



# CAMP WEKEELA COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN

*Note: new information and guidelines will be added as an addendum and noted as updated versions of this document are published.*

Hello Pioneers,

Camp Wekeela's plan to open is rooted in our belief that we can create a safe and sheltered environment for our staff and campers. We love our camp, our campers and believe children need camp right now. Our top priority this summer is to implement effective procedures to ensure the safety of every single one of our campers and staff.

We want to make sure that you and your family can have access to our plan in order to make an informed decision that works best for you. We understand that the choice to come to camp is completely unique and personal to each of our families. As always, we appreciate your patience and support as we work to develop a set of best practices.

**Please note that our action plan reflects the provided guidance from the state of Maine, American Camp Association, and the CDC. These guidelines are subject to change at any time, and we will keep all families updated as we go along. Should the CDC or the state of Maine make any changes to the protocols for the opening of camp, we will make decisions and you will be contacted immediately.**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Camp Dates</b>	2
<b>Health/Medical Protocols</b>	2
<i>Before Camp</i>	2
<i>Testing</i>	3
<i>Upon Arrival</i>	4
<i>If someone has COVID-like symptoms at camp...</i>	4
<i>What if someone tests positive for COVID at camp?</i>	4
<b>Arriving at Camp</b>	5
<i>Airplane Procedures</i>	5
<i>Bus Procedures</i>	6
<i>Drop-Off Procedures</i>	6
<b>Departing from Camp</b>	6
<b>Cohorts &amp; Schedule</b>	7
<i>Cohorts/Households</i>	7
<i>Daily Schedule and Programming</i>	8
<b>Housekeeping</b>	8
<i>Cabins</i>	9
<i>Sanitation Procedures Across Camp</i>	10
<b>New Operations Policies</b>	10
<i>Off-Camp Trips</i>	10
<i>Visitors</i>	10
<i>Packages &amp; Deliveries</i>	10
<i>Mail</i>	10
<i>Dining Services</i>	11
<i>Laundry Services</i>	11
<b>Staff</b>	12
<i>Before Camp &amp; Upon Arrival</i>	12
<i>Time Off</i>	12
<b>Forms</b>	12
<i>Medications</i>	12
<b>Billing</b>	13
<b>References</b>	13

## CAMP DATES

Based on current guidelines from the American Camp Association and the state of Maine, Camp Wekeela has modified the 2020 dates as follows:

- Staff Training: begins June 24th
- Opening Day: July 9th
- Closing Day: August 13th

There are four session options for campers (**Note: July 9th is the ONLY date that campers will be allowed to arrive**):

- Full season: July 9th - August 13th
- Rookie session: July 9th - July 23rd (camper must be picked-up in Maine)
- Three week session: July 9th - July 30th (camper must be picked-up in Maine)
- Four week session: July 9th - August 6th (camper must be picked-up in Maine)

## HEALTH/MEDICAL PROTOCOLS

### *Before Camp*

Both campers and staff will take necessary precautions to limit exposure outside of the house two weeks prior to the start of camp. Social gatherings should be avoided and trips outside of the house should be limited to necessities. Quarantine before flying on an airplane will be required. Our expectations are that every family will commit and comply with social distance and quarantine measures. Your compliance greatly impacts our entire camp community and our safety.

We ask that you will complete a daily health form beginning on June 24th for two weeks leading up to your arrival, including temperature checks and tracking any other reported symptoms. This form must be completed for two weeks in order to attend Wekeela. **The form can be found linked here:** [Daily Self-Evaluation Form](#) and will also be sent to your email as opening day approaches.

Any person with pre-existing conditions (asthma, diabetes, heart condition, kidney, liver disease, etc.) should not join us this summer. We would love to have you join us again in 2021.

### *Testing*

Under current guidelines, the American Camp Association and the Maine CDC do **NOT** require that campers or staff complete a diagnostic test in order to attend overnight camps.

We strongly feel testing in camp is something important. Although there are many tests available, more research needs to be completed in order for us to select the best option. Once a more reliable test with the most accurate outcomes becomes available, we will be in contact with you to discuss next steps regarding these tests.

