



Safe & Fun @ Sandy in '21

Camper Handbook for a safe and fun summer
at Sandy Island in the age of COVID-19
March 2021

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1.0 Introduction

Camp having been closed for operations during the summer of 2020 was a heartbreaking loss. At the time, the thought that camp might not be able to be open for business in the summer of 2021, a full year later, was frankly unthinkable for many of us. The good news is that Sandy Island Camp will be operating this summer! Tempering that good news is that the summer of '21 is going to have some restrictions to manage the realities of operating under the conditions of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Keeping our camper families and staff safe is our most sacred responsibility.

This guide has been created in accordance with the guidelines from the American Camping Association (ACA), YMCA of the USA and public health departments. It focuses on three key components for responsibly operating a camp in this environment.

1. Frequent health screening and monitoring.
2. Vigilant hygiene practices.
3. Keeping group sizes small and consistent as much as possible.

This document is an evolving set of practices built around the key components to keep us all as safe as possible while at camp. New information is likely to come out to aid in our plans, so this document contains information that should be considered fluid.

We hope that this guide will help everyone in the Sandy Island community understand what the experience of a week at Sandy will look like for the summer of '21. Emphasis is on what is different from the routine of prior years.



We understand you may have additional questions after you read this document. Please feel free to reach out to our office at campingservices@ymcaboston.org or 603-569-2725 for additional information.

High Risk and Vulnerable Populations

Vulnerable or high-risk populations require special consideration for camping programs. Camp cannot be presumed COVID -19-free, and we advise staff members and campers to consult with their primary care providers to determine if camp is a reasonably safe option for them.

People at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are strongly encouraged and recommended to get the COVID-19 vaccine when it is offered to them, but even people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 must continue to follow all public health guidance (*e.g.*, facial coverings and physical distancing), and follow the guidance outlined in this document when on camp premises and participating in camp activities.

Important Pre-Season Dates

Application and \$100 Deposit to reserve cabin is due	October 1, 2020
Initial deposits are no longer refundable	December 31, 2020
Re-opening plan is presented to the entire camp community	March 1, 2021
50% Camp tuition is due	April 1, 2021
100% Camp tuition is due	June 1, 2021

Please note that with regard to dates for payment deadlines, we recognize that the ongoing pandemic poses additional uncertainty around ability to come to camp. We are committed to doing everything we can to ensure camp is safe. We will work with every family to find fair solutions if you cannot come due to COVID-19, or if you must leave early due to COVID-19.

Important Summer Dates

Please Note that for reasons that will become clear while reading, **arrival at camp will be on Sundays this year as opposed to the traditional Saturday.** This will facilitate enhanced facility cleaning each Saturday and provide for a superior ability to conduct contact tracing should the need occur.

June 24	Staff Arrive
Week 1	Sunday July 4 – Saturday July 10
Week 2	Sunday July 11 – Saturday July 17
Week 3	Sunday July 18 – Saturday July 24
Week 4	Sunday July 25 – Saturday July 31
Week 5	Sunday August 1 – Saturday August 7
Week 6	Sunday August 8 – Saturday August 14
Week 7	Sunday August 15 – Saturday August 21
Week 8	Sunday August 22 – Saturday August 28
Week 9	Sunday August 29 – Saturday September 4
Labor Day Weekend	CANCELED

2.0 Prior to Arriving at Camp

This section details what is expected of everyone prior to arriving at camp. These activities will all need to be completed **PRIOR** to your arrival on the first day of your week at camp. Some of these items are activities that have been completed either at North Woods or on the Island in prior years. To streamline operations, we are going to be using online tools this year that will allow us to get a jump on processes, and thus enhance your time at Sandy. **Links to required forms will be sent to you closer to your camp start date.**

10-Day Pre Screen

Staying safe at camp begins by staying safe at home. The NH State guidelines ask that all campers engage in “low risk pre-camp behavior”. This includes avoiding unnecessary interactions outside of your family group and minimizing potential exposure as much as possible. We will be asking all of our campers and staff to be overly cautious about all contact outside the home during the 10 days before your arrival. All families will be required to complete a documented pre-camp clinical screening at home which will cover the seven days prior to arrival at camp. This online form will inquire as to whether

anyone in your family is showing symptoms, has experienced a fever, or has not been careful with regards to physical distancing, hand-washing, and the use of facial coverings.

