

March 2021

## **2021 VSFA COVID-19 Action Plan & Family Agreement: Mandatory Requirements and Best Practices for Camp Operation and Families of Campers**

*Please note: The COVID-19 requirements and best practices outlined in this document are changing rapidly. This document reflects requirements and best practices as of March 2021 and are subject to change.*

Please take the time to carefully read and review the current requirements and best practices that you, your family, and your camper(s) may be required to follow before and during summer camp.

You will be asked to agree to these requirements before registering your camper(s). By signing that you read this agreement, you are agreeing to adhere to the protocols outlined in this document if they are deemed mandatory by Virginia and Maryland Departments of Health or identified as best practices by the ACA, ACN, or VSFA.

We are using this action plan to keep our families updated on how Virginia Space Flight Academy (VSFA) is planning to run the summer camp season based on developments from the CDC, American Camp Association (ACA), Association of Camp Nurses (ACN), and both Virginia and Maryland Department of Health mandatory requirements and best practices, as well as from our local health authorities.

To operate a safe, successful summer, we must partner with you to send healthy campers to camp at the start of the session. The camp preparation must include new things this year as we aim to keep our camp families' safety as our top priority.

Please know that we are working hard to make this summer the best one yet and be as "normal" as possible under the restrictions. We will be implementing seven layers of Non-Pharmacological Interventions (NPI's) to help keep the VSFA space camp community safe.

While we want to communicate the most accurate information at all times, please note that the following COVID-19 requirements and guidelines are subject to change as we approach our 2021 summer camp season.

### **1. Before Camp**

The camp will be a bubble, and while it will be an imperfect bubble, we ask that families begin this bubble fourteen days before their camper's arrival date per current mandatory state requirements.

#### The Family Bubble

- Begins 14 days before the opening day of your camper's session
- Wear a face covering at all times when outside of your household
- Avoid close contact with those outside of your household
- Please do not attend any large gatherings - weddings, birthdays, funerals, play dates, overnight camps, graduations, and overnights outside of your household
- Complete a 14-Day Pre-Camp Health Monitoring Form (due upon arrival)

You will receive more information and specifics regarding the pre-camp health monitoring form in the coming months. We ask all campers who are still in school or must attend out-of-home childcare during the week leading up to their session to follow all masking and distancing guidelines while there and that they maintain the family bubble expectations while not at school.

## Testing

Campers may be asked to provide negative Covid-19 test results within 3 to 5 days before arrival. Failure to provide proof of a negative Covid 19 test could result in campers not being admitted to camp. All expenses incurred from testing will be the responsibility of the families.

## **2. Opening Day & Camper Drop-off**

Families will sign-up for a specific arrival time on the Opening Day of their camper(s) session between 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. If a scheduling conflict arises, please reach out to the camp registrar to find a suitable time. These policies are supported by the CDC & ACA guidelines to help reduce the population density and physical interaction of individuals not entering the camp bubble.

Please do not arrive before your appointment time.

- Please be aware that you will be directed to an off-site location to wait until your appointment time if you arrive before your scheduled time.
- Upon arrival, campers may be required to provide results of a negative COVID-19 test and (if not having already done so) submit the completed 14 Day Health Monitoring Form.

Per CDC guidelines, if campers fall into any of these existing scenarios, they will not be permitted to attend that camp session if answering YES to any of the following:

- Have you been exposed to COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
- Positive COVID-19 Test
- No Proof of a Negative COVID-19 Test
- Having traveled to camp in the exact vehicle as someone who is symptomatic for COVID-19 and then tests positive for COVID-19
- Having traveled via airplane to camp with a fellow camper/family member who is symptomatic for COVID-19 and then tests positive for COVID-19

What are my options if my child tests positive before coming to camp?

- If a camper cannot attend camp due to testing positive for COVID-19, a refund of \$450 will be applicable. We cannot give refunds or credits for late arrivals or early departures. See Q&A section at the end of this document for more info.

We will be striving to maintain a healthy and safe environment for our campers and staff, so we will ask that parents stay in their vehicles during drop-off (besides when hugging goodbye). Parents will not be allowed to walk on camp or visit the cabin when dropping off campers. We envision drive-through stations for you to drop off your campers and complete all necessary opening day activities (i.e., health check-in, luggage).

