

2021 Addendum to the Songadeewin Parent Manual

Due to the pandemic situation, some camp procedures and policies will differ from past summers. No system to keep camp safe from Covid is perfect. However, by using a multi-layer approach we can effectively mitigate the possibility of infection and the possibility of the spread of the infection. We have learned to be flexible throughout this past year and we will continue to be flexible. As circumstances evolve such that we need to modify our procedures and plans, we will let you know! Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Here are the new procedures and practices we'll be using this summer:

1. **Non-pharmaceutical interventions** (NPIs) to keep everyone safe throughout the summer;
 - a. The three most important ones for us this summer are:
 - i. engaging with others outdoors as much as possible (which has always been the case)
 - ii. mask wearing
 - iii. maintaining appropriate distance when outside one's cohort (see below.)
 - b. An example of how we'll use this is singing in groups, a known high risk behavior:
 - i. we'll layer our NPIs by singing outdoors at the big circle as we've always done
 - ii. we've add seating at the circle so our cohorts can be distanced and we'll be wearing masks to keep everyone safe.
 - iii. If we are just with our cohort, we can sing without masks.
2. **Low-risk, pre-arrival behaviors**
 - a. For the 10 to 14 days prior to travel to camp we need everyone to practice low risks behaviors which include:
 - i. keeping activities with others limited to the household unit,
 - ii. wearing masks
 - iii. washing hands frequently
 - iv. avoiding crowds and events with others like dance recitals, family reunions, in-person funerals or weddings.
 - b. Campers attending in-person school should continue to attend using safe practices as prescribed at school.
 - c. Parents will be able to work in person doing the same.
 - d. Have a PCR test 3-5 days prior to arrival and send us the results via CampMinder
 - e. **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” and being “Strong of Heart!”**
3. **Arrival at camp**
 - a. Drop-off by car:
 - i. Enter from the west side of campus where you'll be given instructions to drop off your camper and her belongings.
 - ii. Parents will stay with their cars, say good-bye and then move towards a waiting area as we await the results of a rapid antigen test (see below) before departing. Parents will NOT park or get out of the car to bring their campers and luggage to the tents and cabins.
 - iii. If there are siblings at Keewaydin (where there will be assigned arrival times due to space limitation), you may drop your daughter(s) off at Songa before or after, allowing enough time for test results.
 - b. Bus from the New York:
 - i. We will only fill the buses halfway to allow spaced seating.
 - ii. Sign up through CampMinder.

- iii. We will do the rapid test for each passenger before getting on the bus.
- c. Plane arrival at Burlington Airport (BTV):
 - i. Please follow all safety procedures to limit exposure to others
 - ii. Make your travel route as direct as possible.
 - iii. Sign up for shuttle pickup through CampMinder.

4. Testing

- a. Every person working or attending camp will need a negative PCR test within 3-five days of travel to camp. Please start making arrangement for this now.
- b. Upon arrival, each person attending camp will be given a rapid antigen test.
- c. After living at camp for seven days each member of the camp community will be given a PCR test.
- d. We will likely do some surveillance testing after the first seven days of each session. More on this as we get closer to camp.
- e. Keewaydin and Songa has contracted with CIC Health Cambridge as our Covid testing provider.

5. Cohorting

- a. Upon arrival this year campers will be assigned to a cabin or tent as well as a cohort made up of two or three cabins or tents, creating a group of approximately 20 people.
- b. The cohort will consist of those individuals with whom people sleep, eat and can interact with without wearing a mask. If the whole cohort is playing a game – no masks, going to an activity – no masks, having a cookout – no masks, hiking – no masks.
- c. We will keep tight cohorts the first seven days of each session, until we have the results of the second round of testing.
- d. Cohorts will be engaging in all the regular big camp activities while sitting together, though distanced from the other cohorts. At the circle, for instance, cohorts will be sitting in their group with space between them and the other cohorts. We've added an additional row of benches at the big circle to make this possible.

6. Mask wearing

- a. When not in one's cohort, or when in the cohort is with an instructor or others who are not in the cohort, everyone will wear masks.
- b. If we are outside but with other people, like at the big circle or flag raising, we'll wear our masks.
- c. We'll wear masks while waiting outside the dining hall and getting to our tables. Once the food is served, we'll take our masks off for eating. Hoppers will need to be masked as they go about their duties in the dining hall and service area.

7. Trips

- a. Trip groups will be based on cohorts. For example, if Willoughby seniors is comprised of one cohort of 12-16 campers and 4 staff (which is likely), the kids and staff in those tents will likely be assigned to two trips of 2 staff with 6-8 campers. This will allow us to have their trips leaving within the first 1-2 weeks as per usual. For trips leaving after the first 1-2 weeks (i.e. after we've been able to perhaps merge cohorts), we may have more flexibility.
- b. While traveling in a van, campers, staff and driver will wear masks and windows will be open to provide fresh air. Masks will be worn at all bathroom stops, followed by handwashing and/or hand-sanitizing.
- c. Various State and Canadian rules may impact where we can trip.

