

SUMMER 2021 FAQ - COVID-19 EDITION

This has been a year like no other, and we can confidently say we have left no stone unturned as we have prepared to run a safe and meaningful summer. Please make sure to read through this entire Geshher COVID-19 plan, so you can understand everything that will go into ensuring everyone at camp is healthy and safe.

This plan was put together under the guidance of our COVID-19 Health and safety committee, which consists of 2 Emergency room physicians, 1 Family Doctor, our on site summer health care staff, including a registered nurse and 2 student nurses, members of our Camp Geshher Board, testing expertise, and parent representation.

Please note that some of the information in this Plan is subject to change based on Provincial and Local (Kingston Frontenac Lennox and Addington) Public Health.

There are still some sections specifically that have not clearly been outlined by Public Health Guidance, including testing, case management and contact tracing. As we get more information, we will of course communicate with you right away

These are written by design in FAQ format with answers that are short, factual, and to the point. As this document changes, changes will be noted in new colors.

Welcome to the one-stop shop for all special COVID-19 related actions taken by Camp Geshher for Summer 2021. Also, please continue to consult the 2021 Parent Manual for all of your non-COVID related questions.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW DOES CAMP GESHER MAKE MEDICAL AND SAFETY DECISIONS?

We are lucky to meet regularly with an incredible medical committee that has helped us create protocols for Summer 2021:

We are fortunate, as well, to have formed partnerships with experts in the medical field:

- Ontario Camps Association (OCA)
- Habonim Dror Camping Association (HDCA)
- Foundation for Jewish Camp (FJC)

BEFORE CAMP

Planning for summer begins in everyone's homes.

HOW DOES MY COVID-19 VACCINE HELP CAMP GESHER?

Residential Summer camp can open in Stage 2 of the new reopening Ontario Guidance. The reopening Ontario plan has certain dates and benchmarks based on vaccination rates. If you can, please get vaccinated. It is the single biggest determination of our ability to open.

WILL COVID-19 VACCINATION BE REQUIRED FOR STAFF AND CAMPERS?

We will not require the COVID-19 vaccine for entry to camp. That said, it is strongly encouraged for anyone eligible. This also helps get Ontario to the threshold for opening camps.

WILL CAMPERS/STAFF BE REQUIRED TO ISOLATE BEFORE COMING TO CAMP? MORE COMPLETE GUIDANCE AND DETAILS COMING SOON

Yes. While we understand other members of the camper's household may not be able to avoid work or grocery shopping for 14 days prior to their camper attending camp, we do ask that everyone pay extra attention to masking, washing, and hand sanitization during this time.

We believe at this time that exceptions include structured COVID-safe environments such as schools (if children are allowed to return) and OCA accredited Day Camps.

Backyard/unregulated camps would not be in this category of exceptions, nor would events such as family reunions.

AND the entire household should consider very strongly to live in a pseudo-lockdown for the 72 hours before their camper's first day. This is the time period between the PCR test and camp arrival. Do the grocery shopping before... please consider working from home... etc.

WILL CAMPERS/STAFF FROM OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE DIFFERENT REQUIREMENTS?

International and out of province (anyone outside of ON or QC) campers and staff will need to follow all government guidelines found here <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid>. The isolation period will be required of all international campers and staff as well. More information will be provided to all of our international campers and staff.

TESTING

Testing, a dynamic, complicated, costly, but important tool.

WHAT TESTING WILL BE REQUIRED BEFORE THE SUMMER?

All campers will be tested using the "Gold Standard" COVID-19 PCR test 3 days prior to their arrival to camp at pharmacies in Ontario. More information will be provided at a later date. Camp will not be accepting any outside testing results. All campers are **required** to be tested and to use the testing guidelines that we will provide. This is to ensure accurate and timely responses. Our staff will be tested 3 days prior to their entry to camp as well.

WHAT TESTING WILL BE REQUIRED DURING THE SUMMER?

We anticipate using a hybrid of PCR and Rapid Antigen technologies to provide: confidence on arrival, surveillance testing through the summer, and as a reaction to campers and staff with COVID-19 like symptoms. As a base standard, we will test all campers 3 times. One 3 days prior to their arrival using a PCR test, one on the day of their arrival using a Rapid test and one 5-7 days into the summer using a PCR test.

We will have a rapid machine on site all summer to to rapidly rule out (or confirm) any potential suspect case. Should COVID-19 get through the cracks into camp, we will have the ability to detect rapidly and avoid an outbreak in camp.

