

Dear Keewaydin Families,

It is February and we are surrounded by lots of uncertainty. Yet each day I learn small bits of good news that helps me remain cautiously optimistic and emboldened to continue planning for the summer. My daily mantra is *“keep going, our kids need camp!”*.

*Hang in there with us! We are equally anxious, but we know how **GOOD** it will be to have kids out on canoe trips, immersing themselves in the experience and friendships of their sectionmates!*

Here is what we know and what we will need families to embrace.

- 1. Pre-Arrival Low-Risk Behavior:** This is very important to the success of opening camp! We all have to adhere to low-risk behavior for approximately 10-14 days before camp (we will be more specific when we know what Ontario requires). This means no contact with anyone outside your household, except what is mandatory for work and school; no travel except travel to camp; and following all the best practices to avoid Covid: mask wearing, distancing, and frequent handwashing. **This part of the plan is absolutely critical for the success of camp this summer. We need everyone to arrive healthy! We are counting on everyone—parents, campers and staff—to comply with the pre-camp low-risk behaviors. This is the ultimate form of “Help the Other Fellow!”**
- 2. Testing schedule** is being developed. It is not yet clear if we will use PCR testing or antigen testing and how often, but we will develop a plan that helps us be confident in the health of the camp community.
- 3. Quarantine and Isolation plans** are being created, and will have to meet the approval of Public Health. What we know to be likely, if a camper tests positive, they will have to isolate. This means they will live and eat and spend time separate from their section. We will have a plan to support, care for, and make in-camp time as enjoyable as possible. This also means, a camper who is Covid positive cannot go on their canoe trip until they test negative and are cleared to return to their section.

This isolation requirement underscores how important it will be for your camper to arrive at camp healthy!

In our planning we are following the hierarchy of controls to mitigate the spread of Covid in camp, and the first layer is ELIMINATION, and eliminating Covid begins with our families staying at home, health screening and testing.

Lastly, check your CampMinder account for information on Travel Insurance and our COVID FAQ's. Billing information will be heading your way soon too. Any questions, please reach out! Updates- current and past below.

Quay Quay

Emily

Updates- current and past:

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: We heard today 2/10/21 that Ontario will begin focusing on the reopening of seasonal businesses and summer camps. At this time, overnight camps are not permitted to open, but today's news is very positive.

Pre-Camp Behavioral Expectations:

- 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!

Arrival to camp:

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.

We will conduct a 3rd round of testing for our basecamp campers after a few days.

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.

Transportation: We recommend holding off on booking flights to Canada/Toronto. We will update you with more transportation information in the next few months.

Arrival and Departure at camp:

- *By Car:* It is recommended if you do drive your camper(s) to Toronto, 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.
- *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.
- *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.

Mid-Season: We will not have parents visiting during the Mid-Season 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 End-Season. If that changes in the coming months, we will be sure to let you know.