



**Camp TLC / Spina Bifida Association of North Texas
Immunization Health Policy for Sleep Away Children's Camp**

Background:

Each year, the American Academy of Pediatrics publishes a "Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule." Practicing pediatricians across North America consider this the standard of care, and indeed the context in which they practice. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has established vaccine standards for adults.

Given the clear public health based need to protect the camp community as a whole, and the *recent outbreak of measles* among children, **we are requiring that all children and staff be immunized.**

Case Statement:

Parents send their children to camp and assume that their children will enjoy themselves, have positive social interactions, and be safe and healthy. Safety and public health are priorities for the Spina Bifida Association of North Texas, Camp John Marc, and Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. The vaccination of all members of the camp community is essential in order to maintain a safe environment and decrease the risk of transmission of preventable illnesses.

The establishment of a safe environment must therefore include the requirement that all participants in the Camp John Marc "Camp TLC" program be adequately immunized against all of the preventable diseases as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

While parents may choose to defer the vaccination of their children, for SBANT this is not an issue of individual rights and choice, but an issue of public health and policy. The routine vaccination of all children and staff is an important public health matter especially in the confined environment of a residential summer camp with round-the-clock communal living and with some vulnerable populations present.

Policy Statement:

ALL THOSE WHO ARE IN RESIDENCE AT CAMP (children and adults staying overnight at camp for more than one night) are required to have **age-appropriate vaccines** recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the Center for Disease Control (CDC), with the exceptions noted.

- DTaP, DT, Td, or Tdap (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis)
- Tdap vaccine is now required for children over age 11
- IPV (Poliovirus)
- Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type b bacteria)
- PCV 13 (Pneumococcal) vaccine
- Rotavirus vaccine
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis A- strongly recommended
- MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) or serologic evidence of immunity. Adults born before 1957 are assumed to be immune to measles
- Varicella vaccine (Varivax – for Chicken Pox), or serologic or historical evidence of immunity
- Menactra (Meningococcal disease / Meningitis) - required for those age 11 and older

Covid Vaccine is not a requirement of Camp TLC attendance although the AAP does recommend all youth be vaccinated.

We will **not** be accepting “waivers” on the same basis that Texas public schools allow. We will not grant waivers for reasons of conscience.

The only exception that will be considered is a medical reason not to vaccinate, and even in that instance, acceptance will be at the sole discretion of the camp medical director.

We regret if this policy means your child cannot attend the Camp John Marc “Camp TLC” week, but we are making a decision based on sound medical advice for the optimal health and safety of all campers and camp staff.

