

COVID-19 SAFETY STANDARDS FOR RETREATS 2020/2021

***UPDATED 10/28/2020**

Below you will find policies we are implementing based on Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidelines. These documents change frequently, so we will do our best to keep you updated. In an attempt to prevent “surprise” changes, we will update these standards as needed freezing the most recent standards once we are within 7 days of the event.

These guidelines come from several MDH documents. Links to the two most referenced are below. Please feel free to call Trout if you have any questions.

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/overnightcamp.pdf>

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/socialdistance.pdf>

PARTNERING WITH YOUTH LEADERS & STUDENTS

Pre-screening: We need your help in pre-screening all guests prior to arrival to ensure everyone is healthy and guests are safe.

- About 5 to 7 days out from your event at Trout, we will ask you to provide a specific health form and questionnaire in a PDF form for all youth leaders and students.
- We will ask you/them to monitor their health prior to leaving for Trout.
- We’ll also be asking about any exposure that might be relevant.
- Anyone who is ill with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 during the 72-hours prior to arrival will need to contact our director to determine if you are still able to come.

Before leaving for camp: The best practice is to have everyone in your youth group screened prior to leaving for camp (loading buses, vans, and other vehicles). Before you load cars, vans, busses, use the form provided by Trout to record temperature checks before you head to Trout.

Trout will most likely do these same checks again upon entering camp, so if someone is feeling ill, it is best that they are turned away at the church parking lot rather than at Trout where arranging for travel to home might be difficult.

- Anyone with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will need to return home. In the rare case that someone does not pass our COVID screening at Trout, we will put that individual in quarantine and more than likely send them home Saturday morning.

How will Check-In work? To minimize exposure:

- We will contact your youth group via email the week prior to your weekend to inform you as to where your group will be staying so that you can pre-assign your students & leaders into housing.
- Once your youth group is separated into these smaller groups (MDH calls them ‘pods’ or at Trout we call them cabin groups), those groups of around 10 will be how they are seated at mealtimes, chapel times, and compete in games, etc. The idea is that these 10 campers/leaders become a “Family group” that spends a lot of the weekend together.
- Upon arrival at Trout, staff will collect regular health forms and the COVID Temp Check forms. (*We may also take temperatures at this time.*) We will provide you and your students with a wristband and event information, housing, meal and chapel scheduling, etc.
- Wristbands must be worn for the entirety of the event/retreat as they identify those that have been health checked.

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- In some cases, campers, leaders, and their luggage may be moved to housing using Trout's "open-air" wagons (we will move people and their luggage by cabin). Some housing may be in walking distance from where you park so those people will carry luggage to their housing.

CABIN GROUPS – SOCIAL DISTANCING, FACEMASKS & MORE

In order to stay within MDH guidelines, our retreats will run at less than capacity than typical. We are limiting the number of guests we house per cabin to 10 or less (based on the size of the cabin). Guests staying in Brown House or other camp housing consisting of multiple rooms will be limited to the number of beds in each room (not to exceed MDH guidelines).

We will do our best to keep church groups together, while not mixing churches as much as we have in the past. For smaller youth groups (less than 5 students/leaders), we may arrange housing by region.

Sleeping arrangements: In order to put as much space as possible between campers while they sleep, it is recommended sleeping in a head-to-toe fashion in your bunks. Because all accommodations are not the same size, we will not use any areas where adequate spacing cannot be achieved.

Facemasks: In accordance with MDH facemask guideline, Trout will require that all staff and guests wear masks while inside any building with the following exceptions:

- In cabins or sleeping quarters (the equivalent to being "at home" with your family)
- While eating during mealtimes in the Dining Hall.
- During indoor physical activities where wearing a mask would be unsafe – such as while climbing on the indoor climbing wall

We will not require staff or guests to wear masks outside unless social distancing standards cannot be maintained. We will also not require staff or guests to wear masks at a time when they would not be practical or safe such as on the High Ropes course or while playing sports.

Guests will be required to bring facemasks or face coverings with you.

How will cabin groups interact with other guests? Because there are currently no available guidelines that are event or retreat specific, Trout will be adapting the overnight summer camp guidance to fit situations on an event-by-event basis for group interaction and activities. All activities will be done in controlled groups so that we can maintain a 6-foot distance between participants, and activities will be coordinated to avoid overcrowding areas.

Signups and activity times may be shortened to help us get through as many people as possible in an orderly fashion. Transportation to and from events will be provided in our open-air wagons when transportation is necessary, and store and soda fountain hours will be staggered or limited to small groups at a time.

ON-SITE MEDICAL STAFF

What do I do if someone feels ill during our retreat? Trout will have Health Lodge staff on grounds for the entirety of the weekend. We will use this form if a student or leader has COVID symptoms.

