

# Camp Seneca Lake

## 2021 COVID-19 Playbook

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Last Updated: 3.1.21

### Introduction



The information surrounding COVID-19 is ever changing and evolving. This COVID-19 Playbook organizes COVID-19 best practices published by the Centers for Disease Control, New York State Department of Health and the American Camping Association. Additionally, this Playbook includes learnings from our own experience with facilitating programs, such as CSL Getaway Weekends, early childhood education, and School Day/Summer Day at the J. This Playbook provides CSL families with information about how we are adapting our policies and procedures to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 during Camp.

In preparation for building this Playbook, we carefully reviewed the CDC's published report on overnight camps that operated in the summer of 2020. The CDC report stresses the importance of a multilayered mitigation strategy, which enables camps to prevent any secondary spread of the COVID-19 disease and SARS-COV-2 virus through the use of testing, cohorts (or pods), and the creation of a stable environment (or camp bubble).

We recognize that regardless of the level of preparation we cannot guarantee that COVID-19 will not be present at CSL; however, we are confident in our ability to facilitate the Camp program in a safe and meaningful way, which includes responding appropriately to prevent the spread of any disease. This response will include the appropriate isolation of any camper or staff member who does not feel well and / or shows symptoms of COVID-19.

CSL 2021 will look and feel a bit different than a typical summer, because it has to. We believe that the value of bringing campers and staff together at CSL to participate in a traditional, albeit slightly modified, Jewish overnight camp experience is needed more than ever during this challenging period of time, particularly since so many youth have spent the majority of the past year socially, emotionally, and physically isolated.

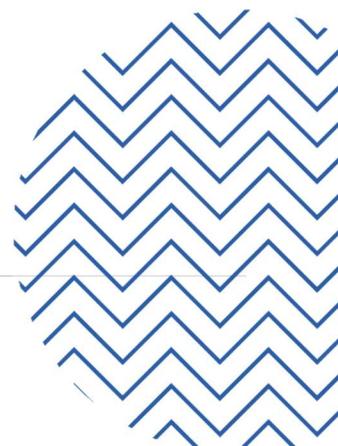
This Playbook addresses and shares the plan to operate successfully for the summer of 2021. It covers a wide range of topics that look in-depth at the life of campers and staff during their time with CSL.

Please note: this is an evolving document and will continue to change with the most updated version of COVID-19 guidelines and procedures leading up to summer. All information is subject to change. All updates will be indicated by this icon. 

### **COVID-19 Response Team**

CSL's COVID-19 Response team is comprised of Lori Field (CSL Director), Neil Pickus (JCC Assistant Director of Camping), Amie Volz (CSL Assistant Director), Christine O'Rourke (Chief Human Resources Officer), members of the CSL Advisory Council and the CSL COVID-19 Medical Committee. Questions regarding anything in this Playbook or COVID-19 at Camp should be directed to Lori Field at [lfield@jccrochester.org](mailto:lfield@jccrochester.org)

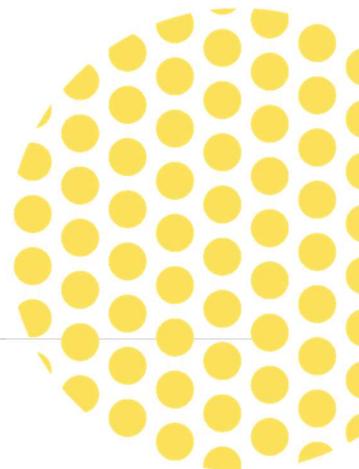
## **Core Assumptions**



CSL will resume operating and fostering an environment that encourages interpersonal connections, value sharing, growth, and fun. To keep our community safe and to mitigate against the spread of COVID-19, we are making adjustments to the program. These adjustments strike an appropriate balance between precaution, safety, and the enjoyment of being at Camp for both campers and staff. The core assumptions listed below are the foundation upon which the COVID-19 Playbook was created. As information regarding the pandemic and related guidance continue to evolve, we may adjust these assumptions and the components of the Playbook accordingly.

