

COVID-19 PROTOCOL 2021 SUMMER CAMP

Lutherhill values the health and safety of our campers and staff. We train our staff to consistently ask two questions, Is it safe? Is it for the camper? This has been true for Lutherhill since 1954 and still today. The following preventative measures will help safeguard campers and staff in response to COVID-19.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **Health and Safety**
We value the health and safety of all our guests and intend to keep public health at the forefront of all our decision making.
- **Stewardship**
We are grateful for the donors and camper families that have invested in the financial stability of Lutherhill Ministries, and we aim to wisely steward this investment in all circumstances.
- **Tradition**
We are passionate about the legacy of outdoor ministry Lutherhill has provided since 1954, it is our great joy to offer meaningful experiences of hospitality, community, holy spaces and love of Christ – in the past, at present and in the future.

DECISION METRICS

- **Group Gathering Regulations**
Regulations limiting size and type of group gatherings must reach the point of allowing 75 persons to gather with minimal physical distancing.
- **Operational Regulations**
Additional state and local guidelines regarding residential camps must be such that we can safely comply without compromising the camp experience.
- **Participant Health & Safety**
Viable procedures to follow Texas Department of Health of State Health Services (DHS) requirements in both the prevention of on-site infections as well as isolation and send home protocol in the event a camper or staff member is suspected to have COVID-19.
- **Program**
Lutherhill staff must be confident in our ability to acquire necessary supplies, facilitate program changes, enact new procedures, have the support of our summer staff, have camp 'ready to go'.

With these principles and metrics as our guide, Lutherhill's leadership has determined that we can safely open camp for the summer of 2021 with the following procedural enhancements in place.

GENERAL PROGRAM OPERATIONS

STAFF TRAINING

Our young adult summer staff bring camp to life in a way that is faithful, fun and... safe! During our two-week staff training, summer staff receive thorough training on all safety measures. This year we will pay special attention to safety measures related to COVID-19. This will equip each staff member to communicate preventative measures in a consistent and compelling way with our happy campers.

COHORTS

Many of the recommendations from the American Camp Association (ACA) are based on campers being assigned to specific cohorts during their time at camp. These cohorts are already built into Lutherhill's camp experience with our cabin groups. Cabin groups will be limited to 12 campers maximum with counselor(s) specifically assigned to the group for the duration of the camp session. Interaction between cabin groups will be reduced to minimize exposure and allow for easier contact tracing if a camper becomes ill.

HOUSING

Cohorts will be housed together throughout the camp session. Access to the housing unit will be limited to assigned campers, staff and designated personnel in order to reduce the risk of exposure. Campers will sleep in an alternating head to toe formation on bunks to allow for 6 feet of space while sleeping. Campers will keep personal belongings in designated areas and will be instructed not to share personal belongings. Housing units will be cleaned on a daily basis.

FACE COVERINGS

COVID-19 spreads in close proximity, when aerosol, saliva or nasal discharge are exchanged. Face covering use, especially indoors, is reported to reduce the risk of transmission by 80%. Campers and staff must have face coverings with them at all times that are at least two layers and snugly cover the nose and mouth with no gaps. Face coverings must be worn when in close, sustained contact with others outside of the cohort group as well in all designated areas. Face coverings will not be required within cohort groups or during outdoor activities. They will be required in the dining hall until seated at the cohort table to eat and indoors when physical distance cannot be maintained.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

COVID-19 spreads most easily when large groups of people are in close proximity. Public health officials offer physical distancing as a simple way to deter the spread. We will encourage campers to maintain a physical distance of 3 feet or more. Face coverings will be helpful when physical distancing is difficult to maintain. For this summer, large group gatherings will be limited and held outdoors whenever possible.

HANDWASHING & SANITIZING

Hand cleanliness is the number one way to help slow the spread of communicable diseases. All gathering spaces, cabins, and meal areas will have handwashing stations and hand sanitizer easily accessible. Washing hands for 20 seconds with soap and water is preferable. When this is not possible, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol will be utilized. Our staff will model best practices with hand cleanliness and ensure that campers do the same. Like most things at camp, we'll make it fun!



CLEANING

Campers will still be part of keeping gathering spaces and housing units clean for the camp community. Beyond this co-operative camper cleaning, we've added extra steps to ensure camp is clean this summer. Our cleaning staff will clean all housing units thoroughly between camper groups. Common areas like the canteen and dining hall will be cleaned daily. More about cleaning for specific activity areas is included below.

OUTDOOR PROGRAMMING

The safest place for people to gather during a pandemic is outside. We will look for every possible way to gather outside while still optimizing breaks from the Texas heat! Some of our typical indoor gatherings like worship and community meals will be held outside as much as possible to increase ventilation and space for physical distancing.

