

Camp Ewalu

Covid-19 Operational Mitigation Response

This response plan is to guide the management and staff of Camp Ewalu in establishing practices and procedures to help prevent the spreading of Covid-19 while still providing an opportunity for campers to attend and participate in the undeniable positive benefits of the overall summer camp experience.

The starting of Camp will be delayed three weeks, including staff training to allow for further development of guidelines and standards by local governing bodies, the American Camping Association and Ewalu.

This document is an overview of Camp Ewalu's primary covid-19 mitigation efforts. The supplements to this document provide further detailed procedures for specific functions or program areas that may not be detailed here. The overall approach to managing social distancing and group size will be to manage all camp activities by cabin group and program area. All camp activities such as Sunday and Wednesday group campfires, Wednesday group program and Friday program are suspended for this summer.

Facemasks will be mandatory when inside buildings except for when in bed or sleeping bags ready for lights out. Facemasks will be worn outside when social distancing is difficult or impractical. Parents should add one facemask per day to their child's packing list for camp. There will be a limited supply of facemasks at camp.

Pre-Camp Communication

- Periodic emails will be sent to all registered camper families. The first email will be sent during the first week of June and will include a copy of this document to provide parents or guardians of registered campers with the overall plan and prevention practices that are being put into place. Additional email messages will be sent if significant changes are made to this plan or other appendixes procedures that will impact campers or their families.
- Campers that are at high risk of serious complication from a Covid-19 infection, or live in a household that has a high risk individual living in the household, are recommended to not attend camp this summer. High risk individuals are those with certain underlying health conditions and older adults. If you are unsure of your risk factors consult with your medical care provider.
- Updates will be posted on Facebook page and Instagram as needed to announce responses to and changes in procedures that address the virus.
- The Covid-19 page on the website will have updates posted to it as necessary

Health Screening and Assessment

- Parents and summer staff will be sent a two-week health assessment screening form to be completed daily at home for the fourteen days prior to their scheduled arrival at camp. These forms are to be turned in at registration as part of the onsite health screening of all campers upon arrival at camp. Those campers without the completed form will be asked to leave the camp without getting out of their vehicles.
- Initial onsite health screenings will be performed before campers exit the vehicles they are arriving in. All non-registered campers including parents and guardians will remain in vehicles at all times while on the camp premises during the registration process.
- Onsite initial screenings will be performed by the camp's designated health officer and will include questions regarding travel, health symptoms and temperature checks before campers leave their vehicle or continue the registration process.
- Anyone, staff or camper, that know they have been exposed to someone with the Covid-19 virus in the two weeks prior to coming to camp cannot attend camp and will be turned away until they have self-isolated for two weeks and are symptom free for a minimum of three consecutive days.

Camper Check-in Procedures

- Camper families will be notified of enhanced screening procedures and be sent the two week at home health screening form at least three weeks before their scheduled arrival at camp.
- Registration times will be staggered by program area. If a family is registering children in more than one program area they will be asked to come to the latest scheduled program's registration time.
- Registration will be done in a drive-thru style with outdoor stations manned by camp staff for each registration station. Registered campers will leave their vehicles only after completing the registration process.
- Families will be asked to stay in their vehicles at all times with only registered campers leaving the vehicles and only after their registration process has been completed.
- All staff will wear masks during the entire registration process even when outside.
- All campers will be required to wear a mask when they leave their vehicles.
- Campers with a fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or more, or that otherwise fail the health screening will be not be allowed to leave their car and will be sent home.
- All campers will be given a dose of hand sanitizer by a staff person upon leaving their vehicle.

Cleaning and Sanitization

- Camp Ewalu will continue to use cleaning products that are both anti-viral and anti-bacterial. This includes hand soaps, cleaning detergents, sanitizers and disinfectants.
- All campers and staff will have regular access to hand washing and/or hand sanitizing supplies.
- Staff will review and maintain supply levels of all cleaning equipment and dispensers daily.

- Staff will be trained on the camps enhanced covid-19 cleaning and disinfecting procedures. The specific procedures and schedules are found in the camp cleaning and disinfecting procedures supplement.

