

Jesus' command to "Love your neighbor" has been Cross Roads' guide throughout the pandemic and continues to be so. We understand that to love our neighbor in this time of COVID means doing everything we possibly can to keep one another alive, safe, and healthy. To that end, out of our love for our neighbor, we have put together the following guidance for those planning a retreat at Cross Roads.

Planning a Retreat During COVID

Cross Roads welcomes retreat groups to camp. As we look to gather safely during COVID, Cross Roads would like to remind all visitors of the protocols for risk management during COVID. The pillars of COVID management are: vaccination, social distancing, masking, and handwashing.

Cross Roads is a strong advocate of vaccination, recognizing it as the first pillar in COVID management and mitigation. In our efforts to Love our Neighbor, vaccination is a building block to a safer community.

Cross Roads strongly recommends social distancing in cases where pre-retreat testing has not been conducted (regardless of vaccination status) for indoor retreats. We also recommend social distancing in outdoor settings where masks are not being worn.

Cross Roads also strongly recommends wearing masks indoors when in a group that has not done pre-retreat COVID screening or in a group with mixed vaccination status. Cross Roads also encourages mask wearing in outdoor situations where social distancing cannot be observed.

Cross Roads recognizes the importance of clean hands in managing the spread of COVID. Hand sanitizing stations have been placed around camp for guest use. We recommend sanitizing hands when entering a building, when entering the food service line in the Dining Hall, and before and after using any type of equipment including sports equipment in the Recreation Hall.

Cross Roads highly recommends that groups planning either a day or overnight retreat include a robust discussion about COVID protocols in that planning. Defining what a safe community means to your group and crafting a retreat honoring that meaning helps to make your time and space apart meaningful for all participants.

For the safety of our community and yours, your retreat group is expected to follow all current State of New Jersey COVID guidelines in place at the time of your retreat. These guidelines include masking, social distancing, and indoor gathering limits. Updated information can be found here: <https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/reopening-guidance-and-restrictions>

For the safety of our community and yours, we recommend that your group discusses and puts in place their own protocols around pre-retreat COVID testing and masking, especially as they pertain to vulnerable populations.

For the safety of our community and yours, **Cross Roads is requiring the use of masks in the Dining Hall at all times other than when participants are eating and drinking.** In addition, Cross Roads may require participants to wear masks when sharing spaces with other groups, including Cross Roads staff, or in spaces where adequate ventilation is not available and/or social distancing is not possible.

