

Frequently Asked Questions

Answers based on information we have as of 3/14/21

These answers last updated on 3/15/21

Our protocols are reflective of one (or both) of two tenets:

- The requirements of the state of MN
- “Best Practices” as defined by the American Camp Association in their [Field Guide for Summer Camps](#)
- These guidelines and mandates are subject to update at any time.

Will you require a pre-camp test?

- Yes. We are requiring proof of a negative PCR COVID-19 test prior to arrival at Camp. Ideally, this sample will be taken 72 hours prior to arrival. Depending on results processing in your area, sample can be taken up to 5 days before arrival, no more.

Where can I access this test?

- Many states and localities provide free tests. Minnesota residents can access the [Vault test](#) for no charge. They also provided for fee-based testing, too. Check with your local public health department or primary care provider. We will be providing more information as Camp draws closer.

What’s a Pod or Cohort? (We have been using the phrases interchangeably.)

- A pod or cohort is a group of campers and staff that function like a family unit. We envision combining 2 cabin groups to create a group of 10-12 campers, and 2-3 staff, that make up this group.
- Pod size will increase as able, with favorable test results.
- Pods can mix in activities as below.

When campers outside their cohort mix, 2 of the 3 will need to be met:

- Outside
- Distanced
- Masked

When will children and staff have to mask?

In accordance with the requirements of the state of Minnesota, masks that cover the nose and mouth are required when campers and staff, not in the same pod, are indoors or unable to distance.

Masks will not be required when:

- Campers and/or staff are located inside their own cabins with members of their pod.
- Campers and/or staff are outdoors more than 6 feet apart for members of other pods.
- Campers and/or staff are seated at their table eating.
- Campers and/or staff are showering or sleeping.
- Campers and/or staff are taking part in waterfront activities.

What is the in-Camp testing protocol?

- While the final plan is yet to be determined, we do plan on using testing at Camp as part of our protocol. These will be spit tests, or shallow nasal swabs.

Will you be able to take extended camping trip?

- We hope to! We are working to finalize protocols for out of Camp excursions that keep our campers and staff healthy.

Will there be a dance?

- We hope so! As our confidence in our bubble increases, with testing and adherence to protocols, we believe we will be able to expand our cohorts.

What will be different about activities?

- All traditional Camp activities can take place. There will be some changes to the way campers choose activities during the first few days of Camp as work to determine the health of our community. Choice, or agency, is a hallmark of the Camp Mishawaka program and we are determined to keep this as part of our programming.

COVID-19 doesn't often affect children severely, why do you have to take these measures?

- Yes, it is true that children are less likely to suffer severe symptoms from COVID-19, however, because our focus is on the health of the community (staff and campers) we take these measures to protect us all. We are also mandated to take many of these measures as a licensed residential camp in the state of MN.

My child has had COVID-19, does he or she still have to abide by these requirements?

- Yes. While it is wonderful that people who have had a case of COVID-19 have developed some immunity to reinfection, all campers and staff will abide by the uniform policies.

What are your plans if someone tests positive?

- If a camper or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 he/she will isolate with counselor supervision for 10 from initial symptoms or day of positive test.
- Asymptomatic campers (and symptomatic campers as they are able) are able continue activities, though not with their cohort.
- The state of MN recommends, as do we, that campers who test positive be picked up at Camp.
- If a camper is unable to be picked up at Camp, we can continue to host the camper until such time he or she can travel.
- We are not able to place a child who has tested positive, and is still considered infectious, on a plane.

Can I get my money back if I cancel?

- We have extended the deadline to cancel without event (originally March 1st) to April 1st. Cancellations after 4/1/21 result in forfeiture of ½ of the \$800 deposit. A cancellation within 30 days of the start of the session will result in forfeiture of the entire tuition balance.
- In the event of a positive pre-camp test that prevents a camper from attending, we can make a full refund. Any funds paid to date can be rolled forward to a future session at 2021 rates.

I have a question not listed here. How can I get an answer?

Please email us at info@campmishawaka.com with any other questions. As we have said, we are constantly getting updates and responding to new developments. If we are able to answer your question, we will!

If we have learned anything in the past year it is that we are constantly learning, remaining responsive and flexible.