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**From:** Camp Wahanowin  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 18, 2021 4:06 PM  
**Subject:** COVID-19 Update



To our 2021 Wahanowin Families,

Family Day has come and gone. The kids are finally back in school and we can all set our sights on the light at the end of the tunnel: WAHANOWIN 2021!!

Next month marks a full year since we've all had to change almost everything about how we live and work. These circumstances have asked us all to pivot, pivot and pivot again as we continue to adapt to the changing needs of our own families, our businesses and the world around us. Wahanowin is no exception.

**Here's our COVID-19 update:**

It can get frustrating to always be reminded that we are living in uncertain times. But there can't be more truth to that. There is so much speculation as to whether overnight camps will be able to run and if so, what protocols and regulations will be in place for camp to run safely. So here is what we can say for certain:

***Will overnight camps be able to open?***

We are increasingly optimistic that camp will run in Summer 2021. The Ontario Camps Association (OCA) COVID-19 Task Force has had several key conversations with federal and provincial officials of government in an effort to ensure overnight camps will be able to operate this year.

We know camp is needed now more than ever. Our kid's mental and physical health is suffering. Children need to play! They need to be with their friends and free to be kids. They need to be given time to process this past year in a healthy way without the pressure of being bogged down with what they have missed, not achieved at school, not learned or what they 'should be doing.'



We are very hopeful that we will be able to welcome our staff and campers back this summer with open arms. We want to create an environment that enables our community to experience joy, laughter and a sense of normalcy.

***What COVID-19 guidelines and protocols will be in place at camp this summer?***

We have not yet been informed by Public Health what measures they will require for camps this summer, but the Ontario Camps Association has drafted a Field Guide for Summer 2021 which has been reviewed and approved by the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. We are now waiting for the Guide to be approved by Ontario Public Health and then officially released in March to camps. In the meantime, we have put in motion the creation of a Wahanowin COVID-19 Committee with specific members from our Health Care Team (doctors and nurses) that specialize in COVID-19 and infectious diseases along with other experts in the field. It is our

intention for our committee to then review the recommendations and Guide and to ensure Wahanowin is set up for success this summer. As you already know, we made the decision to bring all campers to camp for an epic start on July 2nd which will provide more certainty and comfort to our families by adding an additional layer of control to better manage our environment. We are prepared to make all the necessary changes that are required by our Local Public Health officials while doing our best to maintain what we all love about Wahanowin.

***When will we know more?***

We are committed to be in frequent communication with our families leading up to camp. As soon as we can provide more certainties to our families, we will. Until then, we do not want to speculate and provide you with lots of information about what may happen. We know all of you are juggling a lot right now and living with more 'what ifs' does not help. We look forward to sharing more concrete information as soon as we have it!

Most importantly, we hope in this very moment that all of our families are staying safe and healthy. We hope you will join us in continuing to focus on summer 2021 at Camp Wahanowin, where we long to be and where the magic prevails! *Right at Wahanowin...Right!!*

With much anticipation and excitement,

The Wahanowin Director Team

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