



## **YSA COVID-19 POLICIES - MASK & VACCINE REQUIREMENTS**

Health and safety of our staff, students and our families has always been a number one priority at YSA. As a youth science organization, it is important that we follow all scientific data in making our policy decisions, and given the rapid spread of the highly contagious Delta variant, and the low vaccination rate in New Hanover County, the time has come to implement strategies that better protect all those involved with YSA and our community.

Effective Monday September 13, 2021, the following policies will be enforced at YSA:

- **All staff, volunteers, interns, visitors and other supervisory personnel, as well as students 16 years or older, involved in any in-person YSA activities will be required to show proof of full vaccination status for the COVID-19, with the exception of those individuals with medical and religious reasons.**
- Individuals claiming medical or religious exemptions will be required to show proof of a negative COVID 19 test on a weekly basis. Tests must have been administered within 72 hours of in-person programming.
- While vaccines are currently not mandatory for our students aged 12 -15 years, we highly encourage all eligible students to receive the vaccine. This policy will be evaluated on a regular basis, and modified according to local health, CDC and FDA recommendations and guidelines.
- In accordance with New Hanover County regulations and YSA protocols, masks will be worn during all YSA indoor and some outdoor activities by all individuals at all times regardless of vaccination status. There are no exceptions to this rule.

Thank you for helping us keep the community safe, and help combat the COVID pandemic so we can all return to “normalcy” soon. Thanks for your cooperation. Please be safe!