



COVID-19 Guidelines

Summer 2021

as of April 12, 2021

INTRODUCTION

The information surrounding COVID-19 is constantly changing and evolving, and these COVID-19 guidelines are a living document that will evolve and change between now and summer 2021.

Every summer we take pride in creating magical memories for our Surprise Lake Camp community. We know this summer will look and feel different from prior summers, and we also believe that participating in a traditional, Jewish overnight camp experience is needed more than ever. Our success depends on each of us individually being committed to our community and camp's success.

These guidelines were developed using COVID-19 best practices published by the [CDC](#) and [American Camp Association \(ACA\)](#), as well as learnings from other camps, schools and youth programs that have operated in the past year. We have learned the importance of a multilayered mitigation strategy (Swiss Cheese Model – see page five), which enabled camps to prevent any secondary spread of the COVID-19 virus through testing, strict cohorting (or groups), and creating a stable environment (with minimal people coming into or out of camp). These guidelines are meant to provide Surprise Lake Camp families and staff with information about how we are adapting our policies and procedures to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 during camp. As information changes and evolves, so, too, will these guidelines to reflect current information.

We recognize that regardless of the level of preparation we cannot guarantee that COVID-19 will not be present at Surprise Lake Camp, but we are confident in our ability to run camp in a safe and meaningful way. In fact, we are operating as if the virus *will* enter camp. We intend to run because we believe we can care for campers and staff if they do contract COVID-19, and that we can isolate and stop the virus from spreading if it does enter camp.

These guidelines will address and share how we plan to operate safely this summer. They will include a wide range of topics, including creating and maintaining a safe environment at camp and an in-depth look at how we plan to operate this summer. **We ask that all parents/guardians review these guidelines with their campers. We strongly recommend reading our COVID-19 Guidelines in their entirety**, and for your convenience you can jump to a specific section by using the following Table of Contents.

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CORE ASSUMPTIONS

As we plan for the summer of 2021, we want to share our philosophy and approach for opening safely. We have two primary goals which we are working towards simultaneously:

1. Ensuring the health, safety, and security of our campers, staff and community
2. Providing a genuine Surprise Lake Camp experience, including:
 - Creating and rekindling friendships
 - Being outdoors and disconnecting from technology
 - Building confidence, learning new skills, and becoming more independent
 - Exploring and strengthening Jewish identity and community

The core assumptions listed below are the foundations on which our COVID-19 guidelines were created. As the situation regarding the pandemic and related guidance continue to evolve, **we reserve the right to adjust these assumptions and the components of our guidelines accordingly.**

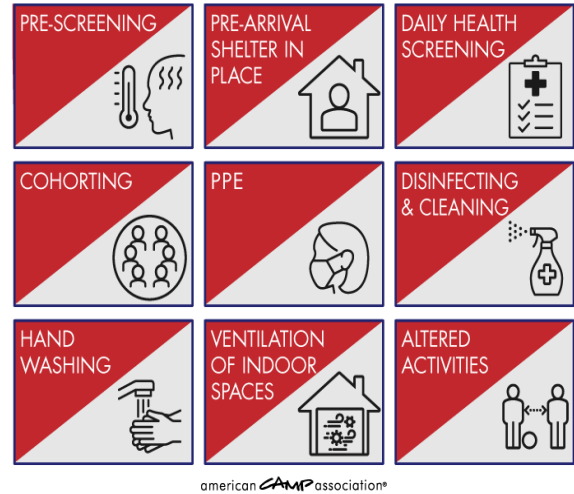
1. **We can operate safely.** We have learned from several sources (camps which operated in 2020, the CDC, and the ACA), giving us confidence in our ability to apply a comprehensive strategy of multilayered, nonpharmaceutical interventions in order to safely operate camp this summer. If at any time we (Staff, Medical Committee, or Board of Directors) feel we cannot deliver on this most basic promise of keeping everyone safe, we will not hesitate to act accordingly.
2. **It takes a village.** We rely on a deep partnership with our camp families each summer, but this summer that partnership will be more important than ever as we will be depending on our families to strictly follow all pre-camp requirements, including but not limited to specific pre-camp behaviors, COVID-19 testing, daily symptom and temperature monitoring, and reporting of any and all physical and mental health concerns.
3. **COVID-19 vaccines will not be widely available to our campers.** Based on consultation with medical experts, we do not expect a vaccine to be widely available (if at all) for children under the age of 16 before camp begins this summer. We also do not anticipate the even distribution of vaccines across the geographic markets from which our campers and staff hail. We are urging all of our summer staff to get vaccinated in advance of the summer.
4. **COVID-19 will remain a public health concern well into the summer.** National health authorities continue to estimate some return to pre-COVID normalcy in mid- to late-summer. We are operating under the assumption that COVID-19 will still be present in the communities we serve across the world AND that COVID-19 could potentially be present in our camp community.
5. **Testing will be adequately available to allow for early detection of the virus in our campers and staff.** We believe that testing (both rapid antigen and PCR), testing supplies, and PPE will be readily accessible. We have already seen rapid tests that are available to us, without equipment, for the

