

Residential Village Weekends Health Protocols 2021-2022 Concordia Language Villages

Concordia Language Village Weekends may continue to look slightly different in 2021-2022. While we work with our language learning communities to ensure the health and safety of villagers and staff, we continue to be committed to providing a rich, immersed experience to our participants.

Health protocols in the Villages are based on Minnesota Department of Health guidelines for [youth programming](#) and [schools](#). In addition, we follow COVID-19 guidelines provided by the [Centers for Disease Control](#) and the [American Camp Association](#). As these guidelines are updated to reflect local and national trends, we will continue to adjust our protocols.

Vaccination

As of September 1, 2021, Concordia Language Villages, for the health and safety of its constituents, requires that all staff and participants eligible for COVID-19 vaccination submit either proof of vaccination or a request for a medical or religious exemption to vaccination as a condition of participation in our programs. **Please note:** If a participant is ineligible for the vaccination or has been granted a medical or religious exemption from vaccination, they must submit a negative COVID-19 molecular test result from a test administered within 72 hours before arrival.

Healthcare and Pre-Screening

As in the past, school groups will continue to choose and provide their own chaperones and designated adults to oversee the administration of prescription and over-the-counter medications and provide for participants' healthcare needs. Concordia Language Villages will collect information on participants' COVID-19 vaccination status, allergies, nutritional/dietary information and any additional health concerns through [CampDoc](#), a secure encrypted health records system. (Parents/Guardians will receive an invitation via email to create an account for their child.) In addition, participants will complete a COVID-19 prescreen through CampDoc 5-7 days before arrival.

All participants are required to bring their own thermometer to take daily temperatures. The chaperone is responsible for ensuring a temperature check for all participants is conducted prior to bus departure. Any individuals with a temperature above 100.4°F or any symptoms noted below will not be permitted on the bus.

Exclusion from Programming

Participants should not attend and will be required to leave if:

- They have been diagnosed with or are awaiting test results for COVID-19.
- They had close contact (together for at least 15 minutes) within 14 days of arrival with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- They have any one of the following more common symptoms: fever greater than or equal to 100.4°F, new, onset and/or worsening cough, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell.
- Or any two of the following less common symptoms: sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, muscle pain, excessive fatigue, new onset of severe headache, new onset of nasal congestion or runny nose.

Layered Mitigation

Our Villages will employ a layered approach to COVID-19 mitigation, including small cohorts, use of well-fitted face coverings and maintaining at least three feet of distance when indoors. Though participants may remove their facial coverings to eat and sleep, they will remain spatially distanced.

Each school community will be asked to create cohorts with a maximum of 15 members (13 students and two chaperone-teachers). Cohorts will remain together for the duration of the weekend, including housing, lessons, activities and meals.

Members of a cohort will share sleeping quarters. Participants will sleep with at least six feet of distance between them, without masks. Sleeping arrangements will be oriented to maximize the distance between participants' heads.

Bathrooms will be assigned per cohort (within cabins), and participants will use only their designated bathroom.

Larger group gatherings: For the majority of the time, each cohort will function separately and will not intermingle with members of other cohorts during their stay. We will continue to relish the many outdoor opportunities provided by the Turtle River Lake site, and we will spend as much time as possible outdoors. In outdoor settings, larger groups of up to 50 may come together provided appropriate spatial distancing is maintained (and masks worn if necessary).

Meals: We will adjust our meal plan to reflect guidelines at the time of the program. Options for meals include but are not limited to: boxed meals eaten within cohorts, larger group outdoor dining as the temperature allows, indoor dining with cohorts spaced or staggered.

Transportation: Transportation to and from Turtle River Lake will follow the current MDH transportation guidelines for schools, including the wearing of masks, and will be arranged by the originating school districts. We will share the contact information of our partners in bussing from previous years.

We know this is a lot of information and that some of the guidelines may seem strict. However, we remain committed to the health and safety of our staff and participants and ask for your cooperation in adhering to these changes.

If you have any questions about the current health protocols in place for Village Weekends, please contact our Health Services office (218-586-8771 or health@cord.edu).

Thank you,

Candace Kretchmar, Villager and Staff Health Coordinator

Mollie Nelson, RN, Ph.D., Associate Director for Health and Wellness

Concordia Language Villages