- 1. We can operate safely.** Through the experience of opening camp in 2020 for CSL Getaway retreats, we learned about operating during this pandemic. These experiences, along with what we have learned from other camps that operated in 2020, the CDC, and the ACA, gives us confidence in our ability to apply a comprehensive strategy of multilayered non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) in order to safely operate Camp in 2021. CSL is not only accredited by the ACA but will also receive an annual operating license as a "Summer Camp" by the Yates County Department of Health. We have built and maintained close working relationships with those regulators, and we fully anticipate receiving the "green light" to operate this summer.
- 2. COVID-19 Vaccines will not be widely available to 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 18. Nor do we anticipate the distribution of vaccines to be consistent across the geographic markets from which our campers and staff hail.
- 3. COVID-19 will remain a public health concern well into the summer.** Numbers of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths have continued to rise across the country throughout the winter season. In recent months some of these numbers seem to be trailing off and the national health authorities continue to estimate some return to pre-COVID-19 normalcy in mid-to-late summer.
- 4. Testing will be adequately available to allow for early detection of the virus in campers and staff.** A major difference between June 2020 and June 2021 will be the availability of PPE and testing supplies. We have already planned for COVID-19 tests that are available to us for the summer and we expect over the next several months that the available supply of accurate rapid tests will increase.
- 5. It takes a village.** We rely on a deep partnership with camp families each and every summer, but this summer that partnerships will be more important than ever, as we strive to build the safest possible community for the campers and staff. This partnership requires our families to follow any pre-camp requirements including, but not limited to, quarantine, COVID-19 testing, daily symptoms, temperature monitoring, and reporting any and all physical and mental health concerns to CSL.

## Pre-Camp Protocols



Campers and staff will be asked to follow a set of CDC & NYS recommended behaviors provided by CSL to families prior to arrival at Camp. In order to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 being brought into Camp, we ask all campers and staff to take additional safety measures prior to their arrival. These include periods of quarantine, COVID-19 testing, and personal travel to Camp.

### **Pre-Camp Screening**

Campers and staff will be asked to follow a set of CDC recommended behaviors prior to arrival at camp for 7-10 days including, good hand washing, to be cautious in your connections outside of your home, wearing a face covering while around others, and daily monitoring and reporting of camper health.

The exact timeline will be determined based on public health guidelines with specific details provided closer to the start of our camp season. As we get closer to the start of our camp season, we will update you on local testing options.

### **COVID-19 Test**

Please note our testing policy is based on the information we know today. Protocols are subject to change. A PCR COVID-19 test continues to be the most often recommended way to detect the presence of the virus, especially when symptoms are not present.

At this time, we are requiring every camper to arrive on Opening Day of the session for which they are enrolled, with one negative PCR test result from a test performed no more than 72 hours prior to arrival. Only campers and staff who provide negative test results from a PCR test will be permitted to enter Camp. Persons with "Pending" test results will not be permitted to enter camp.

Below are the calendar scenarios for your COVID-19 PCR test.

- Session 1 arrival (June 28) - PCR Test conducted June 25, 26, or 27.
- Session 2 arrival (July 13) - PCR Test conducted July 10, 11, or 12.
- Session 3 arrival (July 28) - PCR Test conducted July 25, 26, or 27.
- Session 4 arrival (August 12) - PCR Test conducted July 9, 10, or 11.
- Family Camp Weekend 1 (August 19) - PCR Test conducted August 16, 17, or 18.
- Family Camp Weekend 2 (September 2) - PCR Test conducted August 30, 31, or September 1.

We anticipate testing every child on opening day prior to them getting out of the car. Camp will continue to conduct testing within camp throughout the session, as needed, to ensure a safe and contained community.

### **Temperature and Symptom Monitoring**

During the pre-camp period, all campers and staff will self-monitor for symptoms related to COVID-19 and check their temperature twice daily. Upon arrival at Camp, all parents and staff members over 18 years of age must sign an acknowledgement that they completed the temperature checks and self-monitoring each day, and strictly adhered to the quarantine requirements during this period. All campers and staff are required to be completely symptom-free for at least 48 hours prior to their arrival at Camp and without the use of any medication.

## **Transportation To / From Camp**

In 2021, CSL will not provide any transportation for campers coming to, or departing camp. Instead, we ask that each family arrange for their camper's arrival to and departure from Camp. CSL has suspended providing group transportation to and from CSL.

In addition, we ask that no camper use any means of public transportation to get to Camp, once their quarantine period begins (no train, bus, or air travel, as examples). Our campers who reside in locations far outside of the Upstate New York area are encouraged to explore local arrangements for their required quarantine or make arrangements to drive to Camp while minimizing their exposure to anyone outside their household.

### **Arrival To and Departure from Camp**

The specific details and logistics around drop-off and pick-up, i.e., assigned times, meeting locations, etc., will be shared with families closer to the start of Camp. You can expect a careful and responsible check-in / out process that supports the stable environment inside of Camp we will create and maintain.

Upon arrival to Camp, we will perform a health screening for everyone in the car. This includes temperature checks and a questionnaire about COVID-19 symptoms experienced in the past 24 hours and any known exposures to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days. Any camper or staff member who has experienced any COVID-19 related symptoms will be directed to our medical staff to determine whether their arrival to Camp needs to be delayed.