summer and we expect over the next several months for the available supply of accurate rapid tests to increase.

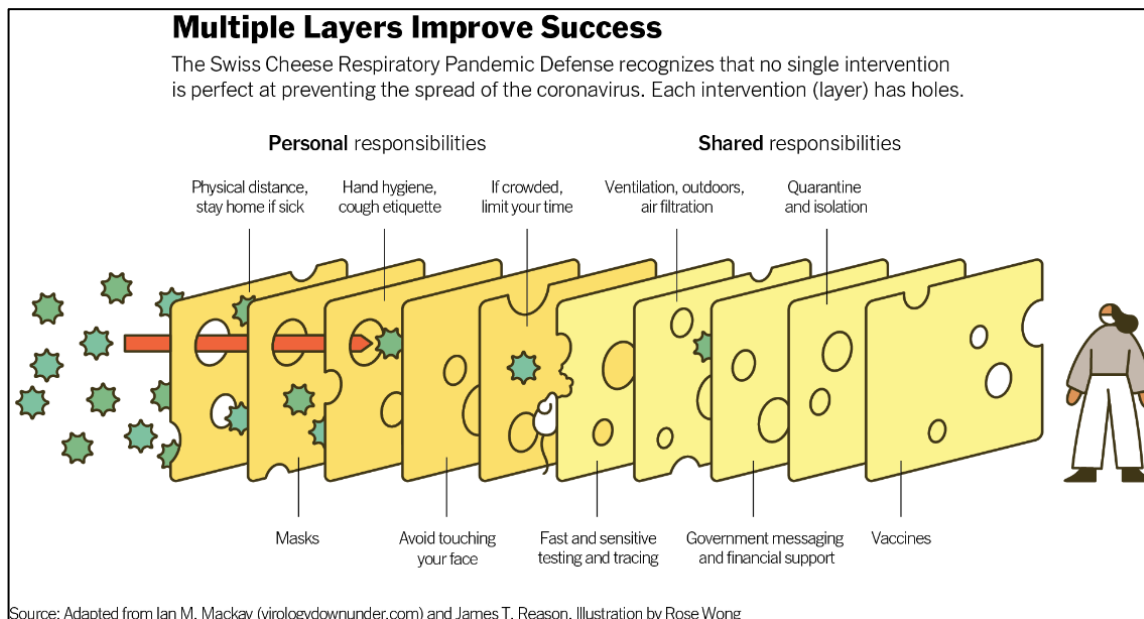
6. We will be allowed to operate. Surprise Lake Camp is accredited by the American Camp Association and we also receive an annual operating permit from the Putnam County Department of Health. We have close working relationships with these regulators, and we anticipate receiving the “green light” to operate this summer.

CULTURE OF COMPLIANCE

We are prepared to mitigate the risk of COVID-19, and we are prepared to respond should it impact our community. Using the American Camp Association (ACA) published chart of Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs), we will mitigate the risk of COVID-19 both entering camp and spreading through camp. Throughout these guidelines, we will reference these NPIs and share with you how they impact our plans and protocols for Summer 2021. We expect our staff and campers to comply with Surprise Lake Camp’s policies. Non-compliance could result in removal from camp.



SWISS CHEESE METHOD



There is no single action that can guarantee that a person will not become infected with COVID-19. Combining multiple preventative measures creates more layers and lessens the chance of exposure to the virus. Adapted from the New York Times article "[The Swiss Cheese Model of Pandemic Defense](#)," SLC is taking a multi-layer approach to combatting COVID-19 this summer.

