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# **Virtual Learning Academy**

## **FAQs**

### **PROGRAM STANDARDS/HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS:**

The YMCA is following strict COVID-19 safety protocols established by the Centers for Disease Control and Georgia Department of Public Health. Additionally, the Executive Order of the State of Georgia mandates youth-serving organizations to comply with safety measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These additional measures include, but are not limited to the following:

- All participants and staff must wear masks on arrival and throughout the day. There may be times during outdoor/physical activities that staff may allow participants to remove masks when social distancing is in effect.
- Pre-check-in screening and temperature checks will be required for everyone (participants and staff) prior to entering the program site.
- Limited capacities for each location have been determined to allow for appropriate social distancing.
- Participants will be assigned to small group cohorts with a ratio of 1 Staff to 9 children. Cohorts will engage with each other, but not with other cohorts, unless social distancing can be maintained.
- On arrival and throughout the day, participants will be reminded to practice frequent handwashing and use of hand sanitizer.
- All program sites are deep cleansing every night and each weekend.

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

#### **What is the Y Virtual Learning Academy?**

As schools transition to virtual learning this fall, the Y is offering a "Virtual Learning Academy" to provide children a place where they can attend virtual classes while their parents are at work.

Students in Kindergarten - 8th Grade (9th Grade at our A.J. McClung location) will be assisted in completing their remote learning while also staying active and enjoying fun activities throughout the day.

Our Y Virtual Learning Academy staff will assist students in logging on and connecting to their school programs using their own laptop or device, assist with questions during remote learning, and help to keep students on track as they connect with their teachers online. During class breaks and after schoolwork is completed, the Y team will get students up and moving in fun and creative ways to keep them engaged and active.



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### **How will virtual learning work?**

We will oversee your child's remote learning, including assisting logging in and out of all platforms, turning in assignments online, and helping with schoolwork if time allows. Our staff are NOT classroom teacher and we are not a substitute for your child's education. Instead, we are here to help and support your child with their remote learning,

### **Who is eligible to enroll?**

Boys and girls must be in Kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade (up to 9<sup>th</sup> grade at our A.J. McClung branch) during the 2020-2021 school year to be eligible for enrollment.

### **What are the registration rates for the Y Virtual Learning Academy?**

Our Virtual Learning Academy offers weekly registration & varies slightly by location. PLEASE NOTE: Registration fees are WAIVED if your child is currently a registered member of our Summer Day Camp program

Rates are as follows:

#### **A.J. McClung Youth & Teen Center:**

- Registration Fee: \$40.00
- Weekly Fee: \$70.00
- Drop-In Rate: \$25.00 *\*limit 2 days per week*

#### **D.A. Turner YMCA:**

- Registration Fee
  - Members - \$25.00
  - Non-Members - \$50.00
- Weekly Fee
  - Members - \$90.00
  - Non-Members - \$115.00

#### **John P. Thayer YMCA:**

- Registration Fee: \$50.00
- Weekly Fee
  - Members - \$90.00
  - Non-Members - \$115.00
- Drop-In Rate *\*limit 2 days per week*
  - Members - \$60.00
  - Non-Members - \$75.00

### **Is Financial Assistance available?**

Financial Assistance is available. We believe that every child and family should have the opportunity to participate in any Y program. Those not able to pay the full fee may be awarded partial financial assistance based on their ability to pay and the Y's ability to fund the subsidy. If you would like to apply for financial assistance, please contact the location you plan to send your child for more information.

If you would like to donate to help send a child to camp, visit our website at <https://www.columbusymca.com> and click 'Donate' at the top of your screen.



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### **Can I apply a credit from a past program as payment?**

Yes, credits on your account CAN be used to pay for your registration fees. However, this cannot be done online, so you will need to contact the location you plan to send your child and they will complete your registration using your program credit.

### **What is the cancellation and refund policy?**

A written request must be submitted at least one week prior to the date to be canceled. The account must be in good standing for a refund to be issued. The YMCA reserves the right to apply refund/credit to any outstanding balances.

### **Will my child need to wear a mask?**

All participants and staff must wear masks on arrival and throughout the day. There may be times during outdoor/physical activities that staff may allow participants to remove masks when social distancing is in effect.