Provide Evidence of Negative COVID-19 Test

All campers will be required to provide proof of a negative (PCR) based diagnostic test no more than seven days prior to the day of arrival at camp. **At this time, this test is required for all campers regardless of vaccination or immunization status.** Nobody may arrive at camp who tests positive. We recommend obtaining clarity from your health care provider about the best way and time to have the results back prior to the first day of camp.

Provide COVID-19 Vaccination Record if Applicable.

Some have asked if vaccination is or should be mandatory for coming to Sandy Island this year. For a variety of reasons, mandatory vaccination is not required. **We most strenuously request that if you can get vaccinated against COVID-19, that you do.** But it is not a requirement for attending or working at camp this summer. It would be helpful for us to have a copy of your vaccination record.

Camper Paperwork

We are requesting that you have all standard paperwork completed and uploaded before June 1st. This includes required doctor signed physical for all campers under 18 years of age. Forms and upload links will be sent out in April.

Request the Makeup of your Camping “Cohort”

In order to keep our community safe, we have instituted the concept of a “cohort”. A cohort is a group of up to 10 people that can dine together, be in a cabin together, or generally not maintain the same level of strictness around physical distancing guidelines. Each and every camper will be in one and only one cohort. **Generally speaking, a cohort will be the people with whom you share your cabin.** In cases of extended families, it may be nice to extend the cohort beyond a single cabin. You will be given the opportunity via online form to request your camping cohort prior to arrival at camp.

Sign-up for desired Dining Times and Dietary Needs

To accommodate physical distancing during mealtimes Dining Hall operations will need to be changed. We are expanding dining areas to include outdoor dining (under a tent). Furthermore, dining times will need to be broken into early and late seating options. We will ask that each family make their preference known via online form.

Breakfast (7:30 – 8:15) or (8:30 – 9:15)

Lunch (11:30 – 12:15) or (12:30 – 1:15)

Dinner (5:30 – 6:15) or (6:30 – 7:15)

Sign-up for an Arrival Window

As mentioned, arrival for your week at camp will be on the **SUNDAY** of your given week. This is of course a major change to what we are all familiar with. This is a necessary sacrifice to be able to operate safely this summer. So that arrival operations are smooth and to prevent crowding at North Woods, we require that this year you sign-up for arrival in an allotted timeslot. Sign-ups will be via an online form and camper arrival will be between 8:00am and 1:00pm.

Sign-up for Your Departure Boat

In order to reduce paperwork during the week, we will ask you to sign-up for your departure boat prior to your arrival at camp. Sign-up will be via an online form.

Program Sign-ups

In order to make the slightly shorter week as fun filled as possible, sign-ups for various activities and events will be done prior to camp, via an online form. These sign-ups will include Tournaments, the Talent Show, Special Occasion Announcements, etc. This will permit our staff to have tournament brackets completed before you even get to the island, for example.

Complete the Community Agreement

There will be a community agreement we will be asking every camper over the age of 18 to sign, and a separate one for Cave, Junior and Teen aged kids. The agreement will outline our united commitment to keep each other safe.

3.0 Arrival at North Woods Todaro Center

Document verification and On-Site Screening

Upon arrival, all campers will undergo a thorough clinical screening, including a temperature check and symptom screening. In addition, campers will not be able to travel to Sandy Island without proof of negative COVID-19 test results.

COVID-19 Diagnostic Test

A second diagnostic test will be conducted at check-in when you arrive at camp. This will be for all campers. These tests will be provided at cost; estimates are currently about \$50 per camper.

4.0 At Camp

During the boat ride to Sandy Island, you can expect a welcome and mini orientation. We will discuss general camp rules, important operations guidelines, and the following items which are new under the circumstances:

- What camp is doing to protect everyone from getting sick
- Ground rules for operating as cabins (family) and cohorts
- Hand washing protocols
- Physical distancing guidelines and when face coverings will be necessary
- Dining hall operations and food service
- What symptoms to look out for and when to report them to a nurse

Use of Proper PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)

All campers and staff must wear a mask or face covering in any situation where physical distancing cannot be reasonably maintained outside of your cohort.

Camp will promote healthy hygiene practices as recommended by the State of New Hampshire and the ACA Guidance for Resident camps, including training, signage, and additional reinforcement of required hygiene and safety practices.

