

Frequently Asked Questions on Keewaydin and Songadeewin's Covid-19 Preparedness Plans (Updated May 24, 2021)

1. *Are Keewaydin Dunmore and Songadeewin planning to open in the summer of 2021?*

Yes! Guidance from the CDC and the State of Vermont give allow us to open. Moreover, we believe we have a plan in place to allow us to run camp responsibly and safely this summer.

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 vaccination, low-risk pre-camp behaviors, testing, proper indoor ventilation and being outside as much as possible, organizing ourselves into small groups (i.e. cohorts,) wearing masks when necessary, physically distancing and hand/cough hygiene.

3. *What will your testing policy and system be?*

Unvaccinated campers and staff will have the following testing process: 1. Receive a negative result on a PCR test taken within three days of arrival, 2. Have a negative result on a BiNax rapid test upon arrival at camp, 3. Receive a PCR test on Day 5 of camp. Vaccinated campers and staff only require testing if symptoms require one.

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

A cohort system means dividing age groups (i.e. longhouses and wigwams) into smaller groups of roughly groups of 16-20—and having those cohort groups live, eat and, initially, do many of their activities together, physically distanced from other cohort groups. Some cohorts may be larger depending on the number of vaccinated campers and staff in the age group. 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.

5. *Is mask wearing necessary at camp?*

Yes. While campers are operating just within their cohort—in their tent or cabin, or in activities 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 that will require mask wearing and physical distancing (e.g. using the bathrooms, meetings with the entire age group, many free time situations, etc).

6. *Will Keewaydin and Songa be able to run trips this summer?*

Yes, we will run trips this summer. We are working on several different scenarios, based on possible restrictions in other states and in Canada. Currently, the Canadian border is closed. As a result of this, the Wilderness Trips will go to the Boundary Waters in Minnesota and the senior trips will likely go to Maine.

7. *What physical changes have you made to make camp safer?*

- We have large event style tents for Keewaydin and Songa which we will erect next to the dining halls (on tennis court number one behind the Wangan Room). This will allow us to

seat most of the campers and staff outdoors and allow for maximum physical distancing inside our dining halls.

- We have installed fans in certain buildings to facilitate the circulation of fresh air.
- We have constructed sinks on the outdoor walls of our bathrooms to make handwashing easier and safer.
- We have added an extra row of benches in the Songa Circle to allow for campers and staff to be more spread out.

8. *Will there be any pre-arrival behavioral expectations for staff and campers?*

YES!

Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated: You still need to abide by the same low risk behaviors we have spelled out previously. This means that during the 10 days prior to arriving at camp:

1. Stay within your household bubble, 2. Avoid contact with anyone outside of your household bubble except that which is mandatory for work or school, 3. No non-essential travel, 4. Follow all the recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs)—mask wearing, physical distancing, and handwashing. The stakes are high! You have to have a negative result on two Covid tests—one before camp and one on arrival day.

You need to have a PCR test performed within 72 hours of your arrival at camp. Note: when signing up for a test, confirm that it is a *PCR* test, not a "rapid" or "antigen" test. Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated staff are not allowed into the camp population until a negative PCR test is submitted.

Fully Vaccinated Staff and Campers: You are no longer required to have any Covid tests (unless you have Covid Symptoms). But you do need to have low risk behaviors for 10 days before camp—though perhaps not as rigid as the partially or unvaccinated folks. Here are good guidelines: 1. When you are outdoors you are very safe, so you don't need to wear a mask or distance, unless you are in crowd that is densely packed, in which case avoid this situation or, if unavoidable, wear a mask. 2. If you are indoors you are safe when you are with others who you know are fully vaccinated. If you are indoors and you are not sure everyone is vaccinated, assume there are unvaccinated people and mask and/or distance (e.g. Supermarket, delicatessen, stores, etc.). If you go out to eat, eat outside, not inside. Remember, even though the vaccine prevents you from getting dangerously sick, you can still get infected and you can still pass it on (e.g. The New York Yankees). We don't want any possibility that anyone enters camp infected!

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!"

9. *Are there special instructions regarding transporting campers to camp?*

Yes!

- *By Car:* Drop-off will be short and sweet in 2021! On June 27 and July 25, parents will arrive at designated parking lots and designated times to drop off their children. Parents and campers will be greeted by our staff who will get the campers' belongings and accompany

them to meet their staff and get settled in their tents or cabins. Unfortunately, because of Covid-19, parents won't be able to enter onto the campus, as is our normal custom. We will miss this feature of opening day, but in the interest of safety, this is what we have to do in 2021.

- *By Bus:* We will provide bus service from and to New York City and Westchester County, New York on June 27, July 25 and August 21. Buses will only be occupied at 50% maximum so that campers and staff will be physically distanced. Staff, campers and drivers will be masked and the buses will be ventilated. Campers will be Covid tested before the bus departs.
- *By Air:*
Campers flying to camp will receive a BiNax Now rapid Covid test upon arrival at camp. If they test positive they will be placed in isolation. Because of the challenges of this situation, we discourage flying to camp this summer.

Federal and state rules will guide us. As of June 1, people from out of state can fly to Vermont without having the quarantine upon arrival in Vermont. Campers and staff, however, still must still follow low risk behaviors the 10 days prior to arrival and take a PCR test within five days of arrival (with a negative result).

International travelers are currently required to quarantine in most states upon arrival, including Vermont. Please check individual state rules.

10. Will there be a Mid-Season parent visiting weekend in 2021?

Unfortunately, no. Because of Covid-19, we will not have parent visiting during the Mid-Season weekend this summer. We will all miss having this event as we normally do, but we hope you understand!

11. Does Keewaydin recommend that families get Tuition Insurance to cover their loss in the event that they have to cancel for approved circumstances?

Yes. As always, we recommend you purchase tuition insurance. This will allow you to recoup your tuition fee in the event that your son is unable to come to camp for reasons approved by the insurance company. Keewaydin, as per our application, does not give refunds—unless we cancel camp, in which case we will refund in full. The data management program we are now using, CampMinder, offers such a product.

12. Will Keewaydin require campers and staff to be vaccinated in order to attend camp?

We strongly encourage anyone eligible to get the vaccine to do so.

13. Is your Covid-19 preparedness plan 100% complete?

We have a plan! Will it change? Of course! We have all learned that the situation with Covid changes regularly. We will adjust as the circumstances and medical expertise guides us.

14. 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 consult regularly with the Vermont Health Department and follow guidelines from the ACA and the CDC.
- We consult regularly with peer leaders from the ACA, the VCA (Vermont Camp Association) and a group of New England Camp leaders called the Camp Consortium.
- Finally, we consult with a Keewaydin network of people with expertise in testing, pediatrics, and infectious disease.

Thank you for your patience and your understanding as we get ourselves ready for the summer. As we know more, we will be in touch. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.