Our staff will be tested for the second time on the Saturday before the campers arrive to ensure a COVID-19 free camp/bubble. Upon campers' arrival, all campers will be screened and tested. All campers and staff will be tested again using the COVID-19 PCR test 5 days after the campers' arrival. Please note – our testing policy is based on the information we have today, and is subject to change.

TRANSPORTATION

Out of an abundance of caution, we will be requiring parents to drive campers to camp on opening day this year. We will provide bussing home at the end of first session and second session.

All 1 week and 2 week campers will be picked up at Camp Geshher.

A more detailed drop off and pick up procedure will be provided at a later date.

Please let us know as soon as possible if there are extenuating circumstances that will prevent you from driving your child(ren) to camp.

SCREENING

“How are you feeling?” Answering carefully and honestly is more important than ever.

WHAT SCREENING PROCEDURES ARE REQUIRED UPON ARRIVAL AT Camp Geshher?

Our opening day schedule and procedures are still being solidified.

Your negative PCR will need to be provided.

There will be rapid antigen testing.

The daily COVID screening questions will be asked and documented before campers can exit the vehicle.

WILL THERE BE IN-CAMP REGULAR SCREENING PROCEDURES?

All campers and staff will be screened daily by our administration team for mental health and wellness checks, as well as symptoms of COVID-19. There will be enough COVID-19 tests in camp should any camper or staff develop any symptoms.

Please note that our testing policy is based on the information we have today, and our testing protocol is subject to change.

COHORTING

WHAT IS A CAMP GESHER COHORT?

A cohort is similar to immediate family; members of a cohort do not need to wear a mask around one another. To limit exposure, one or two cabins will be a cohort. Cohorts will generally have 15-30 campers and 4-6 staff. Within each cabin, campers will be required to sleep in opposite directions – head-to-toe and toe-to-head. Creation of cohorts serves to ensure that infection, should it arise, is contained to a small and known group of people. Members of one cohort will not be permitted to interact *closely* with members of another cohort. But closeness *within* a cohort will be allowed and even encouraged.

- Cohorts may behave as a household does in the city: hugs and closeness will be encouraged.
- Cohorts eat together!
- Cohorts will participate in activities together.
- Cohorts will be in the same waterfront and swim groups.

WHAT IS THE 2 OF 3 RULE?

The 2 of 3 rule is a COVID-19 precautionary measure for times when groups or individuals that are not in a cohort may interact. When these interactions take place 2 out of 3 of the following precautions will be in place:

- Masking
- Being Outside
- Physical distancing

WHAT IS A "CLOSE INTERACTION"? WHAT WILL INTERACTIONS BETWEEN CAMPERS/STAFF FROM DIFFERENT COHORTS LOOK LIKE?

- It is our goal that WITHIN a cohort, campers and staff can be unmasked, indoors, and in close proximity.
- BETWEEN different cohorts, campers and staff must be masked, outside, and distanced by six feet. Certain specialties (like arts & crafts) and certain situations (like siblings who need a hug) will be permitted to utilize the “2 out of 3 rule” masks, outside, distance.
- We are planning programming to ensure that campers remain safe and healthy AND experience camp in the most “Geshher way” possible.

WILL SIBLINGS BE PERMITTED TO INTERACT WITH EACH OTHER, OUTSIDE OF THEIR COHORTS, IN THE FIRST 2 WEEKS?

We understand that this is a question on many parents' minds, especially those with younger and/or new campers. For the first 7-10 days, as siblings will be in separate cohorts, our "2 out of 3 rule" will apply for interactions: masks, outside, distance. We will be working with our staff to ensure and encourage safe sibling connections from day 1.

WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS FOR MADATZ?

Madatz will belong to their Madatz cohort in the first session, and in a cabin cohort during the second session. Having said that, like our specialists, we need Madatz to develop their skills and interact with the rest of camp in leadership positions. During first session placements, Madatz will need to perform their responsibilities masked, outdoors, and at a distance. We will, of course, support them in achieving this.

ARE CAMP-WIDE PROGRAMS LIKE SHABBAT SHIRA, SPECIAL DAY, AND REV DAY POSSIBLE WITH COHORTING?

Yes, we are going to make them all possible. Everything about their spirit will be the same, although their location and exact execution might be different.

WILL THE DAILY SCHEDULE CHANGE?

