

Frequently Asked Questions on **Keewaydin COVID-19 Preparedness Plans**

1. Is Keewaydin planning to open in the summer of 2021?

Yes! We believe that we can operate our camps safely with the appropriate procedures and systems in place.

Canadian Border:

We continue to wait for news on the reopening of the Canadian border. We cannot expect to know in the short term, but we remain cautiously optimistic that we will hear more in March and April. We are working on alternative pathways to bring campers into Canada, and we have heard that a phased opening of the border could also be considered.

Overnight camps reopening plan: As of 2/10/21, Ontario will begin focusing on the reopening of seasonal businesses and summer camps. At this time, overnight camps are not permitted to open, but this news is very positive.

2. What are the appropriate procedures and systems to keep camp safe?

While no one can promise a 100% COVID-free environment, the key to preventing and mitigating spread in the camp environment is being diligent in multi-layered public health interventions. These interventions include low-risk pre-camp behaviors, testing, proper indoor ventilation and being outside as much as possible, organizing ourselves into small groups or cohorts, wearing masks when necessary, physically distancing and hand/cough hygiene.

3. What will your testing policy and system be?

Only staff and campers with a negative result on a diagnostic test will be allowed to come to camp. Upon arrival to Canada, another PCR test will be taken, a negative test is required. A few days into the start of camp we will likely test campers and staff again. There will likely be testing throughout the summer at camp, but the exact nature of that remains to be determined.

4. What does a cohort system mean and why does this help?

A cohort system means breaking the camp into smaller sections (a.k.a. cohorts)—roughly sections of 16-20—and having those cohort groups live, eat and, initially, do their activities together, physically distanced from other cohort groups. This becomes simplified when our sections head out on their canoe trips. The advantage of operating in cohorts is that if someone does test positive during the

summer, it facilitates effective contact tracing and quarantining. As the summer progresses and the camp remains healthy, gradually cohort groups can merge until, eventually, we can operate as a “whole” camp.

5. *Is mask wearing necessary at camp?*

Yes. While campers are operating just within their cohort—in their tent or cabin, or in activities, such as packing for trip, or learning camping skills, with just their cohort—they will not have to wear masks. A cohort will be considered like a family. But there will be many situations where the intermingling of cohorts will be inevitable (or possible) that will require mask wearing and physical distancing (e.g. using the bathrooms, meetings with the entire age group).

6. *What physical changes are you planning to make camp safer?*

The good fortune of our program is that we will not need to make major changes to our facilities to keep campers and staff safe. We will be making a few changes to enhance hygiene and air flow.

- We will construct additional hand washing stations near the Keewaydin dining hall.
- We will be adding portable hand washing bags to each section’s equipment list for trip.
- We will be adding screen doors to more cabins for increased air flow.

7. *What resources are you using to develop your COVID-19 preparedness plans?*

- We have hired Dr. Laura Blaisdell as a consultant. Dr. Blaisdell MD/MPH, FAAP is a pediatrician with a public health degree focused on infectious disease. As an expert author of *The Field Guide for Summer Camps*, she is one of the lead consulting physicians for the American Camp Association (ACA). For nearly 20 years she has been the Medical Director for Camp Winnebago in Maine.
- We have hired Tom Appleyard, a management consultant from Toronto, who specializes in crisis/risk management and pandemic planning. Tom has been working with the OCA COVID-19 Task Force, and will be supporting Keewaydin in helping create a plan for operating and advocating our position as a camp.
- We consult regularly with peer leaders from the OCA, the VCA (Vermont Camp Association) and a group of Lake Temagami camp directors.
- Finally, we consult with a Keewaydin network of people with expertise in testing, pediatrics, and infectious disease.

8. Is your COVID-19 preparedness plan 100% complete?

No. While there is much that we know and much that we have already planned for, we also know that we are going to learn more over the next few months that will help us finalize our plans. We expect that we will have our plans fully in place by the spring.

8. Will we have pre-camp expected behaviors for our camper?

Yes. It will be likely that your camper will need to do the following steps to be able to come to camp. We may have additional steps later in the spring.

- Low Risk behavior for 10 days prior to traveling to Canada is number 1 on the list of pre-camp expectations.
- Limiting contact with people outside of your home for 5 days prior to your campers PCR test helps begin the Covid free timeline.
- Continuing to limit contact with low risk behavior following the PCR test helps us track the timing and begin to feel more confident in future testing results.
- A negative PCR test will be required to travel or proof of vaccination.
- Vaccinated or not, all campers and staff must have a negative result on a PCR test taken within 5 days of arrival at camp.
- Upon arrival in Canada (by plane or car) your camper will be given a PCR test again. This is great- as it helps us continue to track Pre Camp Low Risk Behavior and have confidence that your camper was not exposed 5 days prior to their 2nd PCR test.
- For long trip campers: Pre-Camp Low Risk Behavior will be incredibly important. We want to set up campers for success and the ability to have a great start to their summer trips!

10. What are the best ways to travel to camp?

The best way to bring your camper to Canada is in a personal vehicle. We are looking into a secondary meeting location near the airport to help avoid the crowds.

- *By Car:* It is recommended if you do drive your camper(s) to Toronto, and that you stay in a single family group. We are working on a separate meeting location near the airport to meet campers, conduct our health screening, and place your camper into their section (creating their cohort). Parents will have a quick goodbye, and still have the opportunity to speak with staff.
- *Local families:* We will arrange a specific drop off location and arrival time for your camper. More to come on those steps when we are closer to summer.

The next best way to travel is by airplane. Typically, the majority of campers would fly to Toronto's Pearson International Airport. We do not recommend purchasing plane tickets yet. However, a great tool for flight savings is setting up a google flight reminder for the dates you are interested in.

- *By Air:* Campers and parents will need to follow all recommended travel expectations, bring spare masks, hand sanitizer.

- *West coast families:* We are still thinking through the process for your campers travel and may recommend the early a.m. arrival versus an overnight stay in a hotel. More to come on this planning.

11. Will you have different camp arrival procedures?

Yes! Transportation to camp will be very important, as we aim to make it as low risk as possible, and easy on campers as possible. When we collect arriving campers we will have procedures in place to promote easy drop off, hand washing, joining their cohort (new family unit), and keeping their masks on. Bussing will include traveling with your cohort, assigned seats, and wearing masks. We will motorboat up the lake, maintaining our cohorts, and limit overlapping of the cohorts by having a well-planned scheduled arrival and welcome to Devil's Island.

While campers are in camp, learning new skills, being introduced to canoeing and having fun, they will remain in their cohorts. This will continue as they head out for their first canoe trip! Very exciting!

For long trip campers: We are aiming to maintain our normal short turnaround time, with a next morning departure for their summer long canoe trips. Campers will wear their masks in the van or bus, practice good hygiene, and limit contact with public places as they travel to the starting point of their canoe trip.

12. Can we visit or pick up our camper from camp this summer?

No. We will need to keep Devil's Island closed to visiting parents. The one exception will be for Section A and Section 1 parents and/or guardians who have been invited to share in their campers last EndSeason. More information is below.

Mid-Season: We will not have parents visiting during the MidSeason weekend this summer. We will all miss having this event as we normally do, but we hope you understand.

End-Season: We will be welcoming only Section 1 and Section A parents or their guardians to attend EndSeason. If that changes in the coming months, we will be sure to let you know.