

## **Camp Ewalu Covid-19 Operational Mitigation Response Summer 2022 update**

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.

This document is an overview of Camp Ewalu's primary Covid-19 mitigation efforts. Face coverings will be optional for campers and staff. We will focus on maintaining distance between groups of campers ("pods") whenever campers are indoors. For summer 2022, pods will be able to interact outdoors, such as in the pool, ballfield, etc. To the extent possible, meals will be eaten outside and/or eaten in program areas.

### **Week 1 updates:**

*Due to high levels of COVID-19 in the community and community-spread within Ewalu, we will be instituting the following additional policies for week 1 of summer camp.*

#### **Face coverings (masks)**

- *Masks are required for all staff during check-in and in all communal indoor locations (Cedar Lodge, Creation Center, etc)*
- *Masks are not required in cabins or when the only people present are within a cabin group (pod)*
- *Masks are required for all staff in the kitchen*
- *Masks are strongly recommended for all campers to wear in indoor locations, such as Cedar Lodge*
- *Masks will not be required for staff in outdoor locations*

#### **Group overlap**

- *To whatever extent possible, campers will not overlap with other camps, i.e. at shared campfires campers will sit in separate groups*

#### **Check-in**

- *Parents/guardians may still park and leave their vehicles following check-in. Masks are strongly recommended for parents/guardians who enter camp buildings.*

### **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 modified from last year. Additional email messages will be sent if significant changes are made to this plan or others that will impact campers or their families, such as cancellation of programs or pre-camp requirements for campers or their families.*
- *Campers who are at high risk of serious complications from a Covid-19 infection, or live in a household that has a high-risk individual living in the household, and the high-risk*

individuals have not been vaccinated, 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 our 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**

- If your camper displays Covid-19 symptoms or other communicable disease symptoms during the five days leading up to their time at camp, please do not send them to camp. A full refund or rescheduling for later in the summer will be offered.
- As with 2020 and 2021, we will begin the registration process in vehicles. Initial onsite health screenings will be performed before campers exit the vehicles they are arriving in. As of 2022, following check-in, parents may park and explore camp.
- 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, who is unvaccinated and knows they have been exposed to someone with the Covid-19 virus in the ten days prior to arriving at camp must be symptom free and show a negative COVID-19 test in the 72 hours before arriving at camp. Ewalu has limited COVID-19 testing supplies. Please plan ahead if you need to complete a negative test for your camper.

### **Camper Check-in Procedures**

- Registration will be completed in a drive-thru style with outdoor stations staffed by camp employees for each registration station. Registered campers will leave their vehicles only after completing the registration process.
- Families may park in designated areas and leave their vehicles once the registration process is completed.
- Campers with a fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or more, or who otherwise fail the health screening, will not be allowed to leave their vehicle and will be sent home.

### **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 camp's enhanced Covid-19 cleaning and disinfecting procedures.

### **Cleaning and Sanitization of Facilities**

- Sanitizing in facilities includes the wiping with disinfectant of all high-touch areas such as doorknobs, light switches, and faucets.
- Living areas, including cabins – Swept and trash removed daily, sanitized 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.
- 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 and outside.
- Meal times will be staggered by program if necessary, especially if conditions require meals to be eaten indoors.
- Staff will disinfect tables after use.
- Each person must wash their hands with soap and water before entering Cedar Lodge. A temporary outdoor wash station will be available outside of Cedar Lodge. Handwashing before meals will be monitored at all eating places.
- 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 both to 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 also wear gloves.
- 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.

### **Large Group Activities**

- Large group activities will be allowed outdoors between pods of campers. However, staff will be advised not to do activities that involve prolonged close contact between campers in different pods.
- When forced indoors due to weather or other reasons, large group activities will be socially distanced between pods.
- Shared use of the pool between pods will be allowed.

### **Additional Healthcare Procedures**

- Ongoing health monitoring will be done regularly. Campers will be checked for symptoms daily.
- In the event that 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.

- The primary isolation area will be in the health office bunk room in the Hickory building.
- Secondary isolation areas will be utilized as needed and may include mobile homes, cabins, and individual rooms on camp.
- Staff that are sent home with suspected Covid-19 symptoms will not be able to return to camp until they return a negative test and meet local health department guidelines to leave isolation.

### **Vaccination**

We strongly recommend that all staff and eligible campers receive vaccinations and boosters for COVID-19 according to recommendations of the CDC.

### **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 American Camping Association (ACA) change. In Ewalu's case, ACA guidelines have priority.

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 and also recognize more relaxed mitigation as infection rates continue to decline.

There may be further mitigation details specifics to certain programs or program areas. All staff members are expected to become familiar with these and new procedures as mitigation standards change.