Cleaning and Sanitization of Facilities

- Sanitizing in facilities includes the wiping with disinfectant of all high touch areas such as door knobs, light switches, and faucets.
- Living areas including cabins – Swept and trash removed daily, sanitized twice daily as well as between groups, hand sanitizer will be available in all sleeping areas.
- Other buildings will have increased cleaning and sanitization procedures depending on usage, when possible between each user group. See cleaning procedures for each building in the supplement.
- Program areas and equipment cleaning and sanitization is dependent upon each program area. See cleaning procedures for program areas and equipment.
- Food service tables and equipment will be cleaned and sanitized after every meal.

Food Service

- To the extent possible meals will be served and eaten in program areas.
- Program areas will eat their meals by cabin group. There will be a minimum of one full empty table space between program areas if more than one program is in the Cedar dining hall at one time.
- Meal times will be staggered by program if necessary to maintain social distancing. Also, staff that is not actively counseling or helping with meals will be assigned a specific meal time separate from the program area meal times.
- Staff will disinfect tables after use. This may mean multiple times during a meal depending on how many program areas use the Cedar dining hall for a particular meal.
- Each person must wash their hands with soap and water before entering Cedar Lodge. A temporary outdoor wash station will be constructed outside of Cedar Lodge. Handwashing before meals will be monitored at all eating places.
- Signs will be posted strategically around camp as reminders to practice hand washing and social distancing.
- Windows and exhaust fans will be used in the dining hall when in use and weather permitting to improve ventilation.
- Tables will be dismissed individually to both get their food and also to bus their dishes.
- All meals will be served by staff as opposed to self-serve buffet style.
- Gloves will be worn by all persons handling dishes; both in setting tables and in receiving and cleaning dirty dishes.
- Food servers will wear a facemask and gloves. When campers or staff are in an enclosed eating area such as the ponderosa or Cedar they will wear masks except for when actually eating.
- Markings will be placed on the floor at six foot increments to show proper distancing in the serving line.
- Salad dressings and condiments will be served by staff to minimize contact with serving containers.

- Campers will receive their individual plates, bowls and eating utensils from staff as well as having all their food served by staff. There will be no self-service for any items.

Large Group Activities

- Large group activities that exceed a single program area are suspended for the summer.
- Program area activities must include social distancing protocols
- Low ropes and group climbing wall activities are suspended for the summer.
- Tent camping will be restricted to two occupants per tent from the same cabin group and sleeping head to toe.

Additional Healthcare Procedures

- The camp will implement a more stringent check-in procedure as outline above.
- Ongoing health monitoring will be done daily. Each camper and staff will be screened once per day by program area. Screening will include temperature and symptoms check.
- A checklist for each cabin group will be given to the coordinator of each program area to be filled out with each camper's name and a daily checklist for temperature and symptom check to be turned in at the end of the week and available for review at any time by the camp Health Officer, Program Director or Executive Director. The checklists will be kept in the camps confidential medical records at the end of each week. A separate checklist will be maintained for each staff member.
- In the event a camper, staff or guest exhibits symptoms of Covid-19 or has a fever of at least 100.4 Fahrenheit they will be quarantined on camp until a parent or guardian can take them home. In case of an adult with their own transportation they will be sent home to self-isolate.
- On camp Quarantine will be in the rental trailer parked between the pool and the A-Frame cabin.
- If necessary secondary isolation areas will be in the health office in the hickory building.
- Staff that is sent home with suspected Covid-19 symptoms will not be able to return to camp until they meet local health department guidelines to leave isolation.

Conclusion

These guidelines are subject to change as conditions change or recommendations from the State of Iowa Health Department, CDC, Clayton County Health Department or ACA change. We appreciate everyone's patience with and adherence to these guidelines. Although there is no way to make camp Ewalu risk free of Covid-19 infection, we believe these mitigation efforts will provide significant safeguards to prevent an outbreak from occurring.

Further mitigation specifics are detailed by location and program area. All staff members are expected to become familiar with these and new procedures as we develop, train and disseminate additional and more specific mitigations standards which may become necessary.