

Bishopswood Covid-19 Guidelines

After a difficult school year, we know that going to camp is more important than ever. While all the precautions in the world cannot guarantee a Covid-free summer at Camp Bishopswood, we have outlined below all we are doing in our power to make this a safe, fun, and relaxing camp experience.

Pre-Camp Requirements:

1. Keeping a ten-day health journal. A template you can use digitally or printed out will be provided via email two weeks before arrival at camp
2. Filling out a pre-arrival form on [Camp InTouch](#). You can also upload a vaccination card or test result there
3. During that time, avoiding indoor gatherings such as family gatherings, birthday parties, funerals, or other activities that increase the spread of the disease
4. All out-of-state campers will have to follow [Moving Maine Forward](#) guidelines
 - Our guidance would be that fully vaccinated folk self-monitor for symptoms as well as wear a mask and take other precautions during travel
 - Domestic travelers who are not fully vaccinated should also get tested 1-3 days prior to travel, then have a week-long quarantine including a test 3-5 days after travel
5. For international travelers, we recommend:
 - If fully vaccinated, get tested 3-5 days after travel. No quarantine is necessary
 - If not, testing 1-3 days both before and after travel, as well as a week-long quarantine after arriving at your destination
6. All campers and staff who are not fully vaccinated are required to obtain a negative COVID-19 test (antigen or PCR) ideally 72 hours prior to arrival at camp. A PCR test is preferred and a copy of a negative test result must be presented at the time of check-in or uploaded online (see #2)

Check-in & Check-out:

The state would prefer that we do a “drop and go” check-in and check-out. We are hoping to do this a bit differently. We are asking parents who feel comfortable, especially those of older or returning campers, to do the “drop and go” so that we can allow new and younger campers an opportunity to have their parent check them into their cabin. Here is how it will work:

- Stephen will send a Google Form asking if you are able to do “drop and go” or if you need to schedule a time for one parent to check their camper into their cabin

- If they made an appointment, only one parent and the camper will be allowed to leave the car and walk to the cabin area. Everyone must wear a mask
- Only one parent and child from different families will be allowed in the cabin at one time
- We ask that you take no more than 5 minutes to help your camper make their bed, unpack, and give a quick good-bye. This allows each parent an opportunity to do so
- Sunday check-in times will be divided up by the first letter of your last name. The schedule is as follows:
 - 2:00pm: Check in Group A-G
 - 2:30pm: Check in Group H-M
 - 3:00pm: Check in Group N-Z
- We will have a portable restroom for families to use if it is an emergency
- We ask that families leave all pets at home or in the car

While you check out, we still ask that all family members remain in the car; we will bring your camper to you.

- Saturday check-out times will be divided up by the first letter of your last name. The schedule is as follows:
 - 9:30am: Check out Group A-L
 - 10:00am: Check out Group M-Z

Cohorting:

- **Cabin Groups:** Think of this like a family group. Each group will consist of 2-3 staff and 8-10 campers. Cabin groups do not need to wear masks unless interacting with another group. Hand washing, deep cleaning, and symptom screening will form our layers of protection
- **Pod:** Pods will consist of two cabins of similar age but different gender identities. This group only has to wear a mask when indoors, in close space to each other, or around another group. Again, hand washing, deep cleaning, and encouraging outdoor-modified activities will form our layers of protection
- **Units:** One unit will be a group of five cabins. Masks and social distancing will be required. I imagine there will only be one-two times a day we meet as units
- **All Camp:** Masks and social distancing will be required for all-camp groupings; units will remain separated. I imagine there will be only two-three times each week that all of camp is gathered

Dining:

- Meals will be eaten by cabin groups at tables with appropriate distance between groups. We are fortunate that we have many windows and good circulation in the Great Hall
- We will encourage lots of outdoor eating, thus minimizing the number of people moving around the eating area
- During inclement weather, Unit 1 eats in the dining room while Unit 2 eats in the Great Hall
- We will still eat family style, though only one counselor will touch serving utensils
- As of now, we hope to still have our center table options (fruit, cereal, salad bar, etc.); these will be served by kitchen and leadership staff

Bathrooms:

According to the current rules in place from the state of Maine, each unit needs their own bathhouse for contact tracing purposes. Currently we have one bathhouse that has traditionally been split by gender identity on each half. This summer we will have to have each side of the bathhouse be used by each unit. That means we will have multiple genders using the same side of the bathhouse. Here's how we hope to make it as comfortable as we can for everyone:

- **Scheduling:** For contact tracing purposes, each cabin will have an assigned time during the day that they can shower
- **Portable Restrooms:** We will bring two portable restrooms for each unit. If a camper is uncomfortable using the stall toilets, they have that option
- **Cleaning:** More frequent and deeper cleaning will be performed by campers and staff. For example, we can teach campers that they should use disinfectant and wipe down a sink or shower before using it. We are also teaching folks what it is like to live in a community