In every slice of swiss cheese, there are holes. Since there is no singular way to stop the spread of COVID-19, each prevention measure has its own strengths and weaknesses (or, its own set of strengths and swiss cheese holes).

By layering multiple prevention measures on top of each other --- hand sanitizing AND wearing a mask AND social distancing AND limiting time indoors AND quarantining AND getting tested before arriving at camp – there will be fewer pathways (or a thicker block of swiss cheese) for the virus to enter and spread throughout camp. We are designing our activities and all aspects of camp to adhere to these prevention measures.

PRE-CAMP EXPECTATIONS

LOW RISK BEHAVIORS

All campers and staff agree to observe the following behaviors beginning 10 days prior to their arrival at camp. During this time period, campers, staff, and members of their household will:

- Limit physical contact with anyone outside of their household
- Avoid attending group celebrations, other camps, family events, parties, etc.
- Wear a mask when interacting with individuals outside of your household
- Stay 6 feet away from other people
- Utilize curbside store/restaurant services
- Wash hands with soap and water frequently
- Limit non-essential travel

Attending school, where masking and distancing is diligently employed, has not been shown to increase risk of COVID-19 and is considered a low-risk behavior during this time.

COVID-19 TESTS

All campers and staff must obtain a PCR COVID-19 test and share the results with us prior to their arrival. Tests must be completed no earlier than 5 days and no later than 3 days prior to arrival to camp. We will provide additional details about getting results to us as we get closer to camp. Additionally, campers and staff will receive a rapid antigen test on arrival day. **Only campers and staff with negative test results from both tests will be permitted to enter camp.**

If a camper or staff have had a positive COVID-19 test within 90 days of their arrival at camp, they should be in touch with one of our directors.

TEMPERATURE AND SYMPTOM MONITORING

During the 10 day period before arriving at camp, all campers and staff should self-monitor for symptoms related to COVID-19 and check their temperature daily. There will be a Temperature, Symptom Monitoring and Contact Tracing form as well as other COVID related forms to submit prior to camp that will be reviewed by our camp medical professionals to certify compliance with this policy. **All campers and staff will be required to be completely symptom-free – without the use of any medication - for at least 72 hours prior to their arrival.**

VACCINES

Our medical staff will be vaccinated prior to the opening of camp. We are urging all of our staff to become vaccinated as soon as they can. Many of our staff have reported that they have already begun the process. The vaccine will be regarded as an additional level of protection and we expect those who are vaccinated to comply with all of camp's COVID-19 policies.

TRANSPORTATION

For summer 2021, Surprise Lake Camp will not provide any transportation TO camp. Providing group transportation to camp prior to intake screening/testing and the establishment of our groups, while also maintaining appropriate physical distancing, is not feasible.

All families will need to arrange for their camper's arrival to camp. If you have questions about your travel arrangements or need any assistance in making your plans, please contact us.

Campers should not travel to camp with individuals who are not members of their household. To maintain a safe, enclosed environment at camp, we will only be allowing campers staying at camp to leave their car. We ask that all others stay in their cars at all times, including to say goodbye to the camper(s). Our staff will be available to help unload any bags or equipment that is accompanying your camper and we will make sure all luggage gets to your camper's cabin.

The specific details and logistics around drop-off will be shared with our families closer to the start of camp. You can expect a careful and responsible check-in/out process that supports the warm and welcoming environment inside of camp that we are creating.

Upon arrival at camp, we will be performing a health screening for everyone in the car. Please do not bring family members or friends outside of your household. This includes temperature checks and a questionnaire about COVID-19 symptoms experienced in the past 72 hours and any known exposures to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days. The arriving staff or camper will also take a rapid antigen COVID test. These results are usually available in about 15 minutes. As soon as the negative test results are available, the camper will say a quick goodbye and be escorted by a counselor to their group. Any camper or staff member who has experienced any COVID-related

symptom(s) will be directed to our medical staff to determine whether their arrival at camp needs to be delayed.

NONPHARMACEUTICAL INTERVENTIONS AT CAMP

CLEANING AND SANITIZATION PROCEDURES AND ENHANCED HYGIENE

Door knobs, handles and other commonly touched areas will be disinfected regularly. Public bathrooms and shared spaces (e.g. dining hall) will be cleaned and sanitized multiple times per day, per CDC recommendations and guidelines. Every space and program area that we are using around camp will also have its own spray bottle of disinfectant and towels. Surprise Lake Camp uses disinfectants that are on the CDC and EPA lists of approved products to be effective against COVID-19.

