**Camp Thorpe**

COVID-19 Handbook

Summer 2023

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**COVID-19 Handbook**

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**INTRODUCTION**

As usual we have thoroughly considered the safety of your camper for the upcoming camping season. We follow current state and local guidance to ensure that we do all we can to minimize exposure to the COVID-19 and other infectious diseases while your loved ones are at camp. As of the adoption of this policy the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has not yet provided new 2023 guidance for summer camps. *If/when it becomes available, we will review and potentially revise this policy.*

**COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM**

Camp Thorpe established a COVID Response Team in 2020 to ensure equity and expertise in our decision-making process. Our team consists of selected Camp Thorpe Board Members, our Executive Director, Camp Thorpe Administrative Staff, and our Camp Thorpe Registered Nurse. We are happy to keep the communication open and going. You may request information from the COVID-19 Response Team at any time by emailing the Executive Director at: execdirector@campthorpe.org

**COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL**

If there is a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 or other infectious disease, we will notify all campers’ families and guardians by email or phone, while maintaining confidentiality consistent with current privacy laws. Any notification of a COVID-19 related incident at Camp will include recommendations for your response as well as details regarding Camp Thorpe’s next steps.

We are unable to share names or identifying information regarding medical information for any camper or staff member. If your camper comes into contact with someone who later tests positive, we will communicate with you if there is any need regarding time frame of exposure and/or contract tracing.

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

Camp Thorpe has adopted the following guiding principles in our approach to the management of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. They are:

1. 100% of Vaccinated staff
2. 80% or more of Vaccinated campers
3. Testing as needed
4. Health screening
5. Hygiene Best Practices
6. VACCINATED STAFF

All staff and volunteers that are in direct contact with our campers will be fully vaccinated. Our contracted vendors who are only occasionally on campus during the camping season – like delivery drivers or contracted maintenance workers – are not included. *All staff will have verification of their vaccinations in their staff employment file*.

1. VACCINATED CAMPERS

We require 80% of all our campers that are coming to camp to be fully vaccinated. Meeting recommended vaccination rates allows us to ensure the safety of everyone.

Proof of Vaccination can be shared with us via vaccination card or other approved documentation of vaccination status. Any camper that does not submit vaccination status will be assumed unvaccinated. ***All campers will be required to confirm verification of their vaccination status with their registration forms at camper drop off.***

1. PRE-CAMP RECOMMENDATIONS

Camp Thorpe is recommending that all attending camp enter into a Limiting-Risk-Period the week prior to their arrival to camp, regardless of vaccination status. The idea being that our campers, families, staff, and volunteers limit their risk of COVID-19 or any other illness exposure during this period.

Examples of activities to avoid in the week before camp include, but are not limited to...eating indoors at restaurants, traveling away from home for overnight stays, attending concerts and events, use of a public pool, full contact sports, and attending large indoor gatherings.

We have not attempted to outline every possible activity here, and we ask that our camp family uses their best judgement to help protect all involved.

1. HEALTH SCREENING

All participants will go through the typical health screening at drop-off. The nurse staff will determine if any symptoms of illness are present at that time as well as during any time during camp sessions.

1. HYGIENE BEST PRACTICES

We are following Centers for Disease Control (CDC) protocols on sanitizing and cleaning of all surfaces and areas, as well as the continued and enhanced protocols below:

* Hands-free hand sanitizer stations will be placed all around camp, in cabins, and in high traffic areas.
* Handwashing will be required prior to all meals and snacks.
* Equipment and activity spaces will be cleaned and sanitized frequently.

**COVID-19 RISK PROTOCOL**

As stated above, Camp Thorpe can test campers and staff on-site in response to symptoms with a Rapid Antigen Test. For any camper, counselor, or other on site Camp Thorpe member who is exhibiting signs of COVID-19 or feeling unwell while at camp will participate in the following protocol as adapted from the CDC guidance for childcare program response.

* The person will be isolated in a designated quarantine room monitored by a nurse.
* Nursing staff will run a Rapid Antigen Test.
* Nursing staff will call the parent or guardian as necessary to discuss results, and advise on further decision making.
* If a camper, counselor or other tests positive Camp Thorpe will require immediate pick-up by assigned parent or guardian and the Camp Thorpe Executive Director will communicate regarding next steps.
* A negative test result may allow the participate to return to a camp cabin pending a decision from the COVID-19 Response Team.
* Any camper exhibiting a fever above 101.0, regardless of test outcome, will be sent home.
* All campers and staff who were in close contact with the symptomatic person will continue to be monitored and/or tested.

**VACCINATION EXEMPTIONS**

Campers, Staff, and Volunteers who cannot be vaccinated for COVID-19 due to a medical restriction or sincerely-held religious belief, practice, or observance may request an exemption through Camp Thorpe. Please contact us directly for questions. Acceptance will be based on available unvaccinated slots.

*Thank you for your continued love and support of Camp Thorpe.*