



To Our Down Syndrome Association of Greater Charlotte Community,

First and foremost, we hope that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy. We have received questions about if and how COVID-19 will affect our in-person programs and events. We know this pandemic has been stressful to many and recognize that socializing and interacting with peers can be a healthy way to cope with stress and connect with others, particularly after spending quite a bit of time at home. After careful thought and planning, we are excited to let you know that we are planning to resume in-person programs and events, in addition to continuing some virtual programming, while following CDC considerations to protect participants, staff, and volunteers. It is important to note that the information and recommendations below may be subject to change based on CDC guidelines.

The health and safety of our community remains our highest priority. Below, you will find a summary of actions we are taking to help ensure we are lowering COVID-19 risk as much as possible.

We are:

- Intensifying cleaning and disinfection practices within our facilities and premises by cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces (e.g., playground equipment, drinking fountains, and door handles), cleaning and disinfecting objects if they are shared (e.g., art supplies, sports equipment, toys, and games) and ensuring safe and correct use and storage of disinfectants
- Keeping campers/participants in small groups and spacing them out by prioritizing outdoor activities, by seating one participant per row and skipping rows, and putting tape on the floors or sidewalks and signs on the wall to indicate 6 feet
- Limiting the number of items that are shared or touched between campers/participants and staff by providing individual supplies, keeping belongings separated from others and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas, and using disposable utensils and dishes and pre-packaged boxes or bags when food is provided
- Promoting healthy hygiene practices by teaching campers/participants the importance of washing their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, monitoring campers/participants to make sure they are washing their hands, providing them with hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol when they don't have easy access to soap and water, encouraging them to cover their coughs and sneezes with a tissue or to use the inside of their elbow, and posting signs about these healthy habits around the facilities
- Requesting that participants, staff, and volunteers wear a cloth face covering as feasible, and in times when physical distancing is difficult. As a reminder, cloth face coverings should not be placed on children younger than 2 years of age or on anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cover without assistance.
- If a camper/participant, staff, or volunteer does get sick while participating our program(s), we have identified an area where they can rest, be watched after, and safely isolate from others. We will communicate with parents or caretakers directly and, if necessary, arrange for the camper/participant, staff, or volunteer to be taken to a healthcare facility for care.

The Down Syndrome Association of Greater Charlotte is **NOT currently requiring** COVID vaccinations for its campers/participants, staff, and volunteers. Though, it is recommended for the overall health and safety of our community.

We ask that you help us protect the health of all participants, staff, and volunteers. Anyone who is sick or was sick with COVID-19 or recently in contact with someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days— including staff, campers, and families— should not participate in our program(s). Be on the lookout for symptoms of COVID-19, which include fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, and loss of taste or smell. Call your doctor if you think you or a family member is sick.

To make your and everyone else’s experience productive and in compliance with applicable COVID-19-related health and safety standards, campers/participants, staff, and volunteers will be expected to follow all instructions posted or otherwise communicated to you by the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Charlotte.

Please note that an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public space where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, senior citizens and participants with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable.

By participating in DSA of Greater Charlotte’s programming, you voluntarily assume the risk, both known and unknown, related to your participation in this program, including potential exposure to COVID-19.

On or before your scheduled program date, you will be asked to sign an acknowledgement of the terms and conditions outlined above, in addition any additional requirements that are program- and/or event-specific. If you would like to save time, you may print and sign a copy of this acknowledgement as indicated below.

Thank you and stay healthy,

Holly Zipperer
Executive Director
Down Syndrome Association of Greater Charlotte
215-285-1281 (cell)
hzipperer@dsa-gc.org



To: Our Down Syndrome Association of Greater Charlotte Community
Re: COVID-19 Precautions and Risks

Thank you for choosing to participate in programming and events offered by the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Charlotte. We have taken enhanced health and safety measures – for you, our other participants, our employees, and others you may encounter while participating.

To make your and everyone else's experience productive and in compliance with applicable COVID-19-related healthy and safety standards, you will be expected to follow all instructions posted or otherwise communicated to you by the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Charlotte, including use of face coverings, social distancing, and frequent handwashing/sanitizing. The Down Syndrome Association of Greater Charlotte is NOT currently requiring COVID vaccinations for its campers/participants, staff, and volunteers. Though, it is recommended for the overall health and safety of our community.

Please note that an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public space where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, senior citizens and participants with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable.

By participating in DSA of Greater Charlotte's programming, you voluntarily assume the risk, both known and unknown, related to your participation in this program, including potential exposure to COVID-19.

On or before your schedule program date, you will be asked to sign an acknowledgement of the terms and conditions outlined above. If you would like to save time, you may print and sign a copy of this acknowledgement as indicated below.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: I have read the above notice and warning of health-related exposure, including COVID-19, and agree to the terms described as a condition of participating in Down Syndrome Association of Greater Charlotte's programs and events.

Signature: _____

Name (Print): _____

Date: _____