

Camp Menominee

April 19, 2021

Hi Menominee Parents!

Today we would like to talk about our gateway and in-camp testing program for the summer. We have mentioned this a bit over the past few months, but we are excited to announce that we have officially partnered with the [University of Illinois' SHIELD testing program](#). We will be using this SHIELD test for all of our campers and staff before they arrive, and during camp this summer.

As you read this please keep in mind: we are implementing this program because we believe it is the best way to help us achieve our primary goal of a full and healthy summer at camp. We know there are a myriad of testing options out there, but we have put in the time, effort and research to feel confident that this is the best plan for Menominee campers and staff.

Benefits of SHIELD

- This is a PCR Saliva test. It will only require us to drool into a vial, so it will be much less invasive than a nasal swab.
- This saliva test has a specificity of over 99%, with very few false positives. High specificity combined with frequent testing makes the SHIELD saliva-based test extremely accurate.
- It is a 3 gene look of identifying SARS-CoV-2 virus which allows it to detect asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic COVID in a smaller incubation window than other tests.
- The labs are able to process these tests and provide results in less than 24 hours. Meaning the time between the test and travel to camp is minimal.
- Costs for these tests come at a fraction of other, less reliable, PCR tests.

Pre-Camp Testing Timeline

We will be testing all campers one day prior to the start of each session. All samples must be taken under the supervision of a trained staff member, so we will be collecting the saliva samples in one central location in the Chicagoland area. We will then bring the samples to the labs. We will notify you of the testing site once we secure it, and we will also let you know your window of time to come get tested. We will then use the same test on the entire camp population multiple times during the first week of each camp session.

Testing Dates: Sunday June 20th (Full Season, Session I, Rookie I) / Saturday July 17th (Rookie II, Session II)

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Costs

We will be charging families a COVID-19 testing fee which will include coverage of all of their camper's pre and post arrival testing. The SHIELD tests cannot be covered through insurance as they are not setup for that. We will be billing using a cost recovery model, and once we determine our total costs, we will bill your account and add the charge to your invoice. You should expect this fee to range from \$250-300 for the summer. If you have already paid-in-full we will send you an invoice for this fee. For now, you will see a \$250 testing fee placeholder on your statement.

Quarantine and Out-of-State Travel

- As of now please plan on a 7-day pre-summer quarantine. There is a very real possibility this could be reduced in the next month or so. We sent a [detailed note about quarantine expectations](#) back in March, so please refer back to it.
- For all campers flying into Chicago, please refer to our last few travel emails for all the details you need and how it relates to this testing program. You can find those on the [COVID-19 HQ](#) page and the [Parent HQ](#) page.

Thank you all for your attention to this and for your patience throughout this process. The next email you will receive will be a more detailed overview of our full summer plan as it relates to COVID-19. We'll discuss masks, pods, activities, expectations and much more.