

We wanted to share some more of our thinking as we continue to plan for a safe summer 2021 that everyone in our community can enjoy. Our planning takes into account the seemingly ever-changing guidance and best practices advice from the State of Vermont. As with everything we've sent to date, these protocols reflect our best thinking now, in early June. We hope that the science will allow further flexibility as the summer goes on, and we promise to be in touch if and when changes come. Please reach out to Darcey if you have any questions or concerns about these plans. She can be reached by email: darcey@campsangamon.com or by phone: (802) 665-7505.

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### **BEFORE CAMP**

**Best Practices Guidance:** As a reminder, the State of Vermont Department of Health guidance lays out the following expectations prior to your arrival at camp:

1. Use multiple non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPI) at all times unless with and within your single household. This family group is your cohort.
2. These NPIs are most important: maintaining as strict a cohort as possible outside of mandatory school and direct work requirements, wearing face masks when with anyone not in your household, and conducting any interactions with people from other cohorts outdoors.
3. Do not attend gatherings with other households.
4. Do not attend funerals, weddings, or family events (even visits to family members living outside your household).
5. Do not have playdates or participate in team sports, attend recitals or other such gatherings.

**Wellness Check:** For the 7 days prior to your arrival at camp, please complete the enclosed wellness check. You will submit it with your camp health forms when you arrive. (This same checklist will be completed daily by each child during cabin cleanup with help from cabin staff.)

### **OPENING DAY**

**Testing:** You must come to camp with evidence of a negative PCR test taken within the three days before arrival. If you have a positive result or symptoms consistent with COVID-19, you must delay your arrival. Please call camp to discuss ongoing plans. If you have been exposed to a positive COVID person 48 hours or less before opening day, please call camp to discuss a plan.

**Exceptions for testing:** A pre-arrival test is not needed if your child has been fully vaccinated. You must bring proof of vaccination to camp. A pre-arrival test is also not needed if your child has recovered from COVID-19 in the past 90 days. If that is the case, you must bring a letter from their healthcare provider documenting the positive test date and stating that the individual is cleared to end isolation.

**Travel:** Travel to camp as directly as possible, preferably in a single day trips with contactless behaviors along the way. We do not expect arrivals by public ground transport this year and we expect limited flight arrivals this year. If you are hoping to utilize airplane travel as part of your journey you must contact us to

discuss this option BEFORE making arrangements. If we agree to your plan, please wear a mask and socially distance at all possible times.

**Arrival:** We are hoping you can all work with us as we try to limit the number of arrivals at any given time. At this point we are hoping it will be possible for you to follow this schedule:

If you live within 60 miles of camp, please plan to arrive between 9 and 10.

If you live within 120 miles of camp, please plan to arrive between 10 and 11.

If you live more than 120 miles from camp, we will expect you sometime after 11.

Please be in touch if the timing of your group does not work for your family or you have a camper at BC, and we will partner with you to find a solution.

**Check-in:** We will welcome you and get your paperwork sorted outside in the main yard, rain or shine. If it is raining, we will use our new tents and arts and craft deck to be distanced and safe at all times. Our nurses will meet each camper and family for the usual hand over of forms and a wellness check. Arriving leaders and campers will meet a staff member who will help them carry belongings to their cabins. Farewells will happen in the main yard in order to keep the numbers of visitors small while arrivals settle in. Staff will be in cabins to help with settling campers into their spaces, and we expect to have lunch in our designated areas by our normal 12:30 time.

### AT CAMP

**Cabin groups and pods:** There are two main groups you will be associated with for your first week at camp. Your cabin group will become your camp family. Masks are not required within this group, though keeping a three-foot distance between you and your cabin mates is important and expected. Our cabins all have significant ventilation and we'll be keeping windows open to increase this even more. Hand sanitizers will be at the entrance to each cabin for you to use coming in and going out. You will not be allowed inside any cabins other than your own this year. The other main group you will be associated with will be your "pod". Pods will be made up of two cabins of similar age. You may spend time inside or outside with members of your pod, but you must be masked. You will dine with your own cabin, but your pod will likely be in the same space together. Older cabins may have larger pods based on vaccination rates within cabins.

**Masks:** We are asking for you to pack 7 reusable masks for use during the session. Please make sure his name is on each one! Each cabin will have a mesh bag into which the mask you wore in a day is dropped. Masks will be washed regularly and returned at breakfast. Masks should be cloth reusable facial coverings. Masks must cover both the nose and mouth with two layers of cloth in order to be effective against transmitting droplets from the wearer. Cloth masks or buff/gaiter style face coverings are both acceptable as long as they are double layered and effectively contain respiratory droplets. Bandanas and masks with valves are not permitted as they don't contain germs adequately. While disposable masks will be available at camp for the inevitable misplaced mask situations, we are asking that you not provide them for your son.

