



Summer Camp 2021 - COVID-19 Update

May 2021

We are so excited to welcome campers back to Damariscotta Lake for another incredible summer at Kieve and Wavus! We've always believed that summer in the woods and on the lake with friends and amazing role models can transform kids. After this year of challenge, change, and far too many hours in front of screens, summer camp has never been more important! We're taking great care to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 and we appreciate your patience and understanding that camp during a pandemic requires some sacrifice from all of us. We're approaching camp this summer with guidance from the Maine State CDC and we're fortunate to have doctors, epidemiologists, and school administrators in our parent and alumni network who are generously helping us navigate the process.

Thank you for your trust as we prepare for a special summer. Please reach out to Healthcare and Risk Director, Sarah Kennedy, FNP-BC, sarah@kwe.org with any questions or concerns.

Pre-Camp Preparation

We're all in this together. We're counting on everyone to take the following precautions seriously so campers can enjoy this incredible summer they deserve - safely!

- **Play it Safe:** All staff and campers should engage in low-risk behaviors for **10 days** before camp. Others in the household who have close contact with campers should also be cautious.
 - Wear masks and practice social distancing
 - Avoid contact outside your immediate household except when necessary for school
 - No travel except for travel to camp
 - Avoid large groups, social gatherings, sporting events, and other camps
 - If your child tests positive for COVID-19 or becomes a close contact, please contact Sarah Kennedy to determine how to arrive safely
- **Testing:** All staff and campers, regardless of vaccination status, are required to show proof of a **negative PCR test result taken between 3 and 5 days before arrival. You must submit this information before arriving at camp by emailing your test result to COVID@kwe.org**

Anyone who has had COVID-19 within 90 days before camp begins must email documentation of a positive test result to COVID@kwe.org

Please schedule your COVID-19 **PCR test** on these dates:

- 1st Session: 6/17-6/19
 - 1st Intro: 6/26-6/28
 - 2nd Session: 7/15-7/17
 - 2nd Intro: 7/24-7/26
- Vaccination: COVID-19 vaccination is strongly recommended for those eligible, including campers 12 and older. Please send a copy of your vaccination card to COVID@kwe.org.
 - Packing: Please pack at least 10 well-fitting, washable masks for full session campers and 5 for 10-day campers. Neck gaiters are great for sun and bugs but don't count as masks.

Travel to Camp

Our testing plan requires all campers to arrive on the first day of camp.

- Car: We strongly encourage arrival by car - this is the safest way to travel to camp. Please pack food for travel and limit stops to reduce exposure during transit. Masks should be worn in public areas, like gas stations and rest stops.
- Bus: For those unable to arrive by car, we will provide a bus service from the Philadelphia area with stops in New Jersey, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. Charter buses will operate at 50% capacity and will be well-ventilated. Campers, staff, and drivers will be masked during transit. Please bring a bagged lunch and snacks as the bus will not stop for food.
- Air: While flying is the riskiest option due to potential exposure during travel, we recognize that some staff and campers must fly to camp. Strict adherence to all distancing, masking, and handwashing protocol per CDC guidelines is essential to keep camp healthy.

Unvaccinated **international travelers** must follow current Maine State guidelines and quarantine for **7 days** upon arrival to the country, **prior** coming to camp.

Opening Day

All campers and their families must wear masks during drop-off.

- Arrival Time: Please arrive between **10 am and 4 pm** (*remember, campers must send proof of a negative PCR test result taken within five days of arrival*). Infirmary Staff will conduct a health screening for each camper when they arrive.
- Camper Drop-Off: Prepare for an abnormally brief drop-off this year. Our staff will greet you and help unpack your camper's luggage. Parents can get out of the car to say quick goodbyes.

Life at Camp

We will begin camp with distinct cabin group 'cohorts' while we conduct testing to establish our camp bubble. Cohorts will mitigate the risk of spread and simplify any contact tracing.

- Cohorting: Cabin groups will be considered “household cohorts” and campers will join their cabin group immediately upon arrival to camp. Campers won’t need to wear masks or physically distance with their cabin group. Cabin groups will do all activities and eat all meals together for the start of camp. After two rounds of in-camp PCR testing on **Day 1 and Day 5**, we may consider carefully expanding cohorts. Until then, campers will wear masks and maintain physical distancing when more than one cabin group is using shared space.
- Sanitation and hygiene: Cabins have been assessed for ventilation. Sanitizer will be at activities and shared spaces. Handwashing and hygiene will be points of emphasis this summer.
- Trips: Our wilderness trips are in remote areas, so we do not plan on modifying itineraries. Campers and staff will follow COVID-19 guidelines at each campsite and public park and will wear masks and maintain distance from anyone outside of their group. Cabin groups will not be tested when returning to camp unless they have close contact with people outside the camp bubble.
- Visitors: Campuses are closed to visitors this summer.
- Dining: We’ve added a large tent to each dining hall to expand safe dining capacity. To limit interaction with other cohorts, cabin groups will sit together and meals will be served family-style, just like breakfast during a normal summer.

