

*As a mom and a camp professional, I am grateful for our camp families who trust us with the health and safety of their campers every summer. Thank you in advance for your patience as we implement the research, local and national guidance on preventing the spread of COVID in camps. My thought is: **"I will do whatever I need to do to get back to operating camp!"** –eli*

*Each Friday beginning May 14, I will send an email to our 2021 summer camp families with any updated news about COVID procedures at camp. Stay up to date by watching your email and reviewing our COVID page:
<https://myycamp.org/parents/covid2021/>*

Friday, May 21, 2021

Dear Camp Families,

Thank you so much for your support! Not only are we dedicated to the safety of your camper and our staff, we are required to follow the guidance of the health department in order to operate each summer. Here are some updates on things you need to know to make this a fun, safe summer for all:

TESTING

Last week I let you know that part of this guidance is the requirement for unvaccinated individuals to show negative COVID test results (from a test taken 1-3 days prior to start date) upon check in for your session of OVERNIGHT camp. A few clarifications/more info I have received on this point:

-An individual is considered "Fully vaccinated" after two weeks (14 days) have passed from the date of their second shot. Therefore, if your camper is not two weeks past the second dose-The test can be any viral test, so PCR or antigen. PCR tests have had very quick turnarounds recently!

-Testing is still free and available in many locations throughout our region. Stay tuned for more info next week as I work on a list of places/options for you to make it easier!

-Fully-vaccinated individuals simply bring their COVID vaccination record (or a photo of it).

MASKS

Please be aware that health department permits for youth camp supersede the Governor's Executive Orders and recommendations from the CDC.

We had masks on at day camp last summer and campers and counselors still thrived! Of course we'll take breaks, take them off when around water activities, take them off when we're maintaining distance outdoors, and take them off when we're with our own cohort for overnight camp.

Next week I will be talking with our health department again, and we have a national town hall meeting with the American Camp Association health advisors as well. I'll send another update next Friday!

Ernstlove,

eli