### **What size groups will kids be working in?**

Participants will be assigned to small group cohorts with a ratio of 1 Staff Member to 9 children. Cohorts will engage with each other, but not with other cohorts, unless social distancing can be maintained.

### **What should my child bring to the Y Virtual Learning Academy?**

- **Lunch & Snacks:** Lunch WILL be provided, but children can bring their own non-perishable lunch. We encourage you to send your child with at least two snacks each day. We ask that you do NOT bring any snacks and/or lunches containing peanut products.

- In order to observe all dietary, allergy, and health issues, children are not permitted to share food brought from home.
- **Refillable Water Bottle:** Children are strongly encouraged to drink water throughout the day. Bottle re-fill stations will be available, and staff will require their group to take water breaks in-between activity periods. For safety reasons, the fountains will only be able to full up water bottles and not be used for children to drink directly from.
  - **Laptop or Chromebook** to access your school's online learning. Students must bring in their own devices for this program. Devices should be fully charged prior to arrival and a charger and other needed accessories should be brought in as well. We have a limited number of devices available for those students who may not have one.
  - **Headphones** with a microphone to allow students to independently engage with their virtual programs.
  - **Any usernames and passwords** that your child could need to access devices, emails, portals, websites, or other learning platforms. You will also be required to provide us with a schedule of their online meeting times and classes so that we can support their time management.
  - **Any school supplies** specifically requested by your child's school or teacher.
  - **A book to read.**
  - **Sunscreen**
  - **Bug Spray, if needed.**

*Please make sure ALL items coming with your child are labeled.*



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### **Is there a lost and found?**

We will not keep a lost and found. Any item found that is labeled with your child's name will be returned to your child's group. Found items that are not labeled will be donated to charity.

### **Will lunch or snacks be provided each day?**

Lunch WILL be provided daily by local YMCA partners. However, Children are more than welcome to bring their own, non-perishable lunch daily. Children are not permitted to share food brought from home.

Snacks are NOT provided. Children should bring snacks from home to be eaten during snack periods. We recommend at least two snacks.

### **What will the drop-off and pick-up process look like?**

Before arriving at camp, we require that all registration documents are completed.

At drop-off, parents and passengers should remain in their vehicle while our staff complete the check-in process. The staff member will confirm the names of the children being dropped off, confirm completion of pre-screening questionnaire, and then take the temperature of each child as they exit the vehicle. Campers must be wearing masks as they exit the vehicle.

### **Is early pick-up allowed?**

If you need to pick-up your child before 4:00 p.m., please give our Y staff a written note during morning drop-off with your child's name and what time you will check your child out. During 2:30 – 4:00 p.m., campers are in transition preparing for end of the day and we will be unable to sign out children during this time. Therefore, early pick-ups must occur prior to 2:30 p.m.

### **Are visitors allowed during the day?**

For the safety of your child, the Y does not allow visitors to Virtual Learning Academy.

### **How will the Y Virtual Learning Academy staff communicate with parents?**

Our Directors are always there for any parent questions/concerns. All communication will be shared electronically to the email addresses provided by the family at the time of registration. It is the responsibility of the family to let Y staff know of any email address changes.

### **How far in advance can I register for Virtual Learning Academy?**

Currently, registration is available in our online system through the month of August. Since we do not know when face-to-face learning will resume at schools, we are keeping registration on a rolling basis.

### **Will I need to sign a waiver?**

Yes. In order to ensure that every participant in our program understands the protocols, procedures, and risks of participation, each camper's parent will need a waiver signed prior to their first day. Signing the waiver will be part of your registration process.



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### **Do I need to submit any health information for my child?**

A health history form must be submitted prior to the start of the program. It is the responsibility of the family to inform the Y of any changes to the information submitted on the health history form.

Parents must certify that their child is up to date on all required immunizations appropriate for the child's age. If not, they must provide appropriate documentation for a medical exemption.

The State of Georgia requires immunization form 3231 for every child, due the day the child starts. Please provide your child's current form 3231 and the YMCA Medical Release/Waiver by either emailing it to your camp Director or bringing with you on the first day of camp.

### **Will there be daily health screenings?**

Yes. Per CDC guidelines, all children will have their temperatures taken and logged upon arrival daily. Staff taking temperatures at carpool will be wearing PPE. Any child who presents a fever at or greater than 100.4 will NOT be allowed to attend. In accordance with our local health mandate, children will not be permitted to return until they have either had a negative COVID-19 test or have been free of fever and fever medication for 24 hours, other symptoms have improved, and at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

We are putting into place as many safety measures as possible to help minimize the risk to all campers and staff as recommended by local health officials.

