

CAMP
WALT WHITMAN
EST. 1948

COVID-19
Safety & Response Plan
for Camp Families

Summer 2021

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

We are looking forward to providing our campers with an incredibly fun, positive, and impactful experience this summer. The information in this manual provides a health and safety resource guide for our families. While the focus of the information in this manual is our COVID protocols, we also remain focused on making sure that children leave camp this summer feeling great about themselves, connected to our community, and having grown in a manner that the world has not allowed for over a year. While we will operate within unique parameters, we are confident that Summer 2021 will be fantastic.

For the protection of our campers, staff, and the local community, we have prepared a specific COVID-19 Safety & Response Plan for Summer 2021. This plan is based upon guidelines from the State of New Hampshire, the CDC, the American Camp Association and our Camp Walt Whitman medical team.

These plans are intended to equip each family with details about our COVID-19 plans all in one document. We are layering many different safety protocols on top of each other in order to keep our community healthy. We want to do everything we can to prevent anyone from bringing COVID-19 to camp this summer, and at the same time, we recognize that there is no perfect system to guarantee that camp is COVID free. Therefore, our protocols are in place not only to minimize the likelihood of COVID-19, but also to prevent it from spreading at camp if/when we have a positive case.

Sincerely,

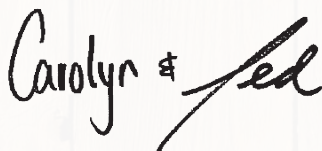


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COMMUNICATION

We know it is critical to keep you updated on what we are implementing for Summer 2021. We want you to understand and feel confident in the steps we are taking to minimize risk while maximizing fun.

Our approach to health and safety this summer is based upon an integrated three-pronged approach:

1. Testing: all campers and staff will be tested prior to camp, upon arrival, and within the first week of camp (see pages 4-5).

2. Using Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs):

NPIs will include:

- a. Facial coverings
- b. Physical distancing
- c. Outdoor programming when possible

This summer, we will utilize the “2 out of 3 rule” when campers from different cohorts come together, meaning that 2 of the 3 NPIs must be met.

3. Our Modified Bubble: We are thinking of camp as a “castle with a bridge”. Our campers and staff will arrive at the castle, the bridge will close, and our castle will be carefully protected.

While we will take many measures to minimize risk, we must all enter our “castle” under the assumption that at some point there may be suspected and/or confirmed cases of COVID-19. This known risk does not derail our confidence in our ability to keep our campers and staff safe.

SOME TERMS WE WILL USE THIS SUMMER INCLUDE:

Cohort: A camper’s cohort is his/her camp “family”. It includes the cabin group and, after testing has been completed, we anticipate the cohort will grow. Just like at home, when campers are with their family, they will not need to physically distance or wear a mask when spending time with other members of their cohort.

Physical Distancing: We will still be extremely social at camp while maintaining physical distance when necessary (6 feet apart) between members of different cohorts.

Isolation: Physically separating a COVID-19 positive camper or staff member from the rest of the camp community.

Quarantine: Physically separating a group of campers or staff from the larger camp community after exposure to COVID-19.

PCR Test: A PCR test is used to directly test the presence of an antigen, rather than the presence of the body’s immune response, or antibodies. PCR tests are currently the most sensitive and accurate COVID-19 tests, but often require 24-48 hours for results.

Rapid Antigen Test: An antigen test detects the presence of a protein that is part of the Coronavirus. Antigen tests are faster than PCR tests with results often available in 15 minutes. However, antigen tests are not viewed to be as accurate as PCR tests. While antigen tests may occasionally provide false negative results, they very rarely provide false positives so anyone who tests positive is believed to have COVID-19.

PRE-ARRIVAL AND ON-SITE SCREENING & TESTING

HEALTH SCREENING BEFORE CAMP

For the ten days prior to camp, every family will be required to complete a daily health screening form. This health survey will ask about possible COVID-19 symptoms and exposure. This form will be submitted electronically each day.

COVID-19 TESTING PROTOCOL

A negative PCR test (**TEST 1**) is required of all campers and staff prior to arrival at camp. **In order to make sure results are as relevant as possible, this test must be administered no more than 4 days before arrival day. Therefore, for campers arriving on Saturday, June 26th, the test must be administered on or after Tuesday, June 22nd. For campers arriving on July 25th, the test must be administered on July 21st or later.** Parents will have the choice of utilizing their own preferred testing site or using a test kit provided by Vault Health through Rutgers University (commonly referred to as a "spit test" or "saliva test"). The Vault test would be mailed to you ahead of time and will include a shipping label for the test to be overnighted back to the lab with results available within 24-48 hours. Families would receive a bill from Vault with coding to submit to insurance for reimbursement. We will provide more information later in May with details on how to sign up for the Vault test if this is your chosen method, as well as how to provide us with your child's results no matter which PCR test you choose.

