



# COVID - 19 HANDBOOK

2021

*(UPDATED AS OF MAY 7, 2021)*

## THE SAFE WAY FORWARD IN 2021

Safety always has and always will be our guiding principle as we welcome campers each summer. This plan is a living and evolving document that will change as the science dictates, and the Summer '21 recommendations from the NY State Department of Health, American Camp Association, and CDC guidelines for camps develop. The approach below is based on what we know now and what we will plan for. We have been working tirelessly to create a plan based on all the knowledge we have acquired from countless resources, including camps that were permitted to operate last summer and medical professionals.

This document has been created as a resource guide for families as you prepare for the amazing summer ahead. We will continue to regularly monitor infection rates and virus variants in the Northeast, and our decisions regarding any changes will be based on information we have at the moment and will communicate significant changes as appropriate.

### WHAT WE EXPECT PRIOR TO YOUR SAFE ARRIVAL AT CAMP:

Keeping everyone safe this summer is a task everyone, our campers and staff will jointly be responsible for. This, of course, starts prior to arrival on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Screening will be one of the most important factors in keeping our community safe, we are emphasizing *pre-screening, arrival screening and ongoing screening*.

#### PRE-SCREENING:

We ask that all our campers and staff be extremely cautious about their contact outside the home during the two weeks before arrival. All families will be required to complete a documented pre-summer *Health Screening Assessment* (HSA) at home for the 10-days leading up to camp. You will receive this daily in an email and text message. We cannot stress the importance of strictly limiting your interactions to as few people outside of your home as possible and will request that you do not attend large gatherings like weddings, Bar Mitzvah's and graduation parties. As we know these types of events put everyone at the greatest risk.

***THE MOST IMPORTANT THING EVERYONE CAN DO TO ENSURE A SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL SUMMER IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE BEHAVIORS OF CAMPERS AND STAFF IN THE 2-WEEK PERIOD LEADING UP TO THE ARRIVAL AT CAMP.***

Prior to arrival at camp, each camper must submit a *negative* PCR Covid Test, within 72 hours of arrival, with results uploaded to the parent dashboard. You can take this test anywhere you would like as long as it is a PCR test.

## ARRIVAL SCREENING:

For our lab testing, we have partnered with Bio Reference Laboratories ([www.bioreference.com](http://www.bioreference.com)), who gained prominence from conducting all the testing for the NBA Bubble last summer in Orlando. As the third largest laboratory in the country, Bio Reference's accuracy, speed of results, testing capacity and experience made them the best choice. Additionally, Bio Reference will be providing on-site teams on campus to help the testing process go smoothly. They will conduct both a shallow nasal Rapid Antigen test and a shallow nasal PCR test. On day one a negative rapid test on-site at camp - with results in roughly 15 minutes - will be required for a camper to start camp. Prior to the start of camp, we will be sending you information from Bio Reference labs to complete and authorize them to test your child.

## ONGOING SCREENING:

On day five, Bio Reference Laboratory will return to camp to repeat tests for all campers and staff.

Additionally, we have purchased Abbott Rapid Antigen tests and the Abbott ID NOW Rapid molecular PCR machine to help us test - and receive immediate results for - any camper or staff we test during camp.

## Testing Fee:

*We will be adding a \$225 testing fee to our camp tuition this summer.*

## TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Opening day at camp always includes a welcome meeting with group leaders, head counselors and directors to introduce campers to staff, general camp rules, and important guidelines. This summer, the following items will also be communicated:

- What camp is doing to keep everyone healthy
- 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 nurse

## ON-SITE MONITORING AND PROTOCOLS

Iroquois Springs is fortunate to have a full time, on site doctor and a team of nurses who will help us through the summer and be present at camp 24/7.

On a daily basis, campers and staff will complete a health questionnaire and have their temperature taken each morning in the cabin. Hand washing/sanitizing will be performed often and thoroughly throughout the day. We will remain in regular contact with our local hospitals and urgent care as well as the local office of the NY Department of Health throughout the summer.

## CLEANING AND SANITATION

To limit the spread of infections at camp, we will increase our regular cleaning and sanitizing protocols in an effort to mitigate risk. Below are just some of the protocols we will follow in order to achieve a safe communal living environment this summer.