Prior to the intake health screenings, we will ask you to sign an acknowledgement confirming that all pre-camp requirements of quarantine and self-screening for symptoms were completed (in addition to having already provided a negative COVID-19 test for your camper). We will allow only campers staying at Camp to leave the car. 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.

After you return home from bringing your camper to CSL, we ask for your continued partnership by keeping us informed if anyone at home develops any symptoms of or tests positive for COVID-19.

## **Recommended Interventions at Camp**



## Our Definition of a Bubble

We are borrowing a page out of the NBA playbook for the 2021 summer in the creation of a closed “camp bubble”. In the creation of our bubble, access to camp will be limited and approved on a case-by-case basis. The camp session will progress through various levels of practice and procedure following CDC protocols for negative testing, health screening, and congregate living.

- **Level One:** All programs will be experienced in pods. Cabin groups will follow daily schedule of activities. The schedule will include predetermined activities as well as those selected by each pod. Campers will experience all that camp has to offer throughout their time in level one including swimming, ropes course, sailing, and more.
- **Level Two:** Podding will allow for hobbies (individual electives in groups) within each village. Daily cabin activities may continue during this time.
- **Level Three:** All-camp activities may take place continuing to follow the rule of “mixing and masking”. This includes, but is not limited to, signature programs.

We know it is critical to keep the camp community updated on what we are learning and implementing as we continue to educate ourselves about COVID-19. We want you to understand and feel confident in the steps we are taking to minimize risk this summer.

Our plan is to continue to communicate pertinent and timely information to you as it becomes available in preparation for the safe opening of CSL this summer. With that said, things change quickly, so please understand that we will be transparent in our ongoing communication and partner with you in order to provide the entire camp community a safe season in 2021.

All essential vendors will be subject to 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 premises.

We are also mindful that for any number of reasons, campers and / or staff members may need to leave our stable environment, e.g., for receiving additional medical care. In such instances, we will carefully welcome that member back into the community, as long as a proper face covering was worn, physical distance was kept, and exposure risk was at a minimum. Rapid testing may be administered upon reentry to camp.

All circumstances surrounding what takes place while an individual is absent from Camp will be assessed and an objective determination will be made on a case-by-case basis by the Camp Director.

## Pods, Group Sizing and Interactions

A pod will consist of a consistent cohort of campers and staff that doesn't change day-to-day. The exact makeup of our pods will be determined closer to the start of the summer. We hope to explore the expansion of the pods only after a stable environment has been established through negative test results for COVID-19. We will continue planning safe camp programs with mitigation strategies in place.

Essential staff who support the overall operation of Camp, i.e. CSL leadership and activity specialists, will only interact with pods outside or in well-ventilated interior settings throughout Camp. All essential staff will ensure physical distancing and will wear a face mask when interacting with pods.

## Mask Wearing Policy

CSL will fully comply with any mask wearing requirements or mandate from Federal, State, and local governments. Prior to the start of Camp and on the first day, we will provide direction as to when masks are required in accordance with the orders in effect.

In the event there is no mask requirement or mandate, and in order to contain possible exposure and spread of COVID-19, we are requiring face masks that cover both the nose and mouth be worn by our campers and staff whenever possible. There are situations when masks will not be required, including when:

- Campers and / or staff are physically inside their own cabins.
- Campers and / or staff are outdoors and more than 10 feet apart from any other pod.
- Campers and / or staff are taking showers, swimming, or in the lake.
- Campers and / or staff are the only pod at any activity area.

### **Physical Distancing**

We are fortunate to have over 200 acres of beautiful land to explore that will allow our campers to enjoy almost all activities outside. Within each pod, physical distancing will not be required; however, outside of those pods, when passing other groups, mealtime, physical distancing of 6 feet will be maintained. Masks will not be required inside the bunks.

### **Daily Health Screenings**

Screenings that ask each member of a pod about symptoms of COVID-19 will be completed daily. These screenings will be completed by the CSL Camp staff after considerable training and orientation from the health care team during staff orientation. Anyone reporting a symptom of COVID-19 will be sent to the COVID-19 Health Center for further evaluation.

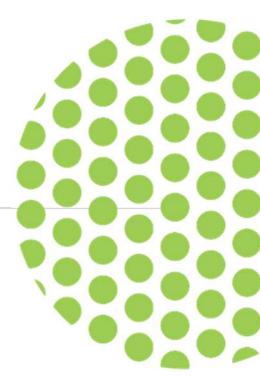
### **Testing Strategy**

A key part of the safety plan involves creating a “controlled environment” in the camp community. This means that every camper and staff member will be required to take a COVID-19 **PCR** test at home no more than 72 hours prior to arriving to camp and submit their results to our online portal. On arrival day, campers will receive a COVID-19 test during the intake process. Having the ability to determine whether the virus is present at Camp is a critical component to keeping the stable environment free of COVID-19.

