Summer camps are back! But COVID-19, including more contagious new variants, is still a danger, so it's important to know the facts about protecting campers of all ages. Here's advice from our experts to keep in mind:

**ALL ELIGIBLE CHILDREN 12 AND UP SHOULD BE VACCINATED.** Pfizer's vaccine is authorized and safe for those ages, and is currently the best way to keep your child safe from COVID.

**COVID IS A HEALTH RISK FOR CHILDREN.** While most kids do not become seriously ill from COVID, a small number do get very sick and require hospitalization. Also, children with COVID can still transmit the virus and may also suffer long-term health effects still being studied. That's why it's so important to get your child vaccinated if they're eligible.

**FOR SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING WEARING MASKS OR NOT,** follow your camp's guidelines.

**BEING OUTSIDE IN THE FRESH AIR** is still one of the safest environments for reducing the risk of catching COVID, so summer camps with plenty of outdoor activities are recommended.

**CAMPERS SHOULD BE DIVIDED INTO CONSISTENT GROUPS,** or “cohorts,” of no more than 20 children that stay together each day and do not change.

**GROUP CAMP ACTIVITIES, LIKE DINING, SHOULD BE STAGGERED** when possible to avoid very large mass gatherings of campers.

If your children are planning on attending camp this summer, we hope they have a very fun — and safe — time! Visit [ConnecticutChildrens.org/NextNormal](http://ConnecticutChildrens.org/NextNormal) for more information.