It is imperative that during the five days prior to this test, and once the test is taken, campers and families are overly cautious and practice mask wearing and social distancing until arrival at camp. YOU are our partners in risk mitigation and we are counting on you to do everything you can to help us keep COVID out of camp. No testing system is perfect, and the greatest area of risk with our testing policy is the time period 5 days before the first test (exposure during these 5 days is unlikely to be detected) and your child's arrival at camp. Please, please please, for your child's sake and for our camp community, make sure your child avoids high-risk behavior during this period. High-risk behavior might include sleepovers, indoor graduation parties, weddings, or situations where campers are in high density settings without a mask on. School is not considered high-risk as students are masked throughout the day.

If any child tests positive on this test, he or she will still be allowed to attend camp, but not on Opening Day. In accordance with CDC guidelines, a child who tests positive will have to wait 10 days before they can attend camp and must be cleared by their home physician and our camp physician.

Any child or staff member who will have tested positive for COVID between April 1 and June 16 will not need to take a COVID test as we know the results would likely be positive. These individuals will need to send proof of a positive COVID test administered during this window.

SCREENING & TESTING UPON ARRIVAL

Upon arrival, all campers will receive:

1. A symptom screening with a member of our health team
2. A temperature check
3. A rapid COVID-19 antigen test AND
4. A PCR test (**TEST 2**)

WHY HAVE A DOUBLE TEST UPON ARRIVAL?

We want to minimize the possibility that a camper arrives at camp with COVID and introduces the virus into our community. Because we will not receive the results of our arrival day PCR test (**TEST 2**) for 24 hours, we are administering arrival day rapid tests to further reduce the chance that an asymptomatic camper enters our camp community. While less sensitive than the PCR test, the rapid test will provide a basic level of comfort to our community for the first 24 hours while we await the results of the PCR tests. No camper who tests positive upon arrival will be permitted into camp. A child who tests positive will have to wait 10 days before he or she can return to camp and be cleared by their home physician and our camp physician.

All campers and staff will take a third PCR test (**TEST 3**) 6 days after their arrival at camp.

VISITOR POLICY

In accordance with our Modified Bubble, a strict NO VISITORS policy will be in effect this summer. Therefore, with few exceptions, only campers and staff will be on camp property. Tours for prospective families will not be offered when camp is in session and there will not be a Visiting Day this summer. We will provide details on our Virtual Visiting Day at a later date.

Food delivery trucks and other essential services such as mail, deliveries, propane, gas, electricians, trash pick-up, etc. will be permitted into camp. Drivers will not have direct contact with campers or staff and will be required to wear masks and maintain physical distancing when on camp property.

ON-SITE MONITORING & PROTOCOLS

We will perform health screenings on all campers and staff regularly throughout the summer.

This summer, we will utilize additional medical facilities to keep our campers safe and healthy. Our Welcome Center will be converted into a secondary "Bumps and Bruises" Health Center for campers with non-COVID related symptoms.

Outside of our "regular" Health Center will be an open-air tented triage area. All campers or staff seeking medical care that is not "bumps or bruises" related will check-in at the triage area first where screenings and temperature checks will take place. Based on symptoms/needs, campers will be directed where to go as outlined below.

AFTER TRIAGE ASSESSMENT:

- Anyone who needs to see our camp doctor but is not exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms will be directed to the front porch of the Health Center.
- Anyone presenting with a fever of 100.4 or greater but no other COVID-19 associated symptoms will hydrate and continue to be monitored by our nurses in the triage area. If fever persists after hydration, the patient will see our camp doctor and be admitted to the Health Center where they will remain until fever-free for 24 hours without medication at which time they can return to activities. As usual, whenever a child spends a night in the Health Center parents will be notified.
- Anyone presenting with fever of 100.4 or greater AND exhibiting one or more additional COVID-19 symptoms will get a rapid COVID-19 test. If the rapid test provides a negative result, this child will still be kept in isolation and cared for by our medical team until we receive a negative PCR result which may take up to 48 hours. We will, of course, notify parents any time their child receives a COVID-19 test.
- Anyone presenting two or more COVID-19 associated symptoms without a fever will be further assessed by our camp doctor to determine next steps (strep test, COVID-19 rapid test, etc.)