HOW WILL WE KEEP TROUT CLEAN

How will cabins be cleaned? Our cleaning crews always give the cabins a thorough cleaning before guests arrive, but this year we'll have a more detailed disinfectant protocol. Before every event or retreat, every cabin or housing unit at Trout

will be rigorously cleaned by our staff. After guests leave, we will reclean and leave the areas empty between guest groups as long as possible (24 hours or more).

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What about hand washing? We have installed new sinks at the entrances of our dining halls and purchased portable hand washing stations for our activity areas. In addition, we have alcohol-based hand sanitizer for every cabin, building, and activity area throughout camp.

What about mealtimes? Guests will eat with their housed group in the dining hall or outside (weather permitting). Proper social distance and mask requirements are outlined above, however, it is important to note, that though masks are not required while eating in the dining hall, they are required if you are simply sitting or socializing at a table inside.

Mealtimes will be evaluated and scheduled in a way that best fits the event. If the total attendance is small, normal mealtimes will probably be the way we schedule, however, if the event attendance total requires staggered mealtimes, those will be built into the schedule to accommodate as many guests as possible at one time.

We will not have open buffet or salad bar this year. All food will be served-buffet* or plated. If you have a food allergy, we will still be able to meet your needs.

*"Served-buffet" is a mixed food service line where a portion of your meal is plated by staff (usually the main entrée) and the plate is handed to you through a pass-through, and you choose the balance of your meal from provided containers, i.e. boxed salad, condiments, etc.

What about activity areas? We have purchased a special, EPA-registered antimicrobial product from Omni Solutions. This antimicrobial solution is the same product that many hospitals and ambulances use to protect their surfaces. It creates a barrier on porous and non-porous surfaces that lasts up to 90 days. With this product, we will be able to add an additional layer of protection for guests when they touch things like ropes, saddles, or even canoe paddles. When used in combination with routine handwashing, as well as cleaning items in-between use, this will be a tremendous help in reducing surface contact exposure. For more information go to: <https://www.omnisaves.com/>

What about shared items? Trout is working hard to limit the handling of shared items. We have been sanitizing and reworking our procedures to minimize the hand-to-hand contact of items all around grounds.

What About Canteen, Store & Soda Fountain? This year we will not be using any vending machines, however, pop and water will be available to purchase at both the Canteen and Trout Store. The Canteen, Store and Soda Fountain will also be open to purchase snacks, store items, ice cream and coffee. We may need to limit the number of guests that are able to shop in the store at one time, and social distancing will still be required but we anticipate being able to have these areas open and stocked for you.

What about Chapels and meeting rooms? All meeting rooms and Chapels are cleaned between groups. Some meetings, seminars, or Chapels may be relocated outdoors as weather permits. Please keep in mind that as the seasons shift, weather can be challenging, so be prepared to be flexible.

What About Singing and Worship: At Trout, worship in Chapel is at the very heart of who we are, and we would like nothing more than to hear voices lifted in praise again in the Chapel. Unfortunately, based on event attendance, that may not be possible for every group.

Worshiping Indoors:

Please keep in mind the following basic guidance:

- Those conducting worship will be positioned distanced from guests to limit the "projection of aerosols"

- Singing is allowed indoor with masks
- Seating will be arranged so as to ensure people have the proper separation between groups
- When entering and exiting the Chapel, please maintain proper social distance from people not in your assigned cabin

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- Please wear your facemask as mandated
- Please use proper cough/sneeze etiquette
- Be prepared for a change in location for worship times (outside) and dress accordingly (as fall progresses, it will get cooler outside)

MEALS, CHAPEL CAPACITY, BUSING & TRAVEL

We will continue to update these areas as the MDH and CDC makes changes to their guidance. We will do our best to keep you informed as quickly as we can, but we will so do our best to not throw you a last-minute curve ball and try to freeze our rules in place during the week prior to your event.

What about bussing? As we understand it, the limits placed on bussing do not apply to overnight camps.

TROUT RETREATS COVID RELATED ADJUSTMENTS OVERVIEW

Retreat Numbers & Expectations:

Because we are required to limit capacity, our retreats will be capped at around 350 campers (depending on how groups fit into cabins). Cabin limits are 10 or less campers/leaders per cabin.

If we have 200 or less campers/leaders overall, we will hold single meal and Chapel times. When we have 200 or more, we will more than likely double shift both meal and Chapel times. Church Groups will not be split up. They will be housed separately as usual and will remain on the same schedule for meals and Chapels.

All activities will go on as typical, but there will be some added social distancing features while waiting in line or standing on sidelines.

Socially Distanced Capacities:

Housing – 350

Point Dining Hall – 250

- Seated in Cabin Groups, socially distanced from others

Stoneridge Dining Hall - 180

- Seated in Cabin Groups, socially distanced from others

Chapel Spaces- 50% of Fire Code not to exceed 250 per group size

- Seated in Cabin Groups, socially distanced from other cabin groups