At this moment, we are **requiring** that you seek out a diagnostic test at a walk-in clinic or from your primary care physician one week prior to your arrival. One of our medical advisors has informed us that **the most reliable test that is currently available is the viral RNA swab test**, as it has very few false positives. This is the test that we recommend prior to your arrival at camp. Rapid tests available at drive-through stations and new antibody tests are only about 70-80% accurate, with more false negative results. We will ask you for proof of results from this test. We ask that if a test you receive indicates a positive result that you contact us immediately, and more details about next steps will be provided to your family.

Every day, testing is changing in Maine. We are currently in talks with several testing companies that we will be able to supply tests for camp and perhaps for home use as well. We will be sending updated information on this as we go forward.

### *Upon Arrival*

All campers and staff will be directed to Norway Savings Bank Arena in Auburn, Maine upon their arrival. A detailed health screening will be completed by our health center staff who will be in PPE. Once individuals are cleared, they will be transported by staff members to Camp Wekeela.

### *If someone has COVID-like symptoms at camp:*

- If a camper or staff member (patient) presents any symptoms that could indicate a COVID infection, they will be properly isolated away from the group until their COVID status can be determined.
- Our health center staff will be trained to identify all known COVID symptoms, which include: cough fever, shortness of breath, loss of smell/taste, muscle aches, sore throat, diarrhea, headaches, fatigue, sores on the feet.
- A patient will be allowed to return to the camp population after a determined negative COVID status and no signs of previous symptoms for 24 hours.
- If a positive case is suspected, all members of the cabin and division will be monitored.

### *What if someone tests positive for COVID at camp?*

- Wekeela will have a dedicated building that will act as a satellite health center in the event that there is a suspected or confirmed COVID case on camp.
- If a case is confirmed, health center staff will be in contact with the patient's family to decide if they will return home or stay in camp for treatment. **Wekeela is allowed to treat positive cases on site, and we are confident that we can treat a positive case on camp, if necessary.**
- If our health center staff determines that a patient who tests positive needs further care is needed to treat symptoms, Camp Wekeela is located a prompt 16 miles from St. Mary's Hospital in Lewiston, Maine and 18 miles from Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston, Maine.

- A patient who has tested positive for COVID is required to stay quarantined for at least 10 days (subject to change) from symptom onset and 72 hours of being symptom-free.
- A patient may return to their cabin after CDC recovery guidelines have been met.

If a positive case is confirmed, Camp Wekeela will notify state and local health officials as well as staff and families while maintaining confidentiality as mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

## **ARRIVING AT CAMP**

The State of Maine has determined that transportation to and from summer camps should be, when possible, direct-to-camp and direct-to-home. We strongly recommend that all families either drive directly to our drop-off point on opening day or only use our authorized airplane and charter bus options described in more detail below.

### *Airplane Procedures*

We are currently working together with other Maine overnight camps on charter flight options. These plans will be finalized soon and we will send out any updated information ASAP. We are also looking into JetBlue flights as they are the only airline who are adhering to the many safety measures for air travel. All travellers will have to clear a pre-boarding health screening and temperature check completed by one of our chaperones. All flights will require the usage of masks. We encourage parents to fly with their child if they have concerns and bring them directly to Maine.

For campers flying without parents, they will be chaperoned to Norway Savings Bank Arena in Auburn, Maine to receive another detailed health screening by health center staff. Once campers have been cleared, they will be driven to Wekeela to meet their friends and counselors. **NO CHILD WILL BE ALLOWED TO BOARD A PLANE OR ENTER CAMP WITH ANY SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS.**

A more detailed protocol will be shared as camp approaches.

### *Bus Procedures*

Wekeela offers chaperoned charter buses from Rye, New York and Boston. Everyone riding the bus will receive a health screening and temperature check prior to boarding. Proper social distancing measures will be taken at the busing area and on the bus for the duration of the ride. All individuals riding the bus will be required to wear a mask for the entire trip. A more detailed protocol will be shared as camp approaches.

After campers have been picked up by authorized staff members, they will be chaperoned to Norway Savings Bank Arena in Auburn, Maine to receive another detailed health screening by health center staff. Once campers have been cleared, they will be driven to Wekeela to meet their friends and counselors.