Symptoms that could indicate a COVID-19 infection include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.

In the event that a camper tests positive for COVID, he/she will immediately be isolated from other campers, monitored closely and treated as necessary. Upon identifying a positive case, the camper's parent(s) will be notified and asked to make plans to have someone pick up their child from camp within 24 hours. We do not have the facilities or the staff to keep a COVID positive child in isolation for longer than 24 hours. There will be no exceptions to this so please take this into consideration when making your summer plans.

If there is a confirmed positive case of COVID-19, we will notify all camp families by email while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with HIPPA standards.

If a camper in your child's cabin tests positive for COVID-19, you will be notified and the entire cabin will enter into "CWW Quarantine Camp." Campers in quarantine will be tested regularly and will participate in their own minicamp within camp for up to 10 days. During this time, the cabin will have a customized camp schedule that still allows them to participate in camp activities, but not with campers or staff from other cabins.

We are required to notify state and local health officials of any confirmed positive test.

CLEANING & SANITATION ENHANCEMENTS

- A designated team of 4 housekeepers will wear PPE and disinfect all bathrooms and public areas daily.
- Kitchen & Dining Hall will be cleaned & disinfected after each meal.
- A daily electrostatic spray of ALL common areas in camp will be utilized with EPA hospital-grade disinfectant.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be placed all around camp.
- Hand washing will be enforced throughout the day.

TRANSPORTATION

As you are already aware, in order to minimize the possibility of COVID-19 spreading from one cohort to another, we are not busing children to camp this summer. Instead, we are requiring that all campers be dropped off at camp on Opening Day by their parent or guardian. To keep group sizes small and minimize wait times, we will stagger arrival time on Opening Day. By mid-May, we will create a Sign-Up Genius that will allow you to schedule a time slot for your arrival. In order to help cabins of campers arrive at about the same time, the schedule will look as follows:

- For campers who are currently in 2nd through 5th grades, parents will choose a 30 minute window between 9:00 AM and 1:30 PM.
- For campers who are currently in 6th through 11th grades, parents will choose a 30 minute window between 1:30 PM and 4:30 PM.
- For parents who have children in both age groups, you can choose to drop multiple children off at camp at your youngest child's time period or drop-off multiple times during the day if this is what you or your children prefer.
- If you are flying to camp and must arrive at a time that does not conform with the above guidelines, please let us know.

CAR TRAVEL TO CAMP

For safety reasons, parents will be asked to remain in their cars upon arrival at camp. Families will be greeted by a staff member at their car during their assigned drop-off time at camp.

- Families must take their child's temperature before getting in the car. Do not bring your child if he/she has a temperature over 100.4.
- Upon arrival at camp, we will take campers' temperatures as well as perform a rapid COVID-19 test and PCR test. Parents should expect this check-in process to take 15-20 minutes.
- Any camper with a temperature of 100.4 or with a positive rapid test will not be permitted to enter camp. Additionally, if multiple children are traveling in the same car, and any child and any child in the car tests positive for COVID or has a fever of 100.4 or higher, none of the children will be permitted into camp at this time.

AIR TRAVEL TO CAMP

- No chaperoned flights will be offered to camp this summer.
- Campers must wear a face mask at the airport and for the entirety of the flight. Campers must wear a KN95 mask or be double masked.
- In addition, as all campers must be driven to camp, please follow the “car travel to camp” instructions above.

TRAVEL HOME FROM CAMP

- We will provide travel home from camp to designated locations in NY, Massachusetts, and Connecticut at the end of our 4 week session (July 24), at the end of Pioneer Camp (July 31), and at the end of the summer (August 14).
- We will provide a chaperoned flight home to Los Angeles on August 14th.

LUGGAGE AND GEAR

Even though parents are dropping campers off at camp, we still require that all bags arrive at least one week ahead of time using R&B Camp Baggage, FedEx, or UPS. This allows us adequate time to get almost 800 bags to the correct cabins, as well as having each bag sniffed by a bedbug detecting dog before being delivered to the cabin. In addition, no matter which session your child is attending, unless you are picking your child up at camp at the end of the summer, all bags need to be shipped home as well. We simply do not have room under the bus for camper bags.