In order to maintain social distance as much as possible, we will be adjusting the daily schedule for each cabin. There will also be additional "transition" periods to allow more time to sanitize activity equipment, wash hands as necessary, and travel between each activity. All cabin period times will be posted in the cabin and shared with counsellors as per usual.

HOW WILL INSTRUCTIONAL SWIM WORK?

Swim classes will be organized by cabin groups. Swim staff, with the help of the counsellors, will focus on providing a fun recreational swim while teaching multiple levels at the same time.

HOW WILL LIFE INSIDE THE CABIN BE DIFFERENT?

Life inside the cabin will remain largely the same as always with a few exceptions:

- Campers will sleep head to toe.
- More attention will be paid to keeping windows open and cabins well ventilated.
- Enhanced ventilation, specifically outward facing fans, will be in each cabin.

OUTDOOR TIME - AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE

Camp Geshar is already a very outdoor experience and will be, even more so, in 2021.

HOW ARE MEALS CHANGING?

The Chadar Ochel is central to Camp Geshar, and so, eating together is very important to us.

This summer, there will be a handful of changes to Camp Geshar's meal procedures:

- Our chadar ochel (dining hall) will be outside this summer. We have flattened an area outside the chadar, and purchased large tents that can accommodate our camp population safely and comfortably.

- Campers and staff will be required to maintain hand hygiene
- Cabins will sit together at all meals.
- There will be no self-serve areas.
- Food will be brought to each table by one of the cabin counsellors who will receive the food from inside the chadar ochel.
- All dietary restrictions will still be accommodated.
- In case of inclement weather, we will do staggered dining inside our chadar ochel

HOW ARE INDOOR SPECIALTIES CHANGING?

Most of our specialties are outdoors. Those few that are indoors will have full schedules welcoming campers into their building one cohort per period.

MASKS

Sometimes we will need to wear a mask. Here's how we will find the balance.

WHEN WILL CAMPERS/STAFF HAVE TO WEAR A MASK AT CAMP?

Masks will be a part of daily life throughout portions of the day and the following four principles will guide us:

- Everyone at Camp Geshar will be required to follow the “2 out of 3 but preferably 3 out of 3 rule” (masking, distancing, and being outside) when it comes to interacting with campers or staff who are not in your cohort.
- Masks are one of the most effective tools to contain an undetected case of COVID-19.
- Masks will not be worn at waterfront activities by our campers, however, our lifeguards and instructors will be required to wear a mask when supervising waterfront participants.
- Masks will be worn in washrooms (Except for Showering and teeth brushing, which will be scheduled and done by cohort)

WHAT KIND OF MASKS?

We will be asking families to provide 3 layer disposable masks. We want to keep masks safe and simple. We estimate needing 3 masks per day.

Please note cloth masks will not be permitted as the mandatory mask. If a camper or staff wants to wear a cloth mask, it can be worn as a second (extra) mask but not alone. .

THE BUBBLE

Camp Geshar is always a magical place, separated from the world – now this works to our advantage in ways we never imagined.

WHAT IS THE "CAMP GESHER BUBBLE"?

Best practices to operate safely during this pandemic include creating as closed of an environment as possible, which means limiting who comes in and out of camp to the best of our ability. To accomplish this, Camp Gesher will operate as a closed camp (or bubble) for the summer. Once our campers and staff arrive, they will not be allowed to leave. Visitors will not be permitted.

The Camp Gesher Bubble is the title given to our efforts to vastly diminish the number of people coming in and out of our setting during the summer. With staff taking all of their days off inside camp, and the cancellation of all out-of-camp trips, these efforts alone will result in a 99% reduction in traffic entering and exiting camp. Like all of our other interventions, this technique is imperfect but effective nonetheless at minimizing risk.

WILL STAFF HAVE DAYS OFF?

Staff will receive their usual days off, but they will stay in camp. We will provide food from the kitchen and occasional meals from the outside world, and we will dedicate a space for them away from campers, so they can properly rest and recharge.

WHAT ABOUT ESSENTIAL SERVICE DELIVERIES (I.E., FOOD, MAIL, ETC.)?

Most deliveries will be collected at our gate and distributed by camp staff. Some of our most delicate and regular deliveries (like refrigerated food trucks) will be permitted to enter and they will remain masked and distanced at all times.

To reduce the risk of transmission, only senior staff who have received one (or more) dose of a COVID-19 vaccine are eligible for essential trips to town (i.e. bank), and must adhere to all expected COVID-19 protocols and public health guidelines.