Program & Activities:

- Activities will be done mostly within a camper's cabin group and pod, albeit with fewer options than before
- We will try to move just about every activity outside when weather permits. We are very lucky to have large porches, a new 50' by 20' tent, and a lot of space under the Great Hall
- Thirty-seven hand sanitizer stations have been installed around camp
- More time will be spent doing activities with cabins and pods that would have traditionally been spent with all of camp. For example, more cabin/pod times will occur rather than an all-camp wide game

- At the end of each day we traditionally have ACGN (All Camp Good Night) in the Great Hall with all of camp. There is time for campers and staff to share about their day, a book is read, and we all sing together. We can still do ACGN, but instead maybe we do it by units at the outdoor fire pit with masks. We can still share about our day, we can still read a book, and we can all sing while wearing a mask
- We will still offer some off-camp trips this summer, they will just look a little different. For example, a Bishopswood highlight is that every Friday, a group of campers canoe to Barret's Cove, eat lunch, hike Maiden's cliff, and come back. Maybe this summer we do a sunrise canoe trip to Maiden's, hike first thing in the morning when there are not as many non-camp people on the trail, then canoe back. This way, campers get to be the brave one that did Maiden's as a sunrise trip

Testing:

The state of Maine is strongly encouraging a testing strategy after campers and staff arrive. It would only be a single layer of protection, and as such a negative test would not exempt folks (staff or campers) from our safety plan.

It is difficult to come up with a reliable testing program for single-week camps. Here is our plan:

- When campers first arrive, non-vaccinated campers, will be given an Abbott BinaxNow Rapid Covid-19 test. If the result is positive, we will retest. If both tests are positive, we will not be able to allow the camper into camp. If the camper can produce a negative PCR test within 1-2 days, they will be eligible to return.
- The downside of these rapid tests are they are more likely to be false negative than false positive. With that being said, we can't use this as a device to relax other mitigation strategies, but we do hope it reduces the chance Covid enters camp.

Vaccination:

With the availability of Pfizer vaccines for children age 12-16, there will be more vaccinated campers than expected. This is great for the individual campers and families, but all of our precautions will remain in place. There are currently too many unknowns about whether or not someone who is vaccinated can still spread or get Covid-19.

For the sake of vaccinations at camp, all vaccines accepted by the World Health Organization are considered safe and effective.

If a cabinmate tests positive for Covid-19 but your child is fully vaccinated, your child would not have to isolate if they test negative. If they also test positive, we cannot give an outline of

expectations here as our orders would come directly from the CDC or camp doctor based on the exposure.

In Case of Illness:

While we are taking every precaution and we hope that this won't happen, we want to be sure to have a plan in the event a camper or staff member were to develop symptoms.

- If a camper or staff member displays signs or symptoms of Covid-19, they will be evaluated by our nurse on-site, isolated in the Health Hut or Theodore, and given an Abbott BinaxNow Rapid COVID-19 test. Parents will be notified immediately
- Should a camper test positive, all non-vaccinated people in the cabin will be tested. People in the cabin who are vaccinated and symptomatic will also be tested
- We will then give parents an option to get a PCR test off-site or to come get their child. They will either be treated at a health care facility or made comfortable in a safe, isolated spot on camp. We will do everything we can to support and take care of them until they can be picked up
- All families need to have a designated adult who can pick your child up within 12 hours of being notified
- If there is a positive Covid-19 case at camp, we will communicate that with all camper families

Odds & Ends:

- **Visitors:** Traditionally when campers stay multiple weeks, families like to come for a visit on Saturday. We will not be able to offer these visits this summer. For campers staying more than two weeks, I will be happy to set up a phone call, Skype, or FaceTime during this summer only. We will encourage lots of letter writing. Our leadership team at camp is always available to let you know how your child is doing
- **Session Break:** To minimize potential exposure, **we will not** be doing our traditional session break between weeks 4 and 5. Every weekend will be a normal camp weekend
- **Masks:** We are suggesting packing 12 cloth masks with multiple layers of fabric and 10 paper masks
- **Community Living:** It is important that you prepare your child to succeed while living in a community setting while being at camp. While some things will be like schools that are in-person, changes like stricter shower schedules and not always getting to eat with old friends are going to be a reality this summer
- **Mail:** To keep things simple, we are asking parents not to send care packages this summer, but instead encourage letter writing. Any care package sent will remain at the office and be given back during check-out

Refunds:

Your child's camp experience this summer is more of a risk than previous years for both your family and for Bishopswood. We have had to increase our staff, spend much more money on PPE than we anticipated, and physically alter buildings to make this summer work. If for a Covid-related reason we have to send your camper home, we will do everything we can, upon request, to provide a pro-rated refund. For your child's uncompleted weeks, we will withhold a \$100 administrative fee per week, per child.