will require as new studies indicate pairing two or more NPI's reduce the risk of spread.

How are you handling mask exceptions?

This has not yet been determined.

If someone exhibits signs of COVID, what is the quarantine/testing process? Where will they go?

Our medical team will have discretion to send an individual in for testing. As we do not yet know the extent of deployment for various tests (and return speed) should the individual need to be isolated pending results, such room will be available

What if multiple YMCA staff from the same association/club are COVID positive? Who would be responsible for their leaders?

In this event we would work with back home YMCA leadership to secure parental approve for a proxy. If parents are unwilling to allow another YMCA professional to shepherd their teen, they are free to travel to the assembly and return home with them.

What is the testing protocol for BRLS staff and Blue Ridge Assembly staff?

This is still under consideration.

Will there be daily temperature checks and symptom screenings for leaders/ staff?

We have not made that determination as of January. We reserve this option as one of many practices to reduce the risk to others. If implemented, it will apply to all attendees.

Who cleans and disinfects between activity periods? How frequently does that happen? Will Leaders be cleaning?

Spaces and equipment will be cleaned between classes by a combination of adults. Leaders are responsible for proper personal hygiene at the entrance and exiting of each class.

What is the protocol / process for a leader that tests positive while at BRLS? Where do they wait? Who waits with them? etc.?

In the event of a positive test result the Assembly will provide a room for isolation until such time as that person can be returned home.

If there is a COVID positive case, what is the cleaning protocol for spaces they have occupied?

The assembly will follow recommended cleaning based upon location/surfaces/materials.

What is the communication if a person a BRLS tests positive? Who sends the communication to parents?

The communication process will be developed prior to the school.

Post BRLS, what is the responsibility of individual clubs to communicate COVID positive cases?

The communication process will be developed prior to the school.

If a leader develops COVID symptoms on the last day(s) of the school, who will be responsible for waiting with that leader until they can be picked up? What if a parent/ guardian is unable to pick up their leader?

Parents / legal guardian will be responsible for all transportation of a COVID-19 positive minor.

Will leaders be in cohorts? If so, what is your plan for minimizing exposure to other groups?

Currently, we plan to use a cohort system throughout the day. We will utilize multiple NPI's to reduce the risk of spread. These will include any combination of strategies. (masks/distance/hygiene/modified curriculum/outdoor locations/etc.)

Will family-style meals be in groups? How are groups determined?

We will take meals in our usual "counselor groups" which will be modified to better protect all attendee.

Are meals in shifts or will all 500 eat at the same time?

We will be reviewing actual enrollment numbers in March and determining the best way to provide a safe mealtime for the school.

What changes have been made in common spaces to encourage social distancing? i.e., removing furniture from lobbies, signage.

Modification to physical surrounding vary across the wide range of our campus buildings. In most cases furniture has been moved, floor graphics applied, and traffic flow sign posted.

How are you handling states with different guidelines that vary from current NC DHHS recommendations?

We are in Buncombe County, North Carolina. As such will adhere to any civil ordinances of our county and state. By travelling to, and staying at, YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly all guests agree to abide by our policies.