



Shrine Mont Camp 2022 COVID Plan and Policies

Updated 5/23/22

As we enter our second year of “Covid-conscious” summer camp, we are grateful for the things we learned in 2021. We’re hopeful for a summer that looks a little more like what we’re used to, thanks to scientific and public health advancements over the last two years. We know, however, that new variants of COVID-19 continue to circulate and pose threats to individuals and communities, especially to those who may be medically vulnerable at camp or at home. While there is no way to completely eliminate the risk of COVID-19 infection or transmission, we will use the following measures to mitigate risk of exposure and transmission.

We are reasonably confident that this risk mitigation and communication strategy will be in place through the entire camp season. *However, policies are subject to change based on CDC and state recommendations, infection and vaccination rates in the region, advice of our supervising physician, and other public health factors.*

Please read this information and review with your camper in preparation for your camp session.

Before Camp:

Vaccination

Vaccination against COVID-19 is one of the most important and powerful tools we have to minimize the risk of severe COVID infections, and of spread between camp and the communities where campers and staff live. **We strongly encourage vaccination for all eligible campers. This includes boosters! Booster doses are now recommended for all people age 5 and older.** We require families to submit proof of vaccination along with their other medical documentation before the start of the session.

Each fully vaccinated person at camp makes the camp experience safer for everyone. All paid staff this summer will be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. We will continue to implement additional protective measures in order to create the safest camp environment for all members of the camp community. **As an act of love for our neighbors, campers and staff will abide by all of the following protocols regardless of vaccination status.** Camp groups and activities will not be adjusted based on vaccination status.



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Risk Mitigation at Home

In the week prior to camp, we strongly encourage your camper and household to take as many preventative measures as you can, including:

- Avoiding or minimizing contact with people outside of your household
- Wearing masks when indoors, places other than your home, and outdoors when physical distance is not possible (in large crowds for example)
- Staying physically distanced from other people
- Washing hands with soap and water frequently
- Limiting non-essential travel and exposure to large crowds

We know that total isolation before camp is not possible for many campers and families, but encourage you to be especially conscious of potential COVID exposure in any way that you can before camp. Making some changes is better than making none!

Arrival Testing

The Virginia Department of Health has provided us with rapid antigen tests. All staff will test frequently throughout the summer. **As part of camp openings this year, all campers will be required to take a rapid test at check-in.** Families will proceed through our drive-through testing zone and remain in their cars until camp staff bring notice of a negative test.

Campers testing positive for Covid-19 at opening will not be able to attend that session of camp. In such cases, we can either switch the camper's registration to a session later in the summer or offer a full refund. **We recommend all campers take a rapid test before traveling to Shrine Mont to avoid a surprise at opening!**

During the Camp Session

Cohorting and Communication

This year, we will not be breaking down into strict cohorts as we did in 2021, but instead acknowledge that there is risk of exposure to all at camp if anyone contracts Covid-19.

Due to our relatively small sized program, we have decided to accept these risks of transmission between participants in a camp session. We will already have natural separation between groups living at different campsites. Breaking camp down into smaller groups than that would limit campers' experience of community at camp and put a disproportionate strain on camp staff. In addition, only campers in the same cabin would spend any time indoors together unmasked.



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If there is a known COVID-19 case at a camp session, we will notify parents/guardians of campers in the same cabin as the person testing positive!

If you would like to be notified of any/all confirmed cases at camp, please email Paris. If notified of an exposure, we will not provide identification of the person testing positive for COVID-19.

Communicable Disease Plan/Quarantine

For the purposes of isolation and quarantine, the CDC outlines four groups:

- **Unvaccinated:** persons who have not completed the primary series for any COVID-19 vaccine.
- **Vaccinated:** persons who have completed the primary series of injections for a COVID-19 vaccine, and are approved for, but have not received all the boosters available to them.
- **Vaccinated and up-to-date:** persons who have received all doses in the primary series and all boosters recommended for them, when eligible.
- **Prior infection immunity:** The CDC has set the timeline for a prior infection that confers immunity to COVID-19 at 90 days.

In the event of a diagnosed or suspected communicable disease, campers will be isolated in a private bedroom in an infirmary or in another space as needed. They will be cared for by the nurse and a member of the counselor or Admin staff until parents arrive. The camper's parent or guardian will be contacted in the event of any symptoms requiring an extended stay in an infirmary, or in the event that a camper has been exposed to a confirmed communicable disease such as COVID-19.

Campers with the following symptoms will be isolated and we will administer a rapid antigen test.

- Fever of 100.3 or greater
- Vomiting
- Chills
- Muscle aches
- New loss of taste or smell

If a camper tests positive for a communicable disease such as COVID-19 their family will be contacted immediately and asked to pick up their camper. Additionally, the families of all campers in the same cabin as the camper testing positive will be notified.

Vaccinated and up-to-date campers or those with prior infection immunity who are in a cabin with a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be required to mask in additional settings and test daily for 5 days.



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Unvaccinated and Vaccinated but *not up-to-date* campers who are in a cabin with a confirmed case of COVID-19 will not be able to remain at camp. They will be cared for by the nurse and a member of the counselor or Admin staff until parents arrive.

If a camper needs to be picked up due to a positive test or exposure status, families will need to do so within 6 hours of the notification.

Masks

We will relax many mask requirements compared to 2021. However, masks may still be required in the following situations:

- In any indoor space (e.g. in the buffet line in the dining hall or sheltering from weather)
- In all infirmaries

All campers should bring 3-5 masks with them to camp and carry a spare with them each day. Reusable or disposable masks are both acceptable. Campers who wish to wear masks at other times when they are not required may do so.

After Camp

Keep Us Posted

If your camper exhibits COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive within 14 days of returning home, please contact camp so we can take appropriate measures to contact trace and inform other camp families as necessary. The key to a safe summer is communication, and we thank you for helping to make Shrine Mont's community safe for everyone involved.

Resources:

[CDC Guidance for Youth Camps](#)

[American Camp Association Field Guide for Camps](#)

[Association of Camp Nurses](#)