8. Ventilation: We had a ventilation expert review and suggest additions to increase ventilation in indoor spaces. Here are some of the steps we've taken:

- a. We'll have an event tent outside the dining hall, allowing half the tables outside for dining. Some cohorts will dine on the porch.
- b. There will be added fans in cabins to draw the air outside.

- c. Tents will leave openings at the bottom and keep flaps open to assist in airflow while people are inside.
- d. At the Arts Village we'll take advantage of the huge doors and decks that allow plenty of airflow while creating art.

9. Handwashing and Sanitation

- a. Campers and Staff will wash hands prior to each meal and use hand sanitizer upon sitting at their table. We have added additional outside handwashing stations near the dining hall for this purpose.
- b. Staff will see that all campers apply hand sanitizer at the conclusion of each meal.
- c. Handwashing will be part of the morning inspection routine, activity check-out and bedtime routine and encouraged throughout the day.
- d. Each camper will bring two personal bottles of hand sanitizer to camp.
- e. Dining Hall tables and chairs will be sanitized before and after each meal.
- f. Bathrooms and other buildings will be sanitized daily based on the recommendations of VT Public Health.

10. **Symptom Screening** will be done once per day as part of morning inspection.

11. Vaccine:

- a. **Will we require campers and staff to be vaccinated in order to attend camp?** Unlikely. The vaccine is unlikely to be available to children before camp. While the pace of vaccination is increasing and our hope is high that many of our staff will get vaccinated before camp, it is possible that some staff will not be able to be vaccinated before camp, due to availability in their state. Nevertheless, we strongly encourage anyone coming to camp who can get the vaccine to do so! The CDC counts summer camp counselors in the category of "child care providers," which places them in a prioritized category in many states.
- b. **Will the vaccine change Keewaydin's Covid Plans?** Perhaps, but it's too soon to tell. We will only modify our plans on the recommendations and guidelines of the State of Vermont, the CDC and our consulting physician.

12. Contact tracing, quarantines and isolation

- a. Our cohorting plan will make it easy to contact trace should someone test positive after day seven.
- b. If someone tests positive the cohort will quarantine until it is determined that there was a false positive or 10 days pass. Since the cohort already eats and sleeps together they will be able to continue doing so while maintaining distance from other cohorts and being extra careful with sanitizing areas or equipment they use. If the quarantine is for those in Willoughby the tent groups will move to a space on campus with its own bathroom facilities. Cabin groups will remain in their cabins.
- c. The person with a positive test will go to an isolation tent just outside the Health Center so that the camp nurses can monitor and take care of that person. This is a platform tent with screening. There will be separate bathroom facilities for this person.

13. Communication during the summer

- a. We will still be having phone calls for campers after the first two weeks as stated in the Parent Manual.
- b. You can still email or call the camp director if you'd like more information or a check in about how your daughter is doing.
- c. At midseason we will be arranging for eight week campers to have a Zoom style call with their parents since there will not be on-campus visiting this summer. More details will follow as we get closer to that time.
- d. As in past summer parents can email campers through either through the camp office, or CampMinder, but we don't have the details on this function of CampMinder yet.

- e. You will see in the Parent Manual that we will not be accepting packages to campers this summer. This was to be new in 2020 and is not related to Covid-19. Please read the details there and understand that for some campers it will make getting letters and cards more important – mail is always a highlight while at camp.

14. Additional items to bring

- a. Masks – your camper should bring either enough disposable masks for her stay (with plenty to change into if things get wet or lost) OR cloth masks and a small zippered mesh bag for putting them in once they are used and need to be laundered. Whichever kind of mask you and she choose they should be well fitting with multiple layers and comfortable for her to wear in warm weather.
- b. Willoughby campers: We suggest they bring a bug net for their bed this summer. As we need to have extra ventilation for sleeping this summer the tents will need to have flaps open and/or the bottoms spread away from the platform to allow for good airflow at night. If it is a buggy season, netting will help make sleeping more comfortable. You’ll see a lot of variety of netting if you google “bug netting for beds” and they come at a variety of price points. They should be relatively low profile since the tent sides at the edges are not as high as being in a room at your home.

15. Resources

- a. We have been working with Dr. Laura Blaisdell to help us develop our plan since October. Dr. Blaisdell is a pediatrician, with an advanced degree in public health and epidemiology and she is one of the lead medical consultants for the American Camp Association and co-author of the “*Best Practices Field Guide*” for camps.
- b. We have also been consulting with officials from the Vermont Department of Health, the American Camp Association and the Vermont Camp Association, as well as with the camp leadership team, the Board of Trustees and members of the Keewaydin family with relevant expertise.