We will also have the capability to perform rapid tests if anyone in our community presents with symptoms of COVID-19. We will work alongside the health care team and use best practices to determine when to conduct testing. At Camp, headaches, sore throats, and other complaints can be regular occurrences and automatically testing everyone when a symptom is present is not a sustainable plan. Anyone for whom it is determined that a COVID-19 test should be administered will be quarantined until the results are known, and their cabin group / pod will also isolate away from other pods / groups at Camp.

Camp reserves the right to request that any member of our Camp community who presents with a symptom of COVID-19 is to be tested to rule out presence of the virus. In accordance with best practices, anytime there are two or more symptoms present, where one symptom is a fever, we will require a COVID-19 test.

### **Quarantine and Isolation at Camp**



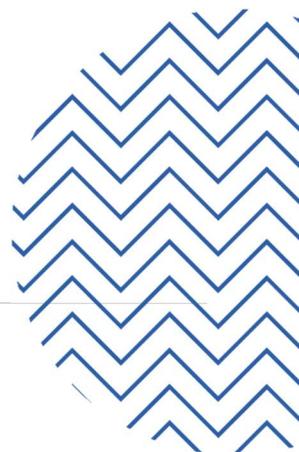
While we are taking necessary and required precautions prior to everyone's arrival, as well as implementing the best cleaning and sanitation practices available, we need to be prepared for the event that someone at Camp will present with a symptom of COVID-19.

Pods of campers and staff will be created upon arrival at Camp. Each pod will engage in the normal range of camp programs, always maintaining safe physical distancing from other pods. In the event that we need to quarantine a single member of a pod at any point during the summer (due to experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test), they will be quarantined at Camp. Out of an abundance of caution and based on guidelines from the medical team, we may direct the effected pod to begin isolating away from the rest of Camp as well.

### **Cleaning / Sanitization Procedures and Enhanced Hygiene**

To minimize transfer of COVID-19 at CSL, cleaning methods will be employed to reduce the risk of transmission. Protocols will include cleaning of communal spaces, shared items, frequently touched surfaces and overall handwashing, sanitization, and good hygiene.

- Frequent electrostatic spray will be used in all bunks and programming areas of camp with EPA hospital grade disinfectant.
- Additional handwashing stations will be placed in all buildings and high traffic areas.
- Handwashing will be required prior to all meals, snacks, and the commencement of activities.
- Bathrooms will be sanitized throughout the day to ensure frequently touched surfaces remain clean.
- Equipment and program supplies used by each group will be sanitized before and after use.
- Additional signage will be posted throughout camp as a reminder of health protocols.



We are prepared and eager to provide a similar experience to CSL summers of the past, with a full complement of engaging camp activities, while creating opportunities for social interaction that have been hard to come by for more than a year. We know how important your camper's experience will be this summer after over a year of constant change in routines, physical distancing, and increased time in front of computers, tablets, and other electronic devices.

To accomplish this, we will need to make some adjustments in how we deliver programs, as detailed in this Playbook. In addition, we will remain flexible with programming this summer, and will be prepared to quickly pivot based on the needs and interests of our Camp community.

### **Mealtime**

Meals and time spent in the Dining Hall are a special aspect of the camp experience. Meals will be served with recommended community spread mitigation strategies. Such strategies include eating in shifts and utilizing additional dining spaces.

When possible, meals may be served outside in an open-air dining space. Pods will have a designated dining location and meals may be staggered. *More details regarding meal service procedures will follow in the spring.*

Inside of the Dining Hall, we have prepared the facility to be in compliance with all applicable food service standards set by New York State. This includes at least 6 feet of distance between the back of benches at each table. Meals will typically still be enjoyed family style via platters of food made available at each table.

To remain in compliance with guidance from New York State, we are unable to offer a self-service salad bar and will instead provide salad and fruit on each table. Other substitutions and adjustments will be made at breakfast to ensure fresh fruit, yogurt, granola, etc. is readily available for each pod.

Evening snack will still be part of the meal plan and distribution of snack will take place in and around the Dining Hall while observing physical distancing protocols.

### **Daily Programs**

Campers and staff will continue to enjoy a full daily schedule that includes activity periods, primarily within specific pods. Other programmatic changes will include maximizing outdoor activities and limiting sports to those that allow for physical distancing between staff members and cohorts.