A more detailed protocol will be shared as camp approaches.

### *Drop-Off Procedures*

If campers are going to be dropped off via car, they will meet at Norway Savings Bank Arena in Auburn, Maine. Campers and family members will be required to wear proper PPE/face coverings. Campers will receive a detailed health screening by our health center staff, and will be driven to Wekeela after they have been cleared to meet their friends and counselors.

We ask that you limit your time in public places on your drive up to camp and practice self-quarantining if you plan on driving up to Maine prior to our opening day.

## **DEPARTING FROM CAMP**

Closing day is August 13th. All campers departing that day will be chaperoned by staff either on buses or to the airports in proper PPE and using social distancing guidelines once outside of camp property or vehicles. Campers departing via parent pick-up will meet at Norway Savings Bank Arena in Auburn, Maine.

If your camper is leaving before closing day on either July 23rd, July 30th, or August 6th, **the only way that the camper will be able to depart from camp is via parent pick-up.** Campers will be driven to Norway Savings Bank Arena by an authorized staff member in PPE and will meet you there. This is to ensure that no staff members who are taking children for pick ups have any chance of exposure outside of our camp “bubble.”

## COHORTS & SCHEDULE

### *Cohorts/Households*

Cohorting is a grouping strategy used to help reduce the risk of disease transmission by creating smaller groups out of a single larger group. The American Camp Association and the State of Maine approve of the use of cohorts of an appropriate size in order for overnight camps to operate. In July, Maine guidelines will allow cohorts of 50 people.

- Wekeela will use the terms cohorts and “households,” and will be organized by bunk/division (ex: Middie girls campers and counselors are a “household”, the entire Middie division is a cohort).
- Households and cohorts will be able to interact without social distancing requirements or usage of face masks. **Wekeela will have cloth face masks available for all campers and staff.**
- Outdoor activities where households and cohorts are able to properly space themselves from other groups will not require masks.
- In places where households and cohorts will share spaces (in some indoor activity periods), proper social distancing measures will be taken and face masks may be used.
- Maine’s cohort policy is designed to relax as time passes.
- Wekeela will start camp and activities in “households” and will ease these guidelines as requirements are met.

Campers and staff in their respective households and cohorts will still be able to interact with others in a different household or cohort the entire summer. This will be done with proper social distancing and a lot of outdoor activities. Proper social distancing measures only need to be taken until the requirements have been met to ease these guidelines from the state.

### *Daily Schedule and Programming*

This year's schedule will be slightly modified to lessen community transmission and interaction. Even though we will be making some modifications, we will still have the activities and traditions you all know and love!

Adjustments to the overall daily schedule will include:

- Reveille at 8:30 am instead of 7:30 am.
- An extended cabin clean-up period.
- 5 scheduled activity periods instead of 6, with each period lasting 15 minutes longer.
- The aforementioned scheduling change will give Staff additional time to sanitize all equipment before and after use.

We believe that it is best practice to begin the summer by having all households (bunks) travel to scheduled activity periods together. Cohorts (divisions) may be at the same department, but will participate in separate activities. If for any reason a camper or staff from different cohorts interact, proper social distancing measures or mask usage will be implemented. During the quarantine period, evening activities will be household-focused, but will still have the chance to interact with the entire camp using social distancing.

If after the two week quarantine period it is determined that camp has met the guidelines for relaxing cohort protocols, we will move back to more regular programming with specialized instruction and interaction!

## HOUSEKEEPING

### *Cabins*

- All bunk beds must be positioned six feet apart. If this is not possible, physical cloth barriers (sheets) will need to be hung in between the beds. Children will be sleeping in head to toe configurations throughout the cabins.
- Campers and staff will not be permitted to share items like towels, toothpaste, or personal care items and will each have a designated space for their things to be stored in. It is extremely important to label all of your camper's belongings.
- If the weather permits, windows will always be opened to increase ventilation of fresh air through the cabins.
- All cabin members will frequently wash their hands with provided hand sanitizer or soap when they enter the cabin.
- Cabin clean-up time will be extended in the daily activity schedule.

