

## **Camp Riverlea broad COVID adaptations**

This is not an exhaustive list of everything we're doing, but is meant to provide a clear picture of what each camper will personally experience while at Riverlea this year. Not included in this explanation are things like our disinfection procedures, posted signage, etc. This is the "big picture" stuff. Our program is designed in accordance with guidance from the CDC, NCDHHS, and American Camp Association.

It would be extremely helpful to us if you discussed this information with your campers. We will, of course, explain all this information with the kids, but if all the campers arrive with some familiarity to these adaptations, we will be in a much better position to keep everyone safe. There's a discussion guide/quiz at the end of this document to help with that.

We know and trust the science. Vaccines, masks, handwashing, physical distancing, and well-ventilated spaces are extremely effective at reducing transmission and severity of SARS-COV-2. But we also know that none of these measures are perfect; that the combination of these measures is most effective; and that even with a thorough plan and great community compliance in-place, folks can still get sick. We don't want anyone to get sick, or for any family member to become a long-hauler.

### **Our program and mitigation strategies revolve around several main goals:**

1. To cohort kids into discrete groups for nearly the whole day;
2. To stay outdoors as much as possible;
3. To maintain physical distancing as much as possible; and
4. To wear masks when not outdoors or physically distanced, regardless of vaccination status.

### **To meet those goals, we have made several substantial changes to our daily program:**

1. We have removed free play and free swim (which are basically mixed-age free-for-all recess) from our schedule.
2. We have added a sixth activity period (normally we do 5)
3. We have allocated more time to lunch and rest hour for kids to rest mid-day, and get some less structured time to hang out
4. We will do all-camp assemblies outside with kids grouped in their cohorts rather than inside as a big mixed-age clump.
5. Activities are designed to maintain physical distancing so campers can stay safe and remain unmasked for most of the day.

6. Kids will spend less time in the pool. This is a big bummer for us -- we know they love the pool, we love teaching them to be safer and stronger swimmers, and we know it's an important way for us to keep them cool in the heat. But the pool is a tough place to safely maintain physical distancing, especially for young campers. Every camper will get swim instruction every day, but it might be as little as half of an activity period. We will continue to strategize and work with swim staff for how to maximize time everyone can safely be in the water while maintaining physical distancing.

**We will ask everyone (regardless of vaccination status) to wear masks...**

1. At the bus stop (families included) and on the bus;
2. At their group's meeting spot;
3. In transition from one location/activity to another, until given direction from staff that they can safely remove their masks once physically distanced;
4. Indoors (when going to their cubby, the bathroom, changing clothes, etc.)

**Why does everyone, regardless of vaccination status, have the same masking policies?** Because that's the safest reasonable option. Compliance and enforcement of these policies is much easier when they're universal. To make compliance easier, we have adapted our program to reduce the amount of time everyone will need to remain masked. Bus rides comprise the majority of masked time for each kid. Once they're at camp, we estimate they'll only need to be masked for a cumulative 45-70ish minutes per day. The range of this time depends on how long it takes kids to change clothes, get to/from activities, to physically distance once they arrive at activities, etc. Older campers can reasonably anticipate being on the lower end of that range.

**Other important notes:**

1. With more outdoor time, the sun and heat are a more salient concern for us this year. We have many strategies to keep kids cool, healthy, and safe, but will also need your help... Hats, sunscreen, etc.
2. During heavy rain, we will all be in/around the Shire. There's good airflow, and we will all be masked, but physical distancing isn't possible with so many people in that area.

## 2021 DAILY SCHEDULE

**Morning (times dependent on bus stop) -- campers are dropped off at bus stops.** Masks required for everyone. Each morning, families will complete an online screener for each camper before they board the bus.

**Bus ride.** Masks required. Assigned seats, one kid per seat. Youngest kids at the front of the bus, oldest at the back. All windows down for maximum air exchange. Masked (and vaccinated!) volunteers and staff will sit with some kids.

**8:45 Counselors arrive at Riverlea.**

**9:00-9:15 Campers arrive to Riverlea via car or bus.** Campers remain masked, put their lunch and backpack away, and go to their group's meeting spot for assembly. Each age group will have a meeting spot, where they will be subdivided into smaller cohorts. For example, 20 8-year-olds are split into two sub-groups of 10.

**9:15-9:30 Morning assembly (at meeting spots).** Masks still required.

**9:30-10:15 First activity.** Upon arrival to and spacing out at first activity, masks can be removed once directed by the counselor. Since leaving the family car, this is the first time campers will remove their masks.

**10:15-10:25 Juice Break (at meeting spots).** Distanced, and masks on as much as possible. A small snack and some gatorade for everyone.

**10:25-11:10 Second activity.** Arrive masked, then distance, then unmask.

**11:10-11:55 Third activity.** Arrive masked, then distance, then unmask.

**11:55-12:35 Lunch in the shade.** Distanced, unmasked.

**12:35-1:15 Rest Hour in the shade -** Distanced, unmasked, re-apply sunscreen, get to wind down for a bit. This looks slightly different based on camper age.

**1:15-2:00 Fourth activity** Arrive masked, then distance, then unmask.

**2:00-2:45 Fifth activity** Arrive masked, then distance, then unmask.

**2:45-3:30 Sixth activity** Arrive masked, then distance, then unmask.

**3:30-3:45 Assembly, tick checks at meeting spots.** Masks on. Kids will gather their belongings to take home for the evening.

**3:45 Load Busses.** Campers will board the bus back to front (oldest to youngest).

**4:00 Busses ride to bus stops.** Same as morning... Masks required. Assigned seats, one kid per seat. All windows down for maximum air exchange. Masked and vaccinated volunteers and staff will sit with some kids.

**Bus pickup time dependent on stop.** At the bus stop, kids and families are required to wear masks until in their car. Families will sign their campers out like a normal summer.

Especially in the first few days of the session, we don't expect every camper to always remember when and where they are required to wear their mask. The staff and volunteers are well trained, attentive, will be modeling appropriate masking, and are happy to help campers learn and adhere to these policies. Campers can always look to us for a reminder on how to keep themselves and those around them safe.

**WHAT WE WANT EVERYONE TO KNOW**  
**However is appropriate for your kid, please test/gauge their understanding of the following:**

Questions for every camper:

Will you be required to wear your mask on the bus? YES

Will you have an assigned seat on the bus? YES

Will you be required to wear your mask indoors? YES

Why might you have to go into a building?

- To go to cubby
- To change clothes
- To use the bathroom
- To get first aid

Will you be required to wear your mask when walking from place to place? YES

Will you be required to wear your mask at activities? Usually, no. But when you show up to each activity, you have to be wearing your mask.

When are you allowed to take off your mask? When a counselor says it's safe to do so. This will be when you're outside, and physically distanced from other people. Campers can always look to staff and volunteers for guidance.

Additional questions to manage expectations of campers *who have been to Camp Riverlea before*:

Where will assemblies be? Outside, at meeting spots.

Will there be free swim and free play? No.

Will I spend as much time in the pool as in previous summers? No.

Will I still get to do all the normal activities? Yes, but they might be a little bit different to maintain safe distancing.

Will camp still be fun? Yes. Definitely. Absolutely. Just a bit different.