

## **Green River Preserve COVID Policies and Procedures for Summer Camp & Expeditions 2022**

Thank you for choosing GRP. After navigating the pandemic for two years, we have all learned a thing or two about operating programs safely for children. Like in-person school, we know the importance of gathering together as a community and enhancing not only our ecological knowledge but our sense of belonging at GRP. Together, our goal is to work with you to create a memorable experience for your child and our community. Thank you for taking the time to review our procedures. Please reach out if you have questions.

### **Our Approach**

#### **A Closed Community - The Imperfect Bubble**

Think of your camp session or expedition as a bubble. You want to come to camp, participate in the program, and return without testing positive or contracting COVID. That being said, everyone plays a part that is important and impacts the entire community. We intend to supply campers and families with guidelines to help drive decisions and keep us all safe together on The Preserve.

No one thing we do will protect our participants completely, but each adds a layer of security. (Please see our 2021 COVID Playbook for more detailed information about our swiss cheese approach.) We also understand that none of these layers can be done perfectly, which is why having multiple layers is important. A relatively closed community will be an especially important layer, and it is something that will make camp better, too. With the exception of our campers each session and staff, the only people allowed on property will be food delivery drivers and other essential service workers, and these will be monitored by our administrative staff and not have direct contact with our participants.

**Guiding Principles:** Green River Preserve has adopted the following guiding principles in our approach to maintaining a safe, healthy, and successful camp community during the COVID-19 pandemic. They include:

- Outdoor Programming
- Vaccination (required for staff, highly encouraged for all participants)
- Ventilation (measures in all buildings)
- Testing
- Sanitizing
- Rethinking and empowering
- Communication

## Summer Camp & Expeditions

### **Prevention Prior to Arrival**

In order to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 being brought into camp, we will ask all participants to take additional safety measures in the two weeks prior to their arrival. We reserve the right to update these procedures at any time based on the latest data and guidance from public health officials.

#### 1. Vaccination

COVID-19 vaccines are the most effective tool [against COVID-19](#) for ourselves and [our community](#). COVID-19 vaccines are effective in keeping you from getting seriously ill even if you do contract the virus. GRP staff are required to be vaccinated. At this time, we do not require vaccination for our campers and expeditioners; but, we strongly encourage it.

#### 2. COVID 19 Testing

**All campers (regardless of vaccination status) must take a molecular PCR test within 3-5 days of arrival.** We are requiring this test because as we have learned from surges like Omicron, fully vaccinated individuals still can test positive. We do not know where our country will be in June when we open camp and if there might be another strain of COVID or not. In order to protect our community to the best of our ability, this policy provides a common level of testing for all that will allow for a more relaxed and normal environment within our camp community.

Additionally, upon arrival we will rapid test all campers (similar to arrival in 2021). GRP will provide these tests.

#### 3. Low Risk COVID Cautious Behaviors

In order to ensure no one is arriving at camp carrying the virus, we are asking for your partnership in engaging in low-risk COVID-cautious behaviors.

Using the [Risk Assessment Chart](#) developed by Hartford HealthCare, we ask overnight school participants to restrict all activities the 10 days prior to camp to Moderate Risk and below.

*If a participant exhibits COVID-19 symptoms in the 10 days prior to camp or tests positive for COVID-19, they will not be permitted to join us at camp. We understand how much campers look forward to camp and we want to share the GRP experience with them; but, it is critical that anyone who exhibits symptoms or tests positive stays home for the safety of the entire GRP*

*community. We will work with campers and families to accommodate your child in a session later in the summer or in 2023.*

#### Checklist and Expectations for Opening Day:

- Negative results of PCR test
- Rapid test upon arrival
- No signs or symptoms of COVID

### Prevention During Camp

#### 1. Opening Day

GRP experienced immense success in our opening day procedures in 2021. Because of this success, we intend to mimic our procedures. Campers and families can expect the following:

- Show negative PCR results when you arrive at our entrance. (This must be within 5 days of coming to camp).
- Campers and families will park in our back parking lot and then be directed to take a rapid test. (You will receive your cabin assignment at this time.)
- Families will then drop-off any medications and check in with our medical staff.
- Once your rapid test results are complete (10 min), our staff will help you load your camper's belongings into a cart and move towards their cabin.
- Once at the cabin, campers and staff will be allowed inside, but we kindly request parents remain outside. This precaution is in place to maintain our bubble and keep our camp community as safe as possible.

#### 2. Masking

Because our program is designed to maximize time outdoors, we anticipate that participants will not be required to wear masks at camp. No masking on buses or when entering lodge (a change from 2021). As always, if campers or staff feel more comfortable wearing masks, they are welcome to do so.

#### 3. Cleaning, Handwashing, and Sanitization Procedures

We will have hand sanitizer stations near the entrance of each building, on buses, and at activity areas. We will ask students and staff to use these upon entering and exiting. Campers will wash hands with soap and water under staff guidance before every meal.

#### 4. Coronavirus Outdoors

A large amount of the GRP program is spent outdoors. Being outdoors is the best way to limit the potential spread of coronavirus at camp. Additionally, all of our buildings have screened windows and fans for ventilation. So even our indoor spaces are set-up to maintain a predominantly outdoor program.

#### 5. Personal Hygiene

At the beginning of each session, staff members will train participants on behaviors and precautions they should abide by to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including:

- How and when to effectively wash and sanitize hands
- How to practice physical distancing in various settings (Lodge, activity spaces, cabins, etc)
- Face covering policy
- Which symptoms to look out for and when to report them and to whom.
- Coughing etiquette.

#### 6. Testing

With the exception of the required PCR test prior to arrival and the rapid test on opening day, we do not plan to test campers and staff unless they are symptomatic.

### Response

A camper or staff member identified as having a potential case of COVID-19 will remain in an isolation room designated in our Health Hut as part of camp's communicable disease plan. Campers and staff will only be tested if symptomatic.

#### If a participant tests positive for COVID-19:

- Positive camper(s) will be sent home. Parents/Guardians will be notified by GRP and the parent/guardian must pick up their child at camp within 24 hours.
- Unvaccinated campers in the cabin of a participant with a positive test will be sent home. This is hard, we know, but the [recommendation](#) for an unvaccinated individual is to quarantine and mask for 5 days. This is not tenable with our programming and facilities.
- Vaccinated campers in the cabin can continue on at camp.
- Unvaccinated campers who have tested positive with COVID within 90 days can stay (with verification from doctor).
- There will be no refunds for missed days for any amount of participants.

#### If a fully vaccinated GRP staff member tests positive for COVID-19:

- We will have them isolated on property for a minimum of 5 days ([pre recommended by the CDC](#)).

Thank you for reading our policies and procedures and sharing this information with your school participants. This information organizes COVID-19 best practices for summer camp published by the [CDC](#), [American Camp Association](#), and the of [State of North Carolina](#), as well as multiple discussions we have had with pediatricians, epidemiologists, infectious disease experts, and other camp directors into one place. It is intended to provide camp families and staff with information about how GRP is adapting policies and procedures this season to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 while at camp. Thank you for complying with these requirements.