### **What happens if a child gets sick while attend the Y Virtual Learning Academy?**

If a child presents symptoms while at Virtual Learning Academy related to COVID-19 (fever at or greater than 100.4°F, cough, shortness of breath, diarrhea, fatigue, headache, muscle ache, nausea, lose of taste or smell, sore throat, and/or vomiting), the child will be separated from the group until a parent/guardian can pick them up. They will be supervised by an adult from six feet away.

In accordance with our local health mandate, children will not be permitted to return until they have either had a negative COVID-19 test or have been free of fever and fever medication for 24 hours, other symptoms have improved, and at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

### **Will my child be encouraged to wash their hands throughout the day?**

Yes. Children and staff will sanitize their hands immediately upon arrival. Children and staff will sanitize their hands between activities. Staff will carry cleaning products with them to each activity to sanitize all equipment after use. Bathrooms will be cleaned multiple times throughout the day.

### **What activities will my child be participating in?**

Activities will be scheduled around virtual learning schedules. To the extent possible, activities will take place outdoors. Children will participate in engaging and fun games and physical activities to keep them moving and active throughout the day.



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## **What are the procedures and protocols if there is a positive case of COVID among staff and participants?**

In order to provide transparency and inform parents of what you can expect if there is a case of COVID identified at your child's day camp, the following are our notification and closure protocols:

- If a person in the program (staff or child) shows symptoms of COVID-19 while at the Y Virtual Learning Academy, we will follow CDC guidelines for isolation until that person leaves the location.
- When the Y is made aware that a camper or staff member has tested positive for COVID-19:
  - Parents and staff will be notified by email on the same day we are made aware, if we are notified prior to 6:00 p.m. If later, notification will be provided the following day.
  - The notification will include the dates the camper or staff was present at camp over the previous 10 days for reference.
  - The camper or staff member will be asked to self-quarantine and will NOT be permitted to return to camp until at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and a doctor's note or a negative COVID test has been provided.

If there are two or more positive COVID cases at the same location within a 7-day period, the location will be closed for 10 days from the date of the second identified case.

## **Will my child be able to receive medication?**

Yes. A Director will administer any over-the-counter medication deemed necessary. Y staff can administer prescription medication when we receive all appropriate medical forms. All prescription medication must be in the original container with the pharmacy label. All over-the-counter medication must be in the original packaging and clearly marked with your child's name. After registration you will be provided with additional information in case your child needs to receive medication during camp.

## **Will my child go swimming during Virtual Learning Academy?**

Swimming will be an available activity. Toys, floats, and other high-touch objects will not be permitted. Students will be required to complete a swim test. If they are unable to pass the swim test, he/she will be required to wear a lifejacket.

## **Will staff receive additional safety training?**

All Y staff are required to attend training sessions to review all new safety protocols related to COVID-19, how to follow measures for greater health and safety, and to understand the most up-to-date CDC guidelines.



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### **Do you have any behavior guidelines?**

**Yes. The YMCA's philosophy of a discipline program is that discipline is a continuous, daily process of love and logic during which the following steps will be implemented to resolve an issue:**

- 1. Child will be redirected and given a verbal warning**
- 2. Child will be asked to take a personal time-out.**
- 3. Child will lose some/all privileges of participating in a special activity**
- 4. Camper will talk with Camp Leadership and parent will be called to discuss a positive plan of change.**

**Parents will be called to pick up child early if the behavior is causing a disruption to camp and other campers. In some instances, if issue continues or is of a sever nature, removal from camp may be necessary. In an event such as this, a behavior report is written and submitted to the Camp Director. A copy is given to the parent along with the discussion from the staff regarding the child's behavior. When is becomes necessary to remove the child from our program, parents will be asked to find alternative care immediately. No child will be dismissed without the benefit of a conference between parent and staff first. Physical violent to another camper will result in immediate removal from camp and no return will be allowed.**

**Due to the program modifications made as a result of COVID-19, we want all parents to acknowledge that it may not be the best fit for every child. We are unable to tolerate any behavioral issues of any kind for the safety and well-being of all children and staff.**