- We have hired additional housekeeping staff for the season
- Require frequent handwashing and sanitizing throughout the day
- High-touch surfaces will be cleaned frequently throughout the day
- The use of electrostatic sprayers / misters / foggers will be increased in high-touch areas
- All surfaces will be cleaned using an EPA-approved disinfectant
- Kitchen and Dining Hall will be cleaned and disinfected after each meal
- Additional hand sanitizer dispensers will be installed throughout camp

## MASK WEARING

At the moment, we expect to wear masks in larger groups and when cohorts mix. We will be using the phrase “mixing and masking” at camp. This means that when you interact (mix) with someone outside your pod (bunkmates) you mask when social distancing cannot be achieved. Our hope, and expectation is that once we pass our testing regimen and feel more comfortable with the overall well-being of our entire community, we will be able to relax some of the masking protocol; in various situations (ie. when outside).

Masks will be worn when entering any indoor space other than their own cabin (health center, dining hall, office, etc.) and when physical distancing is not possible with someone in another pod.

We are asking all campers to bring an adequate supply of both disposable and cloth masks this summer to supplement the supply of disposable masks (50 masks) we will have on hand. Gaiters are NOT permitted to be worn.

## TRANSPORTATION/TRAVEL TO CAMP AND RETURN HOME

For safety purposes we have decided that we will not be providing our traditional bus service to camp on opening day and all campers within a 6-hour drive to camp will be driven to camp on June 26<sup>th</sup> for arrival. We will be sending very specific details for arrival a few weeks before June 26<sup>th</sup> - here are some of the basics we expect:

- Upon arrival, you will be directed to a specific location on camp for your arrival check in. Campers and parents will be required to stay in their car until instructed by camp staff.
- Parents will be asked to remain in their car during drop-off, campers will be escorted by camp staff. Assigned times, and specific locations at camp for arrival will be provided to all families.
- We will **not be permitting** families to bring their baggage on the first day of camp. We need the bags to arrive prior to camper in order to prepare the camper cabins
- Families should take their child's temperature before getting in the car. Do not send your camper if he/she has a temperature above 100.4
- Upon arrival at camp, we will take campers' temperature. Any camper with a temperature of 100.4 or greater will not be permitted to enter camp.
- We will be swabbing all campers with a shallow nasal swab, both a PCR (sent to the lab) and a rapid antigen (20 min results) will be taken by a staff member.
- We will ask parents and campers to remain on camp until we receive the results of the rapid antigen test. Once cleared, we will escort the camper to their group and cabin area.

*Since we will have all been at camp safely together for the duration of the summer, we anticipate resuming our regular bus and baggage departure procedures on July 16<sup>th</sup> and August 6<sup>th</sup>.*

## PLANE TRIP PROCEDURES

In order for a camper to board a flight, we must have a confirmed negative PCR test within 72 hours of the flight. Campers, family members and staff must wear a face covering at the airport and continue to wear for the entirety of the flight and during the bus ride to camp. Campers are required to wear a KN-95 mask or be double masked.

Campers' temperature will be taken both before departing for the airport and before the flight, and campers with a temperature of 100.4 or greater will not be permitted to fly.

## FOOD SERVICE THIS SUMMER

Meals will look and feel as close to "normal" as they have in the past, we have, however, made several modifications:

- Groups will be spread out 6 feet+ apart, utilizing the expanded outdoor patio/picnic grove between the dining hall and theater
- Additional table seating will be available under large open-air tents or the theater (garage doors open) adjacent to the dining hall
- Use of single serve condiments will be utilized wherever possible
- The salad bar will be eliminated and replaced with a suitable alternative salad option
- Any buffet service will be served by catering staff, campers and staff will not be permitted to serve themselves
- Use of disposable utensils and service ware will be utilized as necessary

## WHAT HAPPENS IF A CAMPER TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 PRIOR TO CAMP

We will follow current CDC guidelines to determine the required quarantine period for your child, and work with your family to create a plan for late arrival/re-entry to camp, if possible.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE IS A CONFIRMED CASE AT CAMP?

If a child tests positive while at camp, we will isolate that individual until a parent/guardian is available to pick up their child. Our local Health Department requires that campers are picked up within 24 hours or as soon as is reasonable. We will help make arrangements with the camper's family for a safe transport home. Our policy, which is subject to change per CDC guidelines, is outlined below:

- Immediately isolate the camper who tests positive
- Test and screen every person in the pod
- Thoroughly clean and disinfect the entire cabin and any other areas of use
- Separate the pod from the rest of camp (dining, activities, etc. for 72 hours)
- Begin twice-daily screenings of the pod (temperature checks and symptom screening)
- REPEAT testing of the pod 72 hours after the first test

## IF SOMEONE HAS SYMPTOMS OF COVID

If a camper or staff member feels unwell, they will be evaluated for symptoms that might indicate Covid-19, such as fever, loss of smell, runny nose, cough, nausea, etc. If appropriate, the camp physician may order a Covid test. If the person only has a fever and tests negative, we will continue to monitor for symptoms and return the person to the general camp population upon recovery once the person is fever free for a minimum of 24 hours. If the person has a fever, we will check all the members of the cabin for fever and other symptoms. We will be mindful of campers who have allergies or present other symptoms not related to Covid.