WHAT IF A CAMPER/STAFF NEEDS TO LEAVE FOR AN APPOINTMENT (LIKE A VACCINATION OR OTHERWISE)?

We kindly ask that all non-urgent medical appointments (ex. orthodontics) be scheduled prior to or right after camp. Should your child need to leave camp for an appointment please be in touch prior to camp to discuss. All medical appointments will be assessed and the decision to allow campers/staff to leave and return to camp will be determined at the discretion of our Medical and Administration Teams on a case-by-case basis. Should we deem the appointment necessary, we will follow all public health protocols to ensure the safety of our bubble (scheduled 2nd dose vaccinations will be our top priority).

WILL THERE BE AN OUT-OF-CAMP TRIPPING PROGRAM?

Normally, these are out-of-camp experiences; however, this summer, due to our bubble, we are offering an awesome in-camp tripping experience! Campers of most kvutsot will be given the opportunity to go on overnights and/or canoe trips on our own Lake Pringle. They will learn how to build shelters for the outdoors, participate in camping, and learn essential survival skills.

WHAT COVID-19 PROTOCOLS WILL CHANGE AFTER 2 WEEKS?

Our goal is to relax our cohorting, and get back to our regular scheduled all-camp programming where campers and staff get to interact outside of their cohort. Our overall

camp bubble will remain intact the entire session with no new arrivals into camp. **Any changes to COVID-19 precautions and protocols (After the second PCR or after 14 days) will be implemented only in consultation with public health.**

DETECTING COVID

HOW WILL CAMP GESHER'S HEALTH CENTRE BE DIFFERENT?

There will be two health care locations this year.

The first health care location will look after all non-COVID-19 related complaints (sprains, strains, foot soaks, cuts, scrapes, bruises, etc.).

This location will also be responsible for campers' daily medication administration.

The second health care (satellite health triage centre) location will be the first stop for all possible COVID-19 symptoms (sore throat, cough, fever, runny nose etc.).

- A new system will be in place to allow for scheduled appointments in lieu of open 'clinic'.
- Air filtration considerations in the mirpa'ah (Health Center)
- All Health Centre staff will have the necessary PPE.
- If a camper needs to seek medical care outside of Camp, protocols will be in place to safely transport the camper and ensure they receive the appropriate care with minimized risk.
- We will maintain a separate isolation area for those with symptoms of COVID-19 (While we await test results). During this testing window, the cohort will remain quarantined until the test is confirmed as negative. If a camper or staff member tests positive, it is expected that the entire cohort (the person who tested positive and all close contacts) will be isolated and then will have to be picked up and removed from camp within 7 hours, unless directed otherwise by our public health.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19?

Some of the more commonly reported symptoms include:

- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Temperature equal to or over 38°C
- Feeling feverish
- Chills
- Fatigue or weakness
- Muscle or body aches
- New loss of smell or taste
- Headache
- Gastrointestinal symptoms (abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting)
- Feeling very unwell
- Children tend to have abdominal symptoms and skin changes or rashes.

WHAT IF A CAMPER/STAFF TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 AT CAMP?

We will maintain a separate isolation area for those with symptoms of COVID-19 (While we await test results). During this testing window, the cohort will remain quarantined until the test is confirmed as negative.

We don't believe that spending 14 days in quarantine at camp is a positive experience. Therefore, if a camper or staff member tests positive, it is expected that the entire cohort (the person who tested positive and all close contacts) will be isolated and then will have to be picked up and removed from camp within 7 hours.

WHAT IF THERE IS AN OUTBREAK?

An outbreak of COVID-19 will be defined by the local Medical Officer of Health and our Medical Team. The Local Public Health will direct testing and associated public health management of all those impacted. Public Health will provide direction to help manage the outbreak and any additional control measures that will need to be implemented, including defining the outbreak area (i.e. the affected cohorts or the entire camp community), undertaking enhanced cleaning and sanitization practices, and excluding symptomatic staff and participants from all camp settings. Our plan, as always, is to keep you informed and up to date as soon as we can.

DO PARENTS NEED TO BE MORE "ON CALL" THIS SUMMER?

Yes. Parents need to be ready to receive or pick up their camper(s) within a 7 hour timeframe. We kindly ask that all of our families are "at the ready" this summer.