Please note, the only exception to these requirements is our Pioneer Campers who are not required to ship their bag to or from camp.

THE CAMPER EXPERIENCE THIS SUMMER

CAMPER COHORTS

Our campers will be in small cohorts for at least the beginning of the summer. Each cabin group will be its own cohort to start the summer. For the first 24 hours of camp, until we have the results of the arrival day PCR tests, we are going to ask campers to wear their face masks at all times aside from when eating or sleeping. After this time period, cohorts will be viewed like a household, when within their cohort campers will not have to practice social-distancing or mask wearing. When outside of the cohort or when cohorts are together, campers should expect to wear masks and social distance.

When we receive the results of the 3rd PCR test (7-8 days into camp), our intention is to grow our cohorts to include all cabins of the same age and gender. Our hope is that we will continue to increase the size of our cohorts throughout the summer.

When two different cohorts come together, we are going to follow the **“2 out of 3 rule”**, where 2 out of the following 3 conditions must be met: masked, physically distanced, or outdoors.

CAMPER ORIENTATION

On the first night of camp, we will have our traditional Opening Campfire during which we will start to build our community, introduce campers to key staff, and set the tone for the summer. This summer, the following items will also be communicated at the campfire:

- What camp is doing to protect everyone from getting sick.
- Ground rules for operating in smaller groups.
- Hand washing protocols.
- Physical distancing guidelines and policies for when masks will be necessary.
- Dining Hall procedures.
- What symptoms to look out for and when to report them to a counselor or nurse.

OUR CAMP PROGRAM

- For the first 6-8 days of camp, all activities will be scheduled by cabin group. After this time period, we plan to schedule by age group which will allow us to introduce daily electives and SIGS (our weekly electives) into the program.
- Our Outdoor Adventure Program will remain an essential part of our camp program. We will continue to run weekly day hikes for all campers and have overnight excursions at private campsites. Because our 3-5 day backpacking and biking programs will be limited, older campers do not need to bring a frame pack and all of the additional items mentioned in the handbook. Instead, we just need all campers to come to camp with a backpack (a school backpack is fine), hiking shoes, hiking socks, a rain jacket, and a water bottle.
- The Camp Walt Whitman daily program will be as robust as ever this summer. In addition to the 50+ activities we already offer at camp, we are adding new elements to our program as well.
- In order to protect our camp bubble, we are not going to offer intercamp competitions or any of our age group trips to Hawaii, Canada, Maine, Lake Placid, White Water Rafting, Ben and Jerry's, etc.

SIBLING TIME

We will make sure that siblings are able to visit with each other, even if they are not in the same cohort. Siblings will need to follow our cohort guideline of having 2 out of 3 of the following conditions met: masked, physically distanced, or outdoors.

DINING

- In order to disperse campers in the Dining Hall, half of our community will eat their meals in the dining hall, while the other half will enjoy their meals in a spacious tent located right in front of the Dining Hall.
- Campers and staff will sit at meals by cabin group.
- Meals will be served by masked staff members. We will continue to offer many food options at each meal.
- There will be no self-serve salad bar. Pre-made salads will be available at lunch and dinner.

STAFF PROTOCOLS

Hiring an outstanding staff that is prepared to manage the challenges of this summer is key to all of our plans. Our staff will all arrive at camp two full weeks before our campers to ensure that our staff is healthy and ready to facilitate an amazing summer. Our staff members will follow the same health and safety procedures as our campers. While we are not requiring that all staff members are vaccinated, we are strongly encouraging them to do so. We are happy to report that of our domestic staff, 95% have told us that they are either fully vaccinated, have received their first shot, or are scheduled for their first shot. Even our vaccinated staff will abide by the following guidelines:

- All staff members will complete a 10-day pre-summer screening at home prior to their arrival at camp.
- All staff members will go through the same three-tiered testing protocol as our campers.
- Just like our campers, our staff will operate in our modified bubble. Staff will only leave camp to visit pre-approved exclusive use locations or with special permission of the camp directors.
- Day staff, all of whom are vaccinated, will be required to complete a daily check-in form that will include a symptom check and health screening. These staff members will be required to wear a mask when they cannot physically distance from campers and other staff.

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WALT WHITMAN
EST. 1948

DIRECTORS

Carolyn and Jed Dorfman

WINTER

September 1 - May 31

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SUMMER

June 1 - August 31

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