Continued Clinical Screening

Clinical screening will be required daily for all campers. The screening will be the same as the pre-camp at home screening required prior to arrival. **Each family will need a thermometer to conduct this self-administered screening.** If you forget to pack one, thermometers will be available for purchase.

In addition to the routine testing required above, any person at the camp who develops symptoms of COVID-19 (even mild singular symptoms) identified on daily temperature and symptom screening will be tested for COVID-19 and will be asked to isolate in their cabin until test results are returned.

All campers and staff that are staying for longer than 2 weeks will have an additional PCR-based test during their second week of camp.

Health Care Enhancements on the Island

This summer Sandy Island will increase our medical team with additional nurses and a physician. All medical and general staff will be trained on helping to keep the community safe.

If someone has symptoms we will be following our communicable disease plan.

- If a camper feels unwell, they will be evaluated for symptoms that could indicate COVID-19 infection, such as fever, loss of smell or taste, cough, runny nose, nausea, etc.
 - Individual will need to go to the nurse and be isolated.
 - Individual will be tested for COVID-19.
- Due to CDC guidelines, a camper that tests positive for COVID-19 is required to go home as we are unable to isolate you at camp. We are requiring all families to plan ahead just in case the situation arises.
- At this time, all family members or cohort members in close contact with an individual that has been confirmed positive for COVID-19 will also be required to go home.

Communication

If there is a confirmed positive case of COVID-19, we will notify the whole camp population while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with all applicable regulations. We are not able to share any names or identifying information regarding medical information for any person.

Program

Many of the protocols and adjustments contained in this section are in accordance with ACA and state guidelines, which state: "Social settings of more than 50 people, where appropriate distancing may not be practical, should be avoided unless precautionary measures are observed."

Program Hours have been extended from the traditional morning-only routine of years past, to full-day programming options for CAVE, Juniors and Teens. While younger campers are participating in program activities the program leader will work to ensure these campers are being safe and behaving in alignment with best practices. **Campers not participating in provided programming will still be expected to behave in accordance with these best practices as described, but parents will be requested to ensure proper behavior at all times.** Because of the serious potential negative consequences of behaviors not in accordance with our community guidelines, consequences for repeated infractions of the protocols could include, a discussion about the desired behavior change and could potentially lead to a dismissal from camp without a tuition refund if undesired behavior persists.

Food service Procedures

We will reduce the number of tables in the dining hall, increase distance between tables, and make use of outside dining areas at camp. There will be lots of outdoor dining this summer. All meals will be served by staff members. There will be no self-serve salad bar. Prepared salad options will be available. Campers will be required to wash their hands and sanitize them upon entry.

Sanitation Protocols

- Hand sanitizer stations will be located in high traffic areas.
- An additional handwashing station is being installed outside the dining hall.
- Our housekeeping team will clean all bathrooms, public spaces, and doorknobs throughout the day.
- An ionizing disinfectant sprayer will be used to clean large areas and equipment.
- Instructional areas and sports equipment will be sanitized before and after each use.

Visitation and Guest Policy

Unfortunately, there will be a strict no visitation policy for summer 2021. Everyone arriving at Camp this summer must go through the formal check in procedure through the North Woods Camp site. This will only be available to campers at the designated times on Sundays.

5.0 Staff Operations

Staff Preparation

All staff will report a full 10 days prior to interacting with any campers. Staff will be tested with the same guidelines of campers. Staff will receive additional training during orientation on hygiene, adjusted camp protocols, our Communicable Disease Plan, their role in monitoring symptoms and expectations for responsibly adhering to these guidelines.

Staff Screening & Arrival

Staff members come to Sandy Island from around the globe. We believe the following practices best address the range of possibilities regarding travel exposure.

- All staff members must complete a pre-summer quarantine at home 10 days before camp.
- All staff will arrive at camp by June 24, 10 days before opening.
- Staff symptoms and temperature screenings will be conducted at the airport, upon arrival to camp, and daily at camp.
- All staff will be required to take a COVID-19 test prior to their arrival at camp and at arrival at camp.
- Staff will adhere to all distancing and PPE guidelines.

Staff Management

Residential staff will not be permitted to leave camp during the summer except to visit pre-approved, exclusive-use locations that are owned, leased, supervised, or managed by camp or camp management. Staff will be required to wear face coverings when proper physical distancing cannot be maintained and they are outside their cohort group.

6.0 References

[NH Guidelines for Overnight Camps](#)

[American Camping Association Guidance](#)