If parents are planning to be away during the camp session, we will need an alternate contact who can be reached, and who is able to pick up your child within the 7 hour time frame.

IN WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD A CAMPER BE SENT HOME AND NEED TO BE PICKED UP WITHIN 7 HOURS?

- Any camper or staff who is confirmed COVID positive via testing will need to be picked up within a 7 hour window.
- Additionally, any camper or staff with a medical situation that our team determines cannot be best cared for at camp, will need to be picked up within a 7 hour window.

IF MY CHILD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 BEFORE CAMP BEGINS OR DURING CAMP, WILL THEY BE PERMITTED TO GO/RETURN TO CAMP?

Our medical team is evaluating this complex issue, which is evolving daily. They plan to assess each case based on the well-being of the individual camper affected, as well as the safety of the entire camp population. We hope to provide more definitive answers in the coming weeks.

WHAT STEPS ARE TAKEN IF A CAMPER PRESENTS SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 IN CAMP?

Please note that while we continue to wait for final guidance on case management by Public Health, we have outlined below the process for the unlikely event of a positive test.

If a camper or staff presents any possible COVID-19 symptoms, they will be immediately assessed by our medical team, and will undergo a COVID test if deemed necessary.

If the individual is suspected of COVID, they will go into one of our designated isolation spaces, and parents/guardians will be immediately notified. A test will be administered.

The remainder of the cohort must remain in quarantine. The remaining members of the cohort will have their own programming options (a “shadow camp”), and all meals will be brought to them. If they need to leave their cabin, they must remain masked at all times. Their symptoms will be closely monitored.

If the test is positive, parents/guardians will have 7 hours to come get the camper or staff. Contact tracing will take place to include close contacts (cohort) and low risk contacts (individuals outside their cohort but may have come into contact with the positive case). It is possible that the entire cohort will have to go home, unable to return. Those details are still TBD.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR COVID-19

Things will be different this year AND EVERYTHING IMPORTANT will be the same.

WHAT WILL DAY 1 ARRIVAL LOOK LIKE?

We will be scheduling everyone’s arrival throughout the day to limit congestion. More information will be provided at a later date.

IS THERE GOING TO BE MORE CLEANING AND HAND WASHING?

While we have learnt over time that deep and strict cleaning protocols do not control the spread of COVID-19, keeping our camp clean will still reduce the overall risk of illness for everyone.

Proper hand hygiene will be clearly outlined for staff and campers at the beginning of camp, and will be reinforced with signage throughout camp. Hand washing and sanitizing will be carefully monitored by staff all summer long.

Cleaning/maintenance staff will be scheduled at times to allow for the greatest amount of social distancing from campers and staff. While a building is being cleaned, campers and staff will not be allowed inside.

For maintenance staff who live outside of camp, they will be screened each day upon arrival at camp and only staff who pass screening will be allowed into camp.

Cleaning/maintenance staff will be required to wear a mask and other appropriate PPE while cleaning our facilities. Social distancing will be followed if staff and campers are in the vicinity of any cleaning/maintenance staff outdoors.

IS SINGING AND CHEERING ALLOWED?

ABSOLUTELY! Ruach is highly encouraged.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE COMMUNAL WASHROOMS AROUND CAMP?

All communal bathrooms will be cleaned regularly and more frequently.

Cohorts will be showering during scheduled times built into their daily calendar. When entering a bath/shower house, all campers and staff must wear masks until they are in the shower. Campers and staff will be asked to limit their time in the shower as much as possible.

Similarly, a schedule will be created for morning and evening wash up times (brushing teeth, etc..).

All other times, washrooms can be used by any camper or staff wearing a mask, and maintaining physical distances when inside the washrooms.

WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH VISITING DAY?

Unfortunately, we will not be able to welcome visitors to camp this year.

WILL LETTERS AND PACKAGES BE PERMITTED?

Yes and yes! Regular snail mail will be delivered as per usual.

In addition you can still email campers.

In terms of packages:

- We will only be accepting packages from Canada Post. This is to limit the deliveries and exposure of the camp.
- We strongly encourage you to keep your packages to envelopes no larger than 9 x 12 inches and 1 inch thick.
- We are unable to accept any packages that are sent COD or that require any payment from camp. Packages sent COD or with any money due will not be accepted and will be returned.
- We would ideally like to limit the amount of items that are entering camp, as well as minimize interactions with mail carriers if possible – so we're asking parents to try and keep packages to a minimum this summer and to send them only if essential.