## VISITING DAY

While we love to see our parents, siblings and grandparents each summer, because of the large volume of guests we welcome during Visiting Day we have decided not to host an in person Visiting Day this summer. For several months we have been planning for a virtual Visiting Day which will include video calls, video presentations of camper's cabins and counselors, and many treats for the kids to enjoy. We will be providing more details on this in the coming weeks.

## THE CAMPER EXPERIENCE

We know that so much has changed for our campers over the course of the last year, but our goal is to make camp FEEL the same! You will make friends, gain independence and resilience and create life-long memories, we can assure you of that!

**Pods:** Your “pod” is your camp “family.” It includes your entire bunk, and in some cases, depending on numbers, may include another bunk. Just like at home, when you are with your family, you will not need to physically distance or wear a mask.

At the start of camp, campers will operate in smaller pods. Interactions with campers in another pod will be limited to outdoor spaces and with physical distancing measures in place. Camp pods will have activities scheduled together. Outdoor programs can be done with friends from outside your pod while maintaining a physical distance or putting on a mask.

**Cohort:** Your “cohort” is your division. At Iroquois Springs a “division” is an entire age group of campers ie: 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls. Based on testing and screening, our plan is to move into cohorts after a week of camp.

We will increase pod sizes, to Cohorts after approximately 7-8 days when initial testing results are complete, and we have reasonable assurances that camp is Covid free. Activities and electives will be varied, and the vast majority enjoyed in open-air or outdoor situations.

## WHAT WILL BE DIFFERENT ABOUT CAMP THIS SUMMER?

- We will not gather in larger groups until we feel it is safe to do so
- We will not be participating in any inter-camp sports activity this summer
- We will not be going on any out of camp trips
- There will not be an in-person visiting day
- Large camp events will all take place outdoors whenever possible
- We will not have our Explorer Overnight Weekend for new campers

## WHAT WILL BE THE SAME?

- Friends, amazing staff, pool parties, cabin life, BBQ’s, sports, arts, theater, outdoor adventure, and the amazing spirit of our camp community!
- We cannot wait to share the most amazing summer with our campers.



## THE STAFF EXPERIENCE

Staff are a key component to any successful summer and ensuring their success while maintaining our strict safety protocols is a delicate balance, we face this summer. We will continue to make decisions based on the science, but at the moment our plan is for staff to stay on camp or on camp sponsored and supervised activities for their days off this summer. We have secured some local restaurants where our staff will be able to go as a group safely. Additionally, we plan on opportunities for the staff to be able to get off of camp as a group to a local state park or other outdoor experience under camps supervision.

We are strongly recommending all staff be fully vaccinated prior to the start of the summer and have made arrangements for staff to arrive at camp early to be vaccinated if they had not done so prior to the arrival of our campers.

## OUR INVESTMENT IN THIS SUMMER

Preparing for this summer has been monumental from planning for every contingency, to purchasing countless supplies to prepare for Covid.

We are prepared and wanted to share some of the things we have done to keep everyone safe and healthy this summer.

- Tents throughout camp to allow for outside dining and program space
- Purchase of Abbott rapid antigen testing kits
- Purchase of the Abbott ID Now molecular PCR testing machine
- Disinfectant sprayers
- Re-designed the dining experience for safe distancing
- Outside testing partner to test all campers and staff members
- Hand sanitizing stations throughout camp
- Contactless water bottle filling stations throughout camp

## ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BRING THIS SUMMER

- Water Bottle/Nalgene bottle (preferably without a straw)
- Small mesh laundry bag (great to wash masks in)
- Disposable masks - 50 per camper
- Cloth Masks
- Hand Sanitizer

## MOVING FORWARD

Prepare your children for an incredible summer with us!! While we cannot, of course, absolutely guarantee a Covid-free season, we are committed to making camp as safe, exciting and fun as possible. Now it's time to continue the work of fitting two years of fun into the summer of 2021.