VACCINES

We strongly recommend that each year-round and summer staff member be fully vaccinated before camp begins. This will lower the risk of exposure for campers and safeguard the health of our staff. Fully vaccinated staff will not be required to quarantine if exposed to COVID-19 within this timeframe. Fully vaccinated means all prescribed doses of the COVID-19 vaccine as well as the suggested waiting period to reach maximum effect. At this time, pediatric vaccines are available for children 12 and over. If a camper is eligible to receive a vaccine, we strongly recommend being fully vaccinated before arrival at camp. We will not exclude campers who have not yet received the vaccine.

TESTING

We will not require campers to produce a negative molecular or antigen test prior to arrival at camp. Requiring tests prior to camper arrival at camp may produce a false sense of security. Campers may be exposed to COVID-19 after the test and unknowingly bring it to camp. We will focus instead on the other non-pharmaceutical preventative measures (physical distance, face coverings, cohorts, etc.).

HEALTH CARE EACH WEEK

Each summer, Lutherhill partners with a Camp Physician to oversee all health care practices, provide phone consultation and be available for office visits. In addition, we have a volunteer medical profession (RN, LVN, EMT or MD) each week that partners with our Health Care Coordinator (trained summer staff). This health care team works together to keep our campers healthy and safe all week long.

14 DAY PRE-SCREENING

Camper families will be instructed to monitor the health of their child for 14 days prior to their arrival at camp. If any staff or camper is found to have fever and a corresponding COVID-19 symptom during the time leading up to arrival at camp they will be asked to stay home.

AT CAMP SCREENING

On camper drop-off days, campers will be asked COVID-19 related health screen questions and will be temperature-checked. Upon arrival at camp, camper families must be able to affirm that they have not traveled out of the country in the last 14 days, been exposed to anyone who tested positive for or exhibited positive COVID-19 symptoms or personally exhibited any COVID-19 symptoms.

Daily at camp, counselors will ask all campers if they have any COVID-19 related symptoms. If a camper exhibits a symptom, the counselor will take them directly to the camp nurse.

SUSPECTED COVID-19 EXPOSURE

COVID-19 symptoms include: fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

If any staff or camper is found to have COVID-19 symptoms, not typical for this person based on their documented medical history, they will be quarantined in a comfortable, isolated location.

If Lutherhill is able to arrange a PCR test and parental consent is given, the test will be administered. While awaiting results, they will be quarantined in a comfortable, isolated location.

- If the test yields a negative result, they may be restored to the community.
- If the test yields a positive result, they will remain in the comfortable, isolated location while awaiting parent pick-up. Lutherhill staff will clean and sanitize the campers bunk thoroughly as well as the full cabin before readmittance is granted to the housing unit.

If Lutherhill is unable to secure testing, the symptomatic person will remain in the comfortable, isolated location while awaiting parent pick-up. If the camper is able to secure testing (PCR) offsite, they may return to camp with a confirmed negative test.

CONTACT TRACING

Campers will be designated to a cabin group. The cabin group shares housing and most daily activities. They have the highest risk of exposure if another member of their cabin group becomes symptomatic.

If a member of the group tests positive for COVID-19, the group will refrain from interactions with other cabin groups. Alternative times and locations for meals will be secured.

Counselors will help identify any camper that was in close, sustained contact (less than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes without a face covering). Any camper who was in close, sustained contact will be sent home for a suggested 14 days of self-quarantine. Other campers in the small group who did not have close, sustained contact may remain for the rest of the camp session. The small group will refrain from interactions with other cabin groups. Camper families will be advised to monitor for symptoms after returning home. All camper families will be asked to notify camp if a camper becomes ill within two days of returning home from camp.

The Program Directors will consult all staff to determine if anyone outside the cabin group was in close, sustained contact. Any camper or staff person who was in close, sustained contact and was not vaccinated will be sent home for a suggested 14 days of self-quarantine.

COMMUNICATION PLAN

When a laboratory confirmed case of COVID-19 occurs during camp sessions, all staff and camper families will be informed in the following ways.

- If in CLOSE, SUSTAINED CONTACT OR COHORT GROUP: will be informed by phone.
- ALL OTHER CAMPER FAMILIES: will be informed via email with contact information available for further questions.
- YEAR-ROUND AND SUMMER STAFF: will be informed in person as much as possible.



DROP-OFF

ACCOMPANIED DROP-OFF

We know camp drop-off is special, and you might be tempted to gather the grandparents, siblings, and neighbors to come along. This year we ask that you limit drop-off to two people per camper.

- Your camper will be temperature and symptom checked.
- After successfully passing the screen, you and your camper join the line to complete the registration process (don't forget to bring forms and meds!).
- You may catch the hayride or walk your happy camper to their cabin and say your sweet goodbyes on the cabin porch. Only campers and designated Lutherhill staff may enter the cabin.
- Our staff will help your camper make their bunk and get settled.

PICK-UP

To minimize risk and exposure, Closing Worship is not open to visitors this summer. The Best.Week.Ever. concludes at 3:00p.

- Our staff will guide you to your camper pick-up location.
- Your camper will be packed and ready for you!
 - You load your camper's luggage (hopefully they remembered all their socks).
 - You get to hear all about the BEST.WEEK.EVER. the whole ride home!



ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR DROP-OFF BEFORE LEAVING HOME

We strongly recommend that you check temperatures and COVID-19 symptoms before leaving home. We'd hate for you to make it all the way to camp and have to leave before you even make your bunk!

CABINS

Only campers and designated staff will be allowed in sanitized cabins. Don't worry, our staff will help make beds. Throughout the week, this same standard will be maintained to keep your camper safe.

CAMPER MAIL

SEND MAIL | Camper Name, Lutherhill, PO Box 99, La Grange, TX 78945

BRING MAIL | There will be options to drop-off mail at Sunday registration. Make sure to clearly mark your camper's name, cabin number and delivery day on all mail. (You'll learn the cabin number that Sunday).

PATIENCE

Camper drop-off may take a little longer this year because of our new health procedures. Thank you in advance for your patience as we continue to keep camper health and safety our top priority

OFFERING

Our offering will be shared with Upbring Krause Children's Center in Katy, Texas. Krause is a residential program for girls who have experienced abuse and neglect. Your gifts will fund spiritual care activities. You may drop-off offering during registration, designate a portion of your Hillside store balance or look for ways to give remotely throughout the week!

HILLSIDE STORE

Campers have the chance to visit the camp store during the week. Items range in price from \$2 for stickers, \$15 for shirts and up to \$30 for select items. Items from our canteen (sodas, candy and snacks) are included in your registration fee, no need to send extra money for this!

All camp store money will be submitted online through our registration system. You may do this any time before 10am on the Monday of your camper's week. We will not collect cash during Sunday registration or mid-week. You will have the opportunity to pre-designate the amount of money you'd like to donate from your camper's store balance for offering. The remaining balance will be directly refunded to you via our online registration system.

You may also use our online storefront (lutherhill.org) to pre-order items to be picked-up on Sunday or delivered to your camper during the week.

ACTIVITY AREA ENHANCED PROCEDURES

Our enhanced procedures outline the ways we will clean and sanitize frequently touched surfaces and shared equipment.

Ropes Course

- We will follow the recommendations of Adventure Experiences, our certifying organization. Some of these current recommendations include:
- Campers will use hand sanitizer before touching equipment.
- Helmets and will be sanitized after each use.

Pond

- Campers will use hand sanitizer before and after using equipment.
- Campers will be designated one Personal Flotation Device (PFD) for use at the pond.

Pool

- Campers will shower before entering the pool.
- Communal areas such as bathroom and showers will be cleaned daily.

Canteen and Game Area, Arts and Crafts, Archery / Slingshot

- Campers will use hand sanitizer before and after using equipment.
- All frequently touched surfaces will be sanitized daily.

FOOD SERVICE ENHANCED PROCEDURES

- All campers and staff will sanitize hands before entering the Dining Hall.
- Food service staff will wear gloves and masks in addition to hair and beard coverings at all times in the kitchen.
- All campers and staff will be required to wear face covering in the Dining Hall until seated at their table and ready to eat.
- As much as possible, meals will be served in shifts and outdoor seating made available in order to optimize physical distance while eating.
- Meals will be served through a serving line, operated by staff wearing, face coverings, and gloves. Serving staff will pick up the plate, serve and pass to the next server. At the end of the line, the plate will be handed to the camper.
- If a salad bar is provided, it will be operated in the same manner as main meal serving line.
- All food items, such as condiments and crackers, not served by food service staff will be pre-packaged in individual servings.
- All drinks and ice will be dispensed by a staff member.
- Following meals, staff and campers at each table will wipe down the table. A Lutherhill staff member will sanitize each table between each meal seating.
- All dishware will be washed through the dishwasher with the sanitize cycle at the end and be air dried.



**COVID PROTOCOL
UPDATES AS OF 5/15/21**

FACE COVERINGS: Masks will not be required within cohort groups or during outdoor activities. Masks will be required in the dining hall until seated at the cohort table to eat and indoors when physical distance cannot be maintained. Physical distance of 3 feet will still be required for indoor settings and for outdoor gatherings. [Omit mask wearing in cohorts and for outdoor activities (like basketball, volleyball, ga ga ball, etc.).]

14 DAY PRE SCREEN: Camper families will be instructed to monitor the health of their child for 14 days prior to their arrival at camp. If any staff or camper is found to have fever and a corresponding COVID-19 symptom during the time leading up to arrival at camp they will be asked to stay home. Upon arrival at camp, camper families must be able to affirm that they have not traveled out of the country in the last 14 days, been exposed to anyone who tested positive for or exhibited positive COVID-19 symptoms or personally exhibited any COVID-19 symptoms. [Omit the need to document the 14-day pre screen.]

DAILY SCREEN: Daily at camp, counselors will ask all campers if they have any COVID-19 related symptoms. If a camper exhibits a symptom, the counselor will take them directly to the camp nurse. [OMIT the need for daily temperature checks and to document the daily screen.]

CLEANING: Use of household cleaners will be used for housing units and activity areas to be cleaned daily. [OMIT the need to use CDC approved cleaners, multiple times a day.]