

## COVID-19 PROTOCOL 2021 SUMMER CAMP

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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 (DSHS) 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**

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### **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 and sanitized 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 as well in all designated areas.

### **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 6 feet or more. Face coverings will be helpful when physical distancing is difficult to maintain. For this summer, large group gatherings will be limited.

### **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 and sanitized this summer. Our cleaning staff will clean frequently used areas with CDC approved chemicals daily; this includes cabin and gathering area bathrooms, door handles and switches. Common areas like the canteen and dining hall will be cleaned and sanitized daily. More about cleaning for specific activity areas is included below.

## **OUTDOOR PROGRAMMING**

The safest place 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 not available. 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**

All staff and campers will complete a 14 day pre-screening which includes logging daily temperatures and documenting symptoms typical to COVID-19. This helps assess previous exposure to COVID-19 and prevents the potential spread while 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, everyone who exits their vehicle, not just 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. Campers and staff will be temperature-checked and screened daily at camp.

### **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**

We will have two options for drop off:

### **OPTION 1: EXPRESS DROP-OFF**

This option limits exposure for the camp community and gets you on your way even more quickly!

With this option:

- You present the 14 Day Pre-Screen completed in full.
- Your camper will be temperature and symptom checked.
- After successfully completing both screens, your camper exits the car.
- Your camper will be guided through the registration process by our staff (don't forget to send forms and medications).
- Our staff will unload your camper's luggage.
- You say your sweet goodbyes from the car window and head home.
- Our staff takes your happy camper and their luggage to the cabin.

### **OPTION 2: 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 one adult per camper.

With this option:

- You present the 14 Day Pre-Screen completed in full.
- You and your camper will be temperature and symptom checked.
- After successfully completing both screens, you and your camper may exit the car to complete the registration process (don't forget to bring forms and meds!).
- Your camper places their luggage in the drop-zone.
- Our staff will deliver luggage to the cabin.
- You may walk your happy camper to their cabin and say your sweet goodbyes on the cabin porch.

## **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 stay in the car while our staff helps to load their luggage.
  - 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 | **At this time we do not plan** to collect mail at registration. You may opt to tuck mail into your camper's luggage.

### **PATIENCE**

Camper drop-off will probably 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 or look for ways to give remotely throughout the week!

### **CAMP 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!

**This year, 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 may also use our online storefront ([lutherhill.org](http://lutherhill.org)) to pre-order items to be picked-up on Sunday or delivered to your camper during the week.

## **ACTIVITY AREA ENHANCED PROCEDURES**

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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 and after touching equipment.
- Helmets and harnesses 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.
- Between groups, PFDs will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized.
- Kayaks and Canoes will be cleaned and sanitized between groups.

### **Pool**

- Campers will use hand sanitizer before and after using equipment.
- Pool toys will be sanitized between groups.
- Communal areas such as bathroom and showers will be cleaned and sanitized daily.

### **Canteen and Game Area**

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

### **Arts and Crafts**

- Campers will use hand sanitizer before and after using equipment.
- Tables and chairs will be sanitized between groups.
- All shared equipment will be sanitized between groups.
- Non-shared supplies (permeable items such as paper, felt, fabric, etc.) will be pre-portioned per camper.

### **Archery / Slingshot**

- Campers will use hand sanitizer before and after using equipment.
- All shared equipment will be sanitized after cabin groups use.

## **FOOD SERVICE ENHANCED PROCEDURES**

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### **Dining Hall**

- All campers and staff will wash and 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 aprons, 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 and chairs. A Lutherhill staff member will sanitize each table and chair between each meal seating.
- All dishware will be washed through the dishwasher with the sanitize cycle at the end and be air dried. Lutherhill staff will wear face coverings and gloves in this process.