



## Memorandum

**TO: MAYOR SETH FLEETWOOD, CITY OF BELLINGHAM  
CAMP 210 RESIDENTS AND ORGANIZERS**

**FROM:** Erika Lautenbach, Health Department

**DATE:** DECEMBER 7, 2020

**RE: REVISED HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDANCE AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CAMP 210**

---

On November 30, 2020, I provided Camp 210 organizers and Mayor Seth Fleetwood with recommendations and guidance on mitigating and containing the spread of COVID-19 among campers. The Health Department is particularly concerned for the health and well-being of campers at Camp 210 who may also have substance use disorder or other behavioral health disorders, or other underlying health conditions, that put them at increased risk for severe illness.

Following that memo and the first known COVID-19 case, two additional cases were identified through Health Department testing on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. I write this memo and revised recommendations with that context and what I and my colleagues have observed at Camp 210 following my recommendations last week.

As at any congregate living site, we rely on organizers to be partners in the COVID-19 response as a shared responsibility. We've been working closely with organizers at Camp 210 to minimize COVID-19 risks to campers and prevent further spread of the virus at the camp.

The Health Department's role is to conduct or arrange testing, investigate cases and contacts to understand the extent of the spread, and provide technical assistance in reviewing COVID-19 plans or procedures, and identify improvements.

The Health Department, prior to the outbreak at Camp 210:

- provided technical assistance on health and safety to both the City and Campers
- conducted two site visits (11/25 and 11/29) and provided additional



recommendations

- provided 200 masks and other hygiene products the campers lacked (11/25)

Following the outbreak at Camp 210, the Health Department:

- provided a document outlining [health and safety requirements specific to the site](#) (11/30)
- provided site-specific flyers and additional technical assistance (11/30 and 12/5)
- provided a no contact thermometer for organizers to conduct daily symptom monitoring (12/2 and 12/5)
- tested all willing campers (12/2 and 12/6)

Despite the Health Department's efforts, relatively few people have chosen to be tested, and we have observed that mitigation measures and practices – like mask-wearing and physical distancing – have not been widely adopted at the site. More specifically:

- **TESTING:** Of the approximately 80-100 campers at Camp 210, less than 30 chose to be tested on 12/2 and less than 12 chose to be tested on 12/6, providing limited information about the extent of the spread or who may have been exposed to the virus. It is the responsibility of the organizers to provide notice, wake or organize campers, and provide strong messaging about requiring or strongly encouraging. When public health nurses arrived on 12/6, there were no organizers present to fulfill these functions.
- **HEALTH AND SAFETY:** There are very few changes made to layout/spacing of tents, masking, gathering spaces, or communal eating. Campers are still gathering at the food tent, eating together, gathering without masks, and orienting their tents very close to each other. It is the responsibility of the organizers to ensure these health and safety requirements are implemented.

Based on the limited implementation of health and safety recommendations, and the limited response to on-site testing, we cannot determine the level of exposure to COVID-19 throughout the camp. Therefore, we ask all campers at Camp 210 to self-quarantine.

Campers must:

- Stay in tents except to use restroom and sanitation facilities.
- Participate in twice-weekly testing.
- Wear masks when not in their family pods.
- Consistent with the Governor's current restriction modifications for all counties, limit exposure to anyone not in family pod.
- Discontinue use of a shared meal tent.

Organizers must:

- Wear masks, eye protection and gloves when on-site.
- Deliver food to tents.
- Conduct daily symptom monitoring.
- Identify a no-contact or drop off site for volunteers or community members who wish to provide food or donations.

The Health Department will continue to provide on-site, twice-weekly testing. With ongoing testing and mitigation measures in place at Camp 210, the Health Department will continue to work with emergency shelter providers to seek additional shelter options and provide access to shelter beds for Camp 210 campers.