

# Camp Menominee

May 13, 2021

Hi Parents,

We hope you are doing great! If you have not had the chance to [watch](#) or [listen to](#) our extremely detailed discussion of the overall COVID plan at camp, you can do so following those links. We recorded those a week ago and will continue to update you as new information comes in! In fact, we will share an update on our mask policy early next week.

Today we wanted to take a minute today to address the recent news that the FDA has authorized the use of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 12 and older, and discuss how this could impact your son's summer. As we have discussed on many different platforms, we are taking a number of steps to have a full and healthy summer at camp. We are excited to add camper vaccines to the list!

Let us start off by saying that we know the choice to get vaccinated is a very personal decision. Everyone's situation is different, so we are going to approach this as camp directors looking out for our community as a whole. We will have a few hundred campers and staff sharing our living space for the duration of the summer, and all of our recommendations, suggestions and policies are geared toward keeping COVID-19 out of camp, limiting the spread if COVID does get into camp and keeping our campers healthy. So we ask that you understand this just as we understand that every individual family needs to make the best decision for them. Below we'll lay out the facts and answer some questions based on the science, our discussions with medical experts and other camp professionals.

## **Will you be requiring the COVID-19 vaccine for eligible campers?**

No, but we are strongly encouraging it. There have been numerous clinical trials providing scientific evidence that vaccinated people are protected against a COVID-19 infection.

## **How will vaccinations impact their summer at camp?**

We strongly believe in the benefits to our campers and we know the vaccination provides a significant benefit to the camp community. For example, vaccinated campers are unlikely to be required to quarantine at camp in the case of an exposure. So a vaccinated child would be able to continue normal camp activities if someone in his cabin tested positive for COVID-19. The vaccination could also play a role in the need for testing those individuals at camp. Please note: as of today we will still be testing every camper on the day before his session starts, regardless of vaccination status.

**That's it? What about all the other COVID policies? Masks, Cohorts...Will that change for my vaccinated son?**

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While this is great news for campers 12 and up, there is still a significant portion of our population that remains vulnerable. As such, all of our other policies will remain in full effect and will need to be followed diligently by our campers and staff, vaccinated or not. If you have not read up on our policies, please visit our [COVID-19 HQ](#), watch this video going in depth into our overall plan, or listen to the podcast with the same content.

## **When should my son get vaccinated?**

If you choose to get your son vaccinated, we recommend scheduling this ASAP! According to the CDC individuals are not fully protected until 14 days after the second dose. So campers starting on June 21st should plan on getting their first dose by May 17th. Campers starting July 18th should plan on getting their first dose by June 13. If you are not able to get both doses before camp, we are in discussions with our local health department to provide first and second doses to campers this summer.

As always, thank you for your time, patience, diligence and support. If you have any questions (or need help finding an appointment) please let us know. We are up at camp and our summer office is up and running! We can't wait to get started.

For the Love of Camp - Jason and the CM Office