### *Sanitation Procedures Across Camp*

We will be taking extra precautions to make sure that all of our facilities across camp are cleaned and sanitized to prevent the spread of infection through shared items and living spaces. We will have a surplus of cleaning supplies, including electrostatic sprayers that can efficiently sanitize large surface areas in a matter of minutes.

- Hand sanitizer dispensers will be available at every bunk and hand soap will be readily available at all times.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers will be available at all activity departments.
- All shared items in activity departments like sporting equipment and lifejackets will be properly sanitized before and after each use.
- Bathrooms will be cleaned frequently throughout the day.

Additionally, our housekeeping staff will ensure that all shared spaces such as the dining hall and public restrooms are frequently sanitized throughout the day.

## **NEW OPERATIONS POLICIES**

### *Off-Camp Trips*

No off-camp trips will be allowed this summer. Campers will still have the opportunity to go on hikes, go camping, and have special activities around camp. We have many beautiful trails, campsites with tents and campfire pits on our 200+ acres property that are waiting to be explored! An exception for off-camp travel will be made for medical emergencies.

### *Visitors*

No visitors will be allowed at Camp Wekeela this summer. Commuting staff (maintenance and health center only) will wear proper PPE and practice social distancing guidelines for the entire duration of the season. No tours for prospective families will occur, and Visitor's Day has been cancelled for the 2020 season.

### *Packages & Deliveries*

Camp Wekeela has a no-package policy, meaning that campers should not receive packages unless approved and confirmed with Lori and Ephram. When packages arrive at Wekeela, they will be held for 72 hours before being handled and delivered.

Wekeela receives deliveries from food vendors, laundry services, and other essential companies that allow camp to operate. All delivery people will wear proper PPE and will not directly interact with campers or staff members. They will be making deliveries in a separate area of camp away from the campers and staff.

### *Mail*

Campers will still be able to send and receive Wekeela Notes and letters. Incoming snail mail will be held for 72 hours before being delivered. All mail will be delivered to bunks instead of received in the mail room, as the building is small and can get quite crowded.

### *Dining Hall*

Meals will be served in the dining hall with modified procedures. No buffet lines will be used, and all food will be brought to tables family-style on trays. All plates, silverware, and cups will be disposable.

Dining hall staff will be required to wear proper PPE such as masks and gloves when preparing and serving food. All food trays and service pieces will be disposable.

Campers and staff will be seated with their households and cohorts with proper distancing measures between tables. There will be less people seated at each table, and we will utilize outdoor seating as much as possible.

We will continue to accommodate campers and staff with food allergies and special dietary needs.

**We will not have water bottles at camp this summer** - we will be using disposable cups for all beverages.

### *Laundry Services*

We will be using the same laundry service for our campers and staff that we have always used in previous years. We work with a company that has been following strict protocol wearing proper PPE to wash and dry clothes and has been authorized by the state of Maine as essential and able to work with us safely.

## STAFF

All staff will receive detailed training during Staff Week on all of the proper protocols, hygiene, and action plans. This is to ensure that they are able to practice and enforce our specific guidelines.

### *Before Camp & Upon Arrival*

All Wekeela staff will be subject to the same requirements as campers listed above for health and screening protocols before and upon arrival at camp. All staff are required to be quarantined on camp and will not leave from the start of staff training until the campers depart.

### *Time Off*

All staff will still have their allotted days off, but will be staying on camp in areas away from campers and programming. We have ample land on our property, and will ensure that staff have a safe place to relax and feel refreshed in order to give our campers the best experience possible!

## FORMS

All camper and staff forms must be completed and **submitted by June 15th.**

### *Medication*

if your child takes any medications, they MUST be registered and sent through PackMyRx by June 7th.

Medication for campers will be delivered safely and with minimal, glove-protected contact by nursing staff to avoid grouping in the health center.

## BILLING

If your child will not be attending Wekeela this summer, all tuition that has been paid will be rolled over to 2021.

Payments will resume June 1st, and are due in full by June 15th. If you are paying via check, please mail them to 1750 Bear Pond Rd, Hartford, ME 04220.

## REFERENCES

1. [American Camp Association Field Guide](#)
2. [Maine Guidelines for Camps](#)
3. [CDC Guidance](#)



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