

We wanted to share some more of our thinking as we begin to plan for a safe summer 2023 that everyone in our community can enjoy. As was the case last summer, the COVID situation is ever evolving, so these protocols reflect our best thinking now, in early May. We will continue to monitor the situation as well as the guidance from the American Camp Association, the Centers for Disease Control, and the State of Vermont. 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.

BEFORE CAMP

Vaccination: Camp Sangamon will require all campers and staff to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 unless a medical exemption from an MD is approved by our medical staff. Sangamon will follow medical guidance for vaccine exemptions. This means in order to attend as an unvaccinated person we must have a doctor's letter stating that the individual cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons. At this point, all campers must have received two shots to be considered fully vaccinated. Boosters are not required, but that is subject to change as guidance for the coming summer becomes available. Any camper who wishes to attend with a vaccine exemption MUST be in touch with us by June 1st to discuss individual situations.

Testing: We are expecting at this point that all campers take an at home rapid test no more than 24 hours before arrival. We ask that you bring proof of the results with you to show at the health check-in - a photo on your cell phone will suffice. Any positive result means that arrival must be delayed until two negative antigen tests are conducted 24 hours apart.

OPENING DAY

Proof of Testing and Vaccination: You must bring proof of vaccination as well as a negative rapid test result within the past 24 hours to camp. As previously stated, any medical exemptions must be provided and discussed by June 1st.

Travel: Travel to camp as directly as possible, exercising caution at any stop along the way.

Arrival: Similar to last summer, we are hoping you can all work with us as we try to limit the number of arrivals at any given time. We ask that only one adult drop each camper off when possible. 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 if weather allows, or in the new woodshop and tented spaces in case of rain. Our nurses will meet each camper and family to go over forms and complete a brief wellness check.

Cabins & Tours: Like last year, we are hoping to limit the number of individuals inside buildings on opening day. Arriving leaders and campers will meet a staff member who will help them carry belongings to their cabins. Staff will be in cabins helping to settle campers into their spaces. For those of you who are new to Sangamon, we will be offering tours of the camp if the weather permits. Farewells will happen in the main yard in order to keep the numbers of visitors small while arrivals settle in, and we expect to have lunch in our designated areas by our normal 12:30 time.

AT CAMP

Testing: At this point we do not expect to do any surveillance testing this summer. We will test symptomatic children using antigen tests or lab testing in Rutland under the advice of our medical staff. If the test comes back positive, the following will occur:

- The camper will be asked to go home to implement the CDC recommended 5-day isolation period. For campers staying two or three weeks, there will likely not be time to return to camp and we will adjust tuition accordingly. For campers enrolled for longer sessions, we will work with families to make a plan in compliance with guidance from the above sources.
- Those exposed to the case will not be required to quarantine since everyone will be fully vaccinated. We will test at camp or with our local health care provider if additional campers or staff become symptomatic.

Cabin groups: You will not be allowed inside cabins other than your own this year. You may spend time outside and at activities with friends from other cabins.

Masks: While we don't expect masking at this point, there may be times that masks are required of us. We will provide any masks needed. There is no need to bring your own masks this summer.

Dining: We invested significant effort into providing well-ventilated and safe dining areas for us all to enjoy last summer, and we will continue to utilize these as needed this summer. These areas include the dining room, tents, and covered porches.

Wash houses: This summer wash houses will be cleaned daily with approved products. 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 cabins to go together to go through the wash houses.

Visiting Days: We expect that visiting days will not be a possibility this summer. We recognize that various organizations may be doing this differently, but with the guidance and advice that we have, we believe that this is our best choice for this summer.

Activities with Betsey Cox: At this time, we imagine that coed activities will be more numerous than last year. We will make the final decision about this as summer gets closer.

Medical staff: We will have medical personnel on site all summer, as always. 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.

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. Please arrive after 9:00 am and before 12:00 noon. If unforeseen circumstances occur causing you to be late, please call us at (802) 483-2862 to let us know. Failure to do so will incur a \$50 late pickup fee. Parents must check out with our senior staff on closing day before leaving camp. Leaving or arriving outside of our scheduled session dates is not possible this year, so please plan accordingly.

We hope this update serves 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 continue to feel as it always has. We learned a lot last summer and plan to use that knowledge along with our sense of flexibility and creativity to provide our campers with a fantastic summer experience. Evolving guidance may change these protocols before camp begins or throughout the summer and if that is the case, we will be in touch. 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