All members of the SLC community will receive instruction on hygiene measures such as cough and sneeze etiquette and hand hygiene, with the requirement to clean hands with soap and water or approved hand sanitizer containing a minimum of 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol before and after all activity periods, meals, and other high-touch interactions. The number of hand sanitizing stations throughout camp will be increased to accommodate enhanced protocols.

All cabin groups/pods will carry a sanitation bag for use throughout the day. These bags will contain supplies for the disinfecting of equipment before/after use, and to clean as the group desires. These bags will be checked and refilled daily. Staff will have additional training on enhanced hygiene and sanitization procedures.

ENTERING & LEAVING CAMP

Best practices for safely operating during this pandemic means limiting who comes in and out of camp to the best of our ability. This summer, Surprise Lake Camp will operate as a closed campus, meaning once our campers and staff arrive, they will not be allowed to leave, with the following exceptions:

- A limited number of our staff who live offsite and do not live with campers or staff;
- Vendors delivering essential items to camp;
- Healthcare professionals.

All of these people will have a health screening and temperature check prior to entering camp and they will be required to wear a face mask for the duration of their time on site.

Visitors will not be permitted, nor will we be running any camp tours for any prospective families.

We are also mindful that campers and/or staff members may need to leave camp; e.g. to seek out additional medical care. We will carefully welcome those members back into the community, as long as a proper face covering was worn, physical distance was kept, and exposure risk was at a minimum.

DAILY HEALTH SCREENINGS

Our staff will be trained on how to conduct daily COVID-19 screenings, and each camper will undergo a daily screening. Anyone reporting a symptom of COVID-19 will be seen at the Health Center for further evaluation.

TESTING STRATEGY

Being able to determine whether the virus is present at camp is a critical component to keeping our environment stable and free of COVID-19.

On the fifth day of camp every member of the SLC community will take a PCR COVID-19 test.

Should anyone in our community present with symptoms of COVID-19, we will perform rapid antigen tests. At camp, it is common for campers and staff to present with headaches, sore throats, and other complaints and automatically testing everyone when a symptom is present is not a sustainable plan. We will work alongside our medical team and use best practices to determine when to administer these tests. Anyone for whom it is determined that a COVID-19 test should be administered will be quarantined until the results are known. Their cabin/pod will continue camp programming; however, it will be isolated away from other cabins/pods.

Camp reserves the right to request that any member of our community who presents with a symptom of COVID-19 be tested to rule out presence of the virus. Best practices indicate that if there are two or more symptoms present, where one symptom is a fever, a COVID-19 test is to be administered.

COMMUNITY STRUCTURE

Based on best-practices from local, state, and federal health officials, the experience of camps that operated safely in 2020, and the camping industry, we have developed a community structure designed to mitigate the risk of and manage the potential spread of COVID-19.

GROUPS

Fortunately for SLC, our daily schedule and program has always been oriented around the activities of a group of campers (usually 10-12 campers with two staff (on Mainside) and one staff (on Teenside). A group is like the immediate family; members do not need to wear a mask when around one another.

Non-cabin staff will also be in their own groups based on their position and with whom they live. Essential staff who support the overall operation of camp, (Leadership Team, Camper Care Staff, etc.) will only interact with groups outside or in well-ventilated interior settings throughout camp. All essential staff will ensure physical distancing with members of each group and will wear a face mask at all times when outside of their living quarters. Campers and staff may not enter the living quarters of any other group, with the exception of maintenance and housekeeping staff who will only enter while cabins are vacant.

Assuming that the results of our fifth day PCR tests are negative, our current plan is to relax our restrictions from a group basis to a unit basis of camper interactions.

OUTSIDE, MASKED & DISTANCED (2 OF 3)

The most important philosophy that we have adopted to mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19 at camp is to be **Two-Out-of-Three: Outside, Masked and/or Distanced**. For any cross-group interactions, campers and staff will observe at least two of the three following rules: wear a mask, be outdoors, and/or be physically distanced (at least 6 feet apart). Our staff will be trained to implement these guidelines with their campers.

Being outdoors is the most important of the 2 out of 3 philosophy. We will do our best and are planning as much programming outdoors as possible.