### **Evening and Village Programs**

A staple of the program is creative and fun activities that take place after dinner. These programs will continue to exist in 2021 and in alignment with the rest of the risk mitigation strategies, conducted in a safe and responsible way that keeps pods intact. If we're able to enlarge the pods through testing, programs will also be adjusted to account for changes in group size.

### **All-Camp Programming**

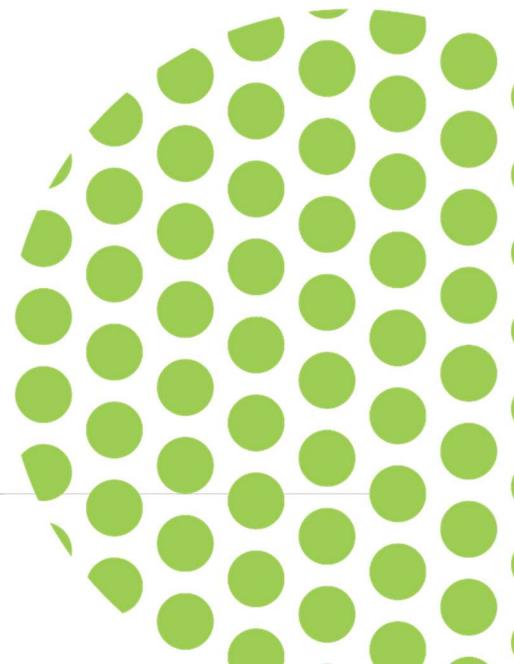
We are still offering signature programs this summer. While they will in fact look different, they'll be just as memorable. Between now and the start of Camp, the program staff team is hard at work to maintain the unique inclusive nature of these experiences while at the same time taking into account the required best practices in health and safety.

### **Shabbat**

Shabbat links us as a Jewish community. Gathering together as we welcome in Shabbat is a highlight at camp each week. This summer won't be any different. We are exploring a number of options that will allow us to deliver on CSL Shabbat traditions, in a safe and responsible way. This strategy may include multiple Shabbat services, allowing everyone at Camp to enjoy Shabbat services at the fire circle. Exactly how Shabbat looks will be shared with our families closer to the start of summer.

### **Trips**

At this time, we have suspended all out of camp trips including Village Days and the Tuscarora Trip. We are working diligently to plan for a safe Senior Camper biking program.



The Health Center (formally known as the infirmary) is always an important part of our plan to safely operate each summer. In 2021, the health care team will continue to provide medical care for the entire camp community, while helping us stay safe from COVID-19. To protect the stable environment, we're making minor modifications to the medical program. These changes will enable the health care team to accomplish their goal of delivering high quality care without sacrificing the safety protocols established to protect everyone involved.

In an effort to make sure we can accommodate the proper physical distancing between pods, the camp nurses will greet any camper or staff member outside of the Health Center on the porch for assessment, before welcoming them inside. This process will allow the health care team to assess everyone quickly and provide dedicated space inside the health center to provide appropriate care.

### **Health Care Staff**

The health care staff will wear appropriate PPE, such as face masks and shields to allow for safe interaction with any member of the camp community.

### **Camp Doctors and Telehealth**

The CSL health care team has been traditionally comprised of camp nurses and a visiting volunteer physician from within the extended camp community. This summer, in order to best maintain our bubble, we will not have rotating volunteer physician's onsite. We have added additional nurse practitioners to the health care team. We are hoping to arrange telehealth services to supplement available in camp health care. All health care processes and procedures are developed in conjunction with physicians and other medical professionals.

### **Medication Distribution**

This summer will be no different in the ability to meet the needs of campers taking medications. The health care team will create a daily schedule for when campers from each pod are able to take their medications. Campers who take medications at set times throughout the day will still be able to do so.

### **Treating Injuries**

The daily adventures at Camp unfortunately result in the occasional injury. Nearly all injuries are minor and do not require any additional medical treatment. To support our staff in cleaning simple scrapes and cuts, first aid kits are stocked in every program area and village, just like in previous summers. CSL staff are trained and encouraged to treat these minor injuries with supplies from the first aid kit, keeping campers together and engaged in program activities as often as possible.

### **Confirmed Case of COVID-19**

In the event that we confirm a positive case of COVID-19 at Camp, we will continue to follow the quarantine and isolation procedures established for Camp while also notifying the family involved, the families of those in that specific camp pod, the Yates County Department of Health, New York State Department of Health and JCC Executive Leadership. CSL Directors may dismiss any Camper who has tested positive for COVID-19.