Illness at Camp

All families must have a contingency plan to pick up their camper within 24 hours if they test positive for COVID-19.

- Symptom checks: Staff monitor camper health nightly as part of the usual ‘medical minute’.
- Testing: Any camper or staff member with symptoms of COVID-19 will be tested by our infirmary staff and will isolate with adult supervision until proven negative. If positive, they will continue to isolate until they are picked up to return home.
- Cabin quarantine: If a camper tests positive for COVID-19, the rest of the cabin group and any close contacts (anyone who was within 6 feet of the infected person with or without a mask for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over 24 hours) will be tested and will quarantine as a group. The cabin group will still do normal activities but will do them together with their counselors and not with campers from other cabins. All cabins have their own picnic tables outside so they can eat separately if they must quarantine.

- **Communication**: We will err on the side of testing for common symptoms such as sore throat but will not notify families of routine testing unless there is a confirmed positive result.

Leaving Camp

*Campers may leave in the morning on pickup day. We will not hold the usual **Closing Parents' Day Chapel and Cabin Ceremony** or serve lunch. Per CDC domestic travel guidelines, we suggest all campers and staff practice social distancing and get PCR tested 3-5 days after returning home.*

Resources and References:

We will provide any relevant updates in June and July.

- Centers for Disease Control: [Guidance for Operating Summer Camps During COVID-19](#)
- Maine Center for Disease Control: [COVID-19 Updates and Information](#)
- State of Maine: [Covid-19 Response](#)
- State of Maine Department of Education: [COVID-19 ToolKit](#)
- American Camp Association: [Field Guide for Camps](#)
- [Maine Summer Camps](#)



KIEVE WAVUS

E D U C A T I O N



Kieveland Education - Summer Camp 2021 - COVID-19 Update

March 2021

*COVID-19 updates will continue throughout spring and summer.
Next updates will be published in early **May**.*

Pre-Camp Preparation

We will provide more details about pre-camp preparation in our early May update.

Quarantine & Testing

We ask that staff and campers quarantine for 10 days before arriving at camp. For now, this means limiting contact with anyone outside of your immediate household and no travel in the 10 days before traveling to camp. Staff and campers will be required to show proof of a **negative PCR test result taken between 3 and 5 days before arrival**. Anyone who has had COVID-19 in the 90 days before camp begins must bring proof of a positive PCR test result.

Packing

Please add well-fitting cloth masks to your list of essentials this year. We recommend at least 10 masks for full session campers and 5 for Junior Kieveland and Junior Wavus campers.

Arrival

Our testing plan requires all campers to arrive on the first day of camp.

Car

We strongly encourage all families to arrive by car - this is the safest way to travel to camp. The drop-off and pick-up process will be shorter than usual and adapted to allow for appropriate distancing.

Bus

For those unable to arrive by car, we will provide a bus service from the Philadelphia area with stops in New Jersey, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. Buses will operate at 50% capacity and will be well-ventilated. Masks and a bagged lunch will be required.

Air

While flying is the riskiest option due to potential exposure during travel, we recognize that some staff and campers must fly to camp. Strict adherence to all distancing, masking, and handwashing protocol per CDC guidelines is essential to keep camp healthy.

Life at Camp

While we cannot guarantee a COVID-free summer, we will be operating with many interventions to mitigate risk and maintain a camp bubble. These interventions include:

- Low-risk pre-camp behaviors

- Wearing masks and maintaining social distance when necessary
- PCR testing on day one and a few days after arrival
- Regular health checks and symptom monitoring
- Preparing infirmaries with appropriate testing, PPE supplies, and training
- Hiring a board-certified nurse practitioner as Healthcare & Risk Director
- Maintaining proper indoor ventilation and keeping programming outdoors as much as possible
- Adding large tents to expand safe dining capacity and implementing family-style meals
- Keeping our campuses closed to all visitors while camp is in session

Thank you for your trust as we prepare for a special summer. Please reach out to Healthcare & Risk Director Sarah Kennedy, FNP-BC, sarah@kwe.org with any questions or concerns.