

# Preliminary 2022 Merri-Mac Health Guidelines

## General

We believe that families should make their own best decisions regarding vaccination. Some will choose to be vaccinated and others will not. The following guidelines are designed to honor these decisions while taking into account our close-knit residential setting.

We expect to follow local guidelines and the recommendations of the American Camp Association as they apply to our setting. These will likely develop into the spring as each responds to the current state of the virus. The policies below are preliminary and likely to change as we receive new guidance.

## Pre-Camp For Unvaccinated

- All campers should quarantine and complete an [Eight Day Health Monitoring Form](#).
- Unvaccinated campers are required to demonstrate a negative molecular PCR test administered < 72 hours prior to arrival.

## Pre-Camp For Vaccinated

- *Vaccinated means having received a second shot, or booster between fourteen days and six months prior to arrival.*
- Vaccinated campers are also required to demonstrate a negative PCR test administered < 72 hours prior to arrival.
- Remain quarantined between test and camp arrival.

## What Do We Mean By Quarantine?

- Campers should not be with friends or in public settings such as restaurants, sporting events, retail spaces, etc.
- Family members should also avoid these settings as much as able and be thoughtful of their physical closeness to their campers. We understand that you may not be able to avoid work or grocery shopping, but we would ask for your extra care during these times.

## What If My Camper Tests Positive Or Is Asked To Leave Early?

- If we ask that your camper leave camp because of Covid in their cabin then we will refund 50% of the unused portion of their tuition and apply the other 50% to their 2023 tuition.
- If your camper cannot attend because of a pre-camp exposure or a positive pre-camp test then we will credit 50% of the unused portion of their tuition to their 2023 tuition.

Join us.



### **Opening Day**

- We will have scheduled drop off times by cabin. Families with multiple children may come at either drop off time.
- Parents will remain in cars, so you should give your hugs before you arrive at camp.
- Temps of 99.5 or higher will be turned away. Campers may return when the temp returns to normal for 24 - 48 hours.
- Temps of 98.7 - 99.4 will be kept at camp in isolation until it goes down. If not down within an hour the camper may be sent home.
- Campers with incomplete forms will not be able to remain on camp.

### **How It Will Work**

- Cars will pull into our second gate (Macky's Green) entrance.
- We will put a name tag on your car and direct you to meet Adam and Ann at the boathouse. Adam and Ann will review your paperwork (negative tests, vaccination cards, etc).
- They will direct you to "Bear Camp" where:
  - Your camper will hop out and lean over for a quick opening day picture with you through the car window.
  - You will review any medications with the nurse - don't forget to read your camper packet carefully for our medication policies.
  - We'll then walk your camper to our infirmary check in. Don't worry, we're really good at making everyone feel comfortable and welcome.
- You will then pull forward to "Masada" where we'll remove your bags.
  - We're asking that girls consolidate everything into two duffles.
  - Please also pack strategically so we can remove these easily.
- Please keep your phone near you. We'll give you a call within thirty minutes if there are any problems during check in. If you do not hear from us in that time period, then rest assured, everything's going great.

### **Program and Groups**

We expect a more normal camp program this summer though we will likely maintain Cabin Families.

- A cabin family is a single cabin, usually with 2-3 staff and 12-15 campers. These will operate pretty much the same as they always have.

Join us.



- During meals, shower times and bedtime, campers and staff will interact with their cabin family only.
- Larger group activities will ordinarily be outside without face coverings provided social distancing is possible.
- Inside activities will be without face coverings when with their cabin or when distancing from other cabin groups is reasonable.

### **Daily Health Checks**

We will conduct daily health screenings for both campers and staff. These will be similar to those you will conduct at home before campers arrive and any campers with fevers or Covid symptoms will be taken to the infirmary.

### **Response Management of Case or Probable Case**

A camper or staff member identified as having a potential case of COVID-19 will remain in an isolation room as part of Camp's communicable disease plan.

The Wishing Well will have three areas for camper rest and treatment:

1. A standard room for campers that are clearly non-viral. This will include individuals exhibiting symptoms that are consistent with existing medical history (e.g. cough if recent history of a chest cold).
2. A room for campers exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 that are not consistent with existing medical history but could have alternative diagnosis (e.g. strep throat).
3. An isolation room for campers with convincing symptoms of COVID-19 and scheduled to leave camp.

If a camper has convincing symptoms:

- We will call their parents and ask that they pick them up within twelve hours.
- Her cabin will move to alternative camp programming while we begin evaluating the others in her cabin three times a day, asking our medical staff to recommend when/if it is safe for them to return to normal camp activities.
- We may also choose to 1) test the campers in that cabin, or 2) send those campers home. If a camper leaves due to Covid that is contracted at camp, we will offer a refund for the unused portion of their tuition.

### **Face Covering Protocol**



We expect that our increased pre-camp procedures will allow us to be more relaxed with masking this summer. There is no masking with our cabin families.

- We will wear face coverings when indoors and interacting within six feet of anyone outside our cabin family.
- Multiple cabins can occupy the same indoor space without face coverings if the groups are separated (i.e. Dining Hall, Chapel).

### **Closing Day**

- At this point we are not able to host parents for closing ceremonies. We are hoping this can change as we get closer to summer.
- Otherwise we will have a pickup schedule in which groups of campers are to be picked up from camp during staggered timeframes by cabin age. Families with campers in multiple cabins can arrive at either of their prescribed windows.

### **A Closed Community - The Imperfect Bubble**

No one thing we do will protect our campers completely, but each adds a layer of security. We also understand that none of these layers can be done perfectly, which is why having multiple layers is important. A relatively closed community will be an especially important layer, and it is something that will make camp better too. We will avoid camper trips into the public, but we will take trips to wilderness destinations where we are not likely to have public interaction. We will not allow visitors to camp this summer.