



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

November 17, 2020

Mr. Neil Berlin
Co-Chair
Maryland Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council
neil@airylouise.org

Dear Mr. Berlin,

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council (the Council) concerning the current Maryland Department of Health (MDH) order pertaining to youth camps. MDH understands your concerns and appreciates your attention to this issue.

MDH recognizes the Council's concerns with the current June 12th order pertaining to youth camps. Currently, MDH's efforts are focused on curbing the record high and rising case rates seen throughout Maryland. Total hospitalizations due to COVID-19 are the highest since June 11th, the day before the MDH order in question. At this critical time, and for the next few weeks and months, the State's resources must be directed towards limiting the spread of COVID-19. As resources are made available, and conditions are more favorable, the State will continue to plan for the reopening of Maryland businesses, including youth camps.

Executive and departmental orders and directives are, as a rule, not shared outside the administration until they are released. MDH will continue to seek input from the Council on ways to improve the healthy and safe operation of youth camps, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. As MDH has collaborated with other business sectors, the Council is welcome to submit draft guidance documents to the Department for consideration and feedback.

The current MDH order does not preclude youth camps from planning for the 2021 season, including the participation of out-of-state campers. However, COVID-19 is still a highly dynamic situation, and MDH cannot make any guarantees or assurances about future conditions or potential restrictions. MDH is monitoring COVID-19 carefully and is taking actions in response to conditions across the State. MDH Program staff will continue to work with youth camps to understand and comply with all applicable rules and regulations, including executive orders.

Again, thank you for your letter, and MDH looks forward to continuing to work with the Council. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Linda Rudie (linda.rudie@maryland.gov), Chief of the Center for Health Homes and Community Services at MDH.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jinlene Chan MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping underline that loops back under the name.

Jinlene Chan, MD, MPH, FAAP

Act. Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services

Cc: Linda Rudie, Chief, Center for Health Homes and Community Services
Clifford Mitchell, Director, Environmental Health Bureau
Webster Ye, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs