
From: Camp Wahanowin
Sent: Friday, March 05, 2021 10:36 AM
Subject: COVID-19 Update



Dear Wahanowin Families,

We are pleased to update you with further clarity and information on how we will be back together again at Camp Wahanowin this summer. Rest assured, our Wahanowin Team and COVID-19 Committee are dedicated to making it happen!

Earlier this week, the Ontario Camps Association (OCA) recommended that Ontario overnight camps rely on the American Camping Association (ACA) Field Guide for the science-based research and examples of how to operate this summer. The OCA will be supporting us with additional Ontario specific resources as we also wait for the approved OCA Camp Guidance document that was submitted to the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (OCMOH) in January.

With the info we currently have, our team is relentlessly working to provide Camp Wahanowin families with our 2021 COVID-19 Safety Plan. This guide will cover all aspects of camp-life and the protocols and procedures that we will implement to provide the safest experience possible.

While safety will remain our top priority, the magic of camp will be preserved no matter what restrictions are in place. Adapting to changing circumstances is fundamental to the camp experience, so all campers should be ready for a spectacular Summer 2021.

We will hold a virtual Camp Wahanowin Family Town Hall in April to review the guide and our plans for this summer. More details about the Town Hall will be announced in the next few weeks.

The key elements and main considerations for operating camp safely this summer have been based on strong leadership, robust staff training, testing, social distancing, utilizing the outdoors, health checks, hand washing/sanitization, cohorting/"bubbling", and frequent communication. Based on the information currently available, here is what we can tell you **may** happen this summer:

- Extensive staff training prior to camp and upon arrival relating to safety procedures and best practices, including specific education related to COVID-19.
- An exclusive Wahanowin COVID-19 Committee led by one COVID-19 designated Director and 2 members of our current Health Centre Physician Team.
- Collaboration with our local Public Health department before and during camp and in the event that a case of infection is identified.
- Utilization of our 102-acre site to allow for as much outdoor activities, dining and physical distancing amongst groups.
- COVID-19 PCR testing 72 hours prior to departure day, on departure day at the busses, and 5 days into camp. In addition, a combination of PCR and rapid testing will be used on an ongoing basis as required throughout the summer. Camp Wahanowin has partnered with a company to assist with screening and testing to ensure the experience is positive and effective. The cost of this necessary testing and other COVID-19 readiness costs are

prohibitive for camp, so there will likely be a COVID surcharge passed onto our families. We will provide concrete information on this when we have it available.

- Groupings of 1 or 2 cabins reflecting necessary cohort requirements until otherwise needed. We anticipate cohorts growing once testing is complete.
- Daily health screening.
- Implementation of required use of face coverings when within 2 metres of another cohort.
- Increased emphasis placed on sanitization including, but not limited to, implementation of handwashing and sanitizing procedures, enhanced cleaning and disinfection protocols/schedules, additional activity supplies and equipment to diminish common touch surfaces and camp-wide signage to reinforce safety procedures and hygiene.
- Frequent communication between camp and home.

This is not necessarily how camp will look this summer. This is what we know NOW...and it is all **SUBJECT TO CHANGE** as we receive information from Public Health. We wish we knew more, however, we felt it was important for our families to know what camp might look like and our level of preparedness if tomorrow was the first day of Summer 2021. If you are an international family, we ask that you join us in remaining optimistic that our borders will be open and we can welcome your camper(s) to camp this summer.

We sincerely hope many of these restrictions will be eased, but we know we can maintain the essence of camp even under the current environment. We can't wait to share with you further details of our plan for creating a safe, healthy, and FUN experience for your child(ren) this summer. In the meantime, the countdown to camp is on!

Stay safe and healthy!

The Wahanowin Director Team

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