



June 11, 2021 COVID-19 Prevention Strategy Update

Greetings from IOLBC!

We thank God that summer has arrived, our staff are just completing their final week of training, and we are about to begin the season of Summer Youth Camps and Family Camps! We are looking forward to your arrival at camp, and an opportunity for all to have a great time of games, music, fun recreation at the lake, Bible study, worship, skits and friendship while growing in a relationship of faith in Jesus Christ!

Leading up to summer 2021, we have continued to pay close attention to recommendations for camps in regard to the health and safety of campers and staff. We've consulted guidance from the American Camp Association, the Association of Camp Nurses, the CDC, state and local health authorities and our internal Health and Wellness Review Task Force. In 2020, even before the introduction of COVID-19, our camps formed a Health and Wellness Review Task Force made up of medical professionals to review our health procedure with a goal to meet nationally accepted health and wellness standards for camps in the United States. We are excited about changes that have been made including the addition of improved procedures, standing orders, newly re-established health centers at both camps, and deeper support for the camp medics who serve campers each week with greater guidance from our new Health Care Director.

In addition to strong improvements in overall wellness care, our camps have also addressed procedures for safety in the face of COVID-19, looking for the best systems to provide a great Bible Camp experience while also reducing risks for campers and staff.

The following are the primary points we believe you need to know about our approach to managing risks related to COVID-19:

1. Embracing God's Creation more than ever: Programs and activities will take place **outside** as much as possible this summer. Studies of camps which were open last summer indicated no spread of COVID-19 in an outdoor setting, as shared by the Association of Camp Nurses. We plan to do as many activities as possible outside this summer. Recognizing the work of God's hands in creation is one of our primary teaching objectives, and we will bolster this effort this summer. "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." -- Psalm 19:1 NIV
2. We stress the importance of arriving at camp healthy.
 - a. We request campers monitor their own health daily for 14 days in advance of arriving at camp and stay home if feeling unwell or having been recently exposed to any communicable disease.
 - b. A simple health screening will be part of arrival at camp, with an option for family campers to document self-screening on arrival day prior to coming to camp.
 - c. Youth campers will have additional health assessments as part of the medic getting to know each camper.

3. Cleaning, Sanitization and Facilities:
 - a. Our staff will clean and sanitize buildings daily, with more frequent sanitizing of multi-touch surfaces.
 - b. Ventilation and air filtration will be increased.
4. Meals:
 - a. Handwashing and/or sanitizing will be a regular step before meals. Hand Sanitizer will be readily available throughout camp.
 - b. Meals will be served cafeteria style with added food safety measures in the serving line.
5. Cohorts:
 - a. Youth camper cabin groups will function as small group cohorts, doing camp activities as this group.
 - b. Family camp families will also function as small group cohorts, doing camp activities as this group. Families may mutually choose to expand their small cohort to include other close families as a larger cohort.
 - c. Large group activities will intentionally be moved outdoors as much as possible. When indoors, there will be intention given to provide adequate space between cohort groups whenever possible.
6. Masks: Please be prepared for some limited times we expect to ask campers to mask due to a crowded indoor setting.
 - a. Anyone who wishes to wear a mask anytime will be supported in that decision.
 - b. Please communicate with our registrar in advance if you or your child have a medical exemption for wearing a mask.
 - c. We do not expect this to include any meals. These times could most foreseeably include indoor chapel if weather does not allow us to meet outdoors and the potential to need to be in the storm shelter if there is a Tornado Warning or Severe Thunderstorm Warning. These chapel gatherings, but not a Storm Shelter gathering could be optional for family campers.

Additional details about modifications for youth camps and family camps can be found by visiting our website at <https://www.okoboji.org/covid-19-response>.

Please join us in praying for a safe summer filled with God's blessings for all who are able to come to camp!

Thankful in Christ,

Rod Quanbeck
Executive Director