MASK WEARING POLICY

The general rule at camp is “if you mix, you mask:” anytime a camper might mix with anyone outside their group, they must be masked. All campers and staff will be required to wear masks inside all buildings except for when they are actively eating or when they are inside their cabin. Additionally, masks will not be required when campers are swimming or if they are the only group at an activity area that is being facilitated by their staff. Masks must meet [CDC recommendations](#), covering both the nose and mouth. **Gaiter masks and face shields are not acceptable replacements.**

Sending extra masks and a mask-lanyard holder for the camper to wear around their neck when/if they remove their mask is strongly recommended. All masks must be legibly labeled with first and last name. We will wash masks regularly by group.

WASHROOMS / RESTROOMS

Since multiple groups share a washhouse, we will be scheduling routine activities including shower time, getting ready in the morning and getting ready for bed in the evening (times when campers will be unmasked), with time to disinfect the washhouse between uses. Campers using the washhouse for toileting will always wear their masks.

Campers and staff can use any public restroom (e.g. dining hall) to go to the bathroom while wearing a mask, however they will be encouraged to use the bathrooms in their unit before or after meals and activities instead. They will sanitize on their way in and then wash their hands after using the bathroom.

CAMP PROGRAM

We are hard at work developing a full complement of engaging camp activities for this summer. We know how important and meaningful your camper’s experience will be this summer after over a year of constant change in routines, physical distancing, and interaction limited to sitting in front of screens.

To accomplish this, we will need to make some adjustments to how we deliver some of our programs, as detailed in these guidelines. In addition, we will remain flexible in our programming this summer and will be prepared to quickly pivot based on the needs and interests of our camp community. We are examining how each activity may need to be modified to ensure the health and safety of our camp community. Each activity area will have adjusted plans that follow all ACA, CDC, and our medical committee recommendations.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Campers will continue to have a mix of group and choice activities.

MEALS

First, we are thrilled to announce a new partnership we are entering into for this summer with Kandle Dining Services to handle SLC's food services. Kandle is a company that partners exclusively with summer camps and has an excellent reputation of cooking and serving great food. Kandle has experience developing great Kosher menus and also has experience (from last summer) operating in a COVID environment.

For this summer, because of COVID, we will be preparing all of our food in the Mainside kitchen. We will be adding a large dining tent directly outside of our Mainside Dining Room to expand our safe dining capacity as well. We are also adjusting our daily schedule to create more time for campers and staff to enter into and leave each meal.

Teenside campers will be eating most but not all of their meals on Mainside. Additional information about meals will be shared as we get closer to the summer.

SHABBAT

Shabbat links us as a Jewish community. Gathering on Friday night, in our white shirts, as we welcome in Shabbat is a highlight for us each week. This summer won't be any different. We're exploring a number of options that will enable us to accomplish this in a way that allows us to deliver on our Shabbat traditions, in a safe and responsible way. This could include multiple Shabbat services, allowing everyone at camp to enjoy our sacred spaces, or a single service in a larger location (e.g. the Eddie Cantor Theater). We will share more information about what our Shabbat experience will look like closer to the start of our summer.

ALL-CAMP PROGRAMMING

All-camp programs create some of the most unforgettable memories. We are still planning to offer our signature all-camp programs this summer. While some of them may be adapted, they'll be just as memorable. Between now and the start of camp, our programming team will be hard at work to maintain the unique spirit of these experiences while at the same time balancing the required best practices in health and safety.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

We intend to spend as much time outside as possible this summer. In light rain, regular activities will continue in their normal locations. If weather becomes unsafe or severe, programming will shift to cabin-based indoor activities. In the event of an emergency weather situation, safety procedures will override Covid-19 protocols when necessary.

ADDITIONAL SECTIONS

Over the next few weeks, we plan to release additional sections and / or possible updates to our COVID-19 Guidelines, including:

- Health Center Operations
- Additional Dining Room / Meal Procedures
- Communication with Parents
- Mail & Packages

CONCLUSION

Thank you for sharing the new policies and procedures with your campers and making sure they understand them. We will be regularly updating our policies to reflect any changes made to best practice recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Lastly, we wanted to say thank you in advance for partnering with us to deliver the best possible experience for our campers and staff. The past year has presented our community with challenges that we have been able to overcome by sticking together (at a distance) and protecting each other.

We cannot wait to see your camper up at camp this summer. Until then, stay safe and healthy!