**Dining:** We've invested significant effort into providing well ventilated and safe dining areas for us all to enjoy this summer. These areas include the dining room, tents, covered porches, and the lower lodge. You will eat at a table with your cabin, but you will share a dining space with your pod, and pods will rotate through the available spaces to allow us all to experience the range of our options. Everyone will sanitize their hands as they enter their dining area, of course. At your own table you do not need your mask. If you

need to be up and about in the dining area, you should plan to wear your mask. We will eat family style as usual, but food will be served by designated individuals at each table. Tables will also be set and cleared by a more limited group of people.

**Singing:** We will absolutely be singing this summer, just in a distanced, pod-divided manner at least at the beginning of the summer. Be ready to sing even louder in your group!

**Wash houses:** This summer wash houses will be cleaned with guidance-approved products, three times: once in the morning, once after lunch, and once in the evening. Signage about proper handwashing and the importance of hand sanitizing will be posted next to the hand sanitizers and sinks in the wash houses. At bedtime, we will ask one cabin at a time to go through the wash houses. There will also be sign in/out for the wash houses to avoid overcrowding during the day.

**Shower house:** Cabin shower days will be scheduled differently than normal. You will have times when just your cabin will be there. Additional shower times will be arranged and announced as well, and the shower house will be cleaned twice a day. Emergency showers are a possibility if needed!

**Activities:** Free choice will still be at the core of our programming! Activities will be organized to assure plenty of space in each one. Pods may have a choice of certain indoor activities in the morning, with different options in the afternoon, at least for the first week. Outdoor activities may be open to all with masks. We have invested heavily in open air spaces around camp to facilitate our choice program, and we are confident it will remain in place with only some small adjustments. We may try out other options, too - new ideas are constantly coming to mind! Swimming instruction and free swim will be available for all, of course, with distancing in place but no masks required.

**Free Time:** This might look a little different this year. Your cabin will always be a possible free time venue, and an additional outdoor area will be offered to each pod on a rotating daily basis. You might have your cabin and the basketball court as an option one day, and your cabin and the hilltop flats the next.

**Visiting Days:** At this point, Vermont guidance dictates that we will not have visiting days this summer. We will let you know if this changes in any way.

**Activities with Betsey Cox:** At this time, we imagine that coed activities will be limited. However, if both camps' testing surveillance shows that the communities are safe after the first week of any session we may consider small outside coed gatherings, likely with masks and distancing. Older cohorts of campers who are vaccinated may have increased ability to have coed activities.

**Riding:** Unfortunately one fallout from COVID is the likely cancellation of our horseback riding program for the summer. We have been thus far unable to find a full group riding staff and barring a last minute hire or two the horses will stay at their winter homes this year and we'll look forward to welcoming them back next season. We'll let you know if this changes, but we wanted to be sure none of you were surprised by this. Please contact us if you have questions. Fear not - the farm will be up and running so we will still have lots of animals to care for and spend time with!

## **HEALTHCARE**

**Daily screening:** The Vermont Health department currently recommends health screening and COVID testing for overnight camps. For Sangamon, there will be daily wellness checks for each cabin during cabin cleanup. Staff will review checklists and will report any "yes" indicators to the camp nurse for follow up.

**Testing:** We are collaborating with the CIC Health, the Broad Institute, and the State of Vermont to conduct surveillance testing within the community throughout the summer. We will test all unvaccinated members of the community once a week. Testing involves inserting a small swab, similar to a Q-tip, into the lower nasal passage. There is no cost to you or your insurance for these tests.

**Medical staff:** We will have medical personnel on site all summer, as always. Our health care will look a little different than before, with a new building housing a nurse's office, bathroom, and two infirmary rooms being constructed as I write this. The former nurse's office will become a first aid station. If you have a splinter or a cut, you'll head there and if you're feeling ill you will head to the nurse's office in the new infirmary buildings instead. Nurses will treat one person at a time, and daily medication will continue to be administered to you at mealtimes in your dining area. Telemedicine consultations will be available with our supervising doctors, as will visits to offices in Rutland as needed. Rapid Antigen test kits will be available through our collaborating pediatrician to differentiate the common cold from COVID if necessary.

### CLOSING DAY

**Pick-ups:** As was the case with opening day, departures will also happen in the main yard. Check out stations will be there so that we can say "hello", tell a story or two, and hand out camp pictures, address lists, and the most recent *Chirrup*. Nurses will be on hand to return any unused medications. There is the possibility of scheduled departures – we'll be watching the guidance in the next weeks to see if there are significant changes that would mitigate this need.

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We hope this update continues to give you a good sense of what camp will look like this summer. We are excited to bring everyone together again and know that much of what we do will feel as it always has. Evolving guidance may change these protocols before camp begins or throughout the summer and if that is the case, we will be in touch. In the meantime, we will remain flexible and creative to make sure we provide your sons with a fantastic summer experience. As mentioned above, please be in touch with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for recognizing and believing in the importance of camp and for your continued support of Camp Sangamon.

-- Jed & Darcey