- Please be mindful of time limitations for our drop-off process to keep the process flowing
- Maintain a physical distance of 6ft when possible with other parents/guardians, campers, and camp staff
- Wear a face covering while on camp property

## **3. Travel to Camp**

Virginia Space Flight Academy prefers and encourages all campers to travel to camp by personal vehicle. If a camper must fly to camp, they will be required to wear face-covering and maintain social distance when possible during travel. VSFA will ONLY provide transportation to and from the Salisbury Airport for campers flying unaccompanied. If mandatory restrictions are in place after you register for camp that restricts campers from attending camp from states outside of Maryland and Virginia, VSFA will work with you to secure registration in the 2022 camp season or initiate partial refunds.

#### **4. Cabin Units**

According to the CDC and ACA, the cabin units at the Lower Shore Family YMCA's Camp Racing Moon are the ideal model for operating a safe camp experience. We anticipate that within the cabin cohort unit, campers will not have to wear a mask. Please review the Face Mask section of this action plan for more details. Campers will eat and participate in activities as a cabin cohort. We will increase cleaning and sanitation standards in the cabins.

#### **5. The Cabin Neighborhood**

We value the co-ed experience. We believe our campers need social experiences now more than ever before. To operate with safe social interaction, cabins will be a part of a four-cabin neighborhood. When interacting with campers outside of their cabin cohort (and anyone outside of the cabin neighborhood), campers will follow the 2 of 3 rule.

At least two of the three following principles must be observed:

- Stay Outside in Open Air
- Wearing Face Coverings
- Appropriate Distance: six feet of separation minimum

#### **6. Daily Schedule**

Our daily schedule provides routine and structure for our campers. Our campers love knowing what to expect each day. It gives a sense of stability and security while they are away from home. We will strive to adhere to the schedule as much as possible, but we realize it may be adapted to allow for more sanitizing, daily screenings, and group size limitations.

#### **7. Daily Health Screening**

We plan to conduct daily health screenings for both campers and staff. These will be similar to those campers will have to complete at home before they arrive at camp. It will include temperature checks and questions; any campers expressing symptoms will be tested for COVID-19 at our local community health center.

#### **8. Sanitation Standards**

"WASH YOUR HANDS" is more important than ever. Campers and staff will continue to wash hands before every meal and throughout the day. Our team will increase the cleaning of bathrooms, common areas, and cabins. We will add even more hand sanitizing stations around camp for use before, during, and after camp activities.

#### **7. Food**

This summer, we will be eating at our camp location. Campers and counselors will remain in their cohorts during meals, and we will follow CDC guidelines for serving food.

#### **8. Activities and Evening Programs**

We will continue to offer fun-filled evening programs, but those may look a little different this summer based on the CDC guidelines for group gatherings. Every cabin will have a fun activity planned each night, but there is a possibility that not every cabin will be doing the same activity on the same night. One of the many benefits of summer camp is being able to spread out in the great outdoors! We have large areas on-site where we can safely

accommodate the entire space camp community. We will continue to monitor guidelines and evolve our plan to maximize the fun factor for our campers and staff this summer.

## **9. Closing Day**

Camper families may be asked to sign up for a specific camper pick-up time for Wednesday. This policy is supported by the CDC & ACA guidelines to help reduce the population density and physical interaction of individuals outside of the camp bubble.

Upon pick-up:

- Your camper(s) will be brought to your vehicle
- Please be mindful of time limitations for our pick-up process to keep traffic flowing
- Maintain a physical distance with other parents/guardians, campers, and camp staff
- Wear a face covering while on camp property

## **10. Communication**

If required, families will be kept well informed throughout each session about testing, isolation, and quarantine measures. Parents of campers in a cabin with a camper who tests positive for COVID-19 will be notified first. If there is a positive case of COVID-19 in our camp community, all families with campers in that session will be notified after the families of campers within the cabin cohort are notified.

To maintain our camper's and staff's health and safety during the session, we ask parents and guardians to notify VSFA if someone who was a member of the family bubble tests positive for COVID-19 after your camper's arrival so we can be aware of your child's possible exposure.

## **11. Face Masks**

All campers and staff will be required to wear masks for a portion of each day at camp. Campers will be required to wear face coverings when within 6ft of anyone outside of their cabin unit. Masks will not be required when campers are in open-air spaces and maintaining social distance or when they are within their cabin unit.

Preferred Face Coverings:

- Two (minimum) or three layers of permeable fabric
- Masks that fit correctly (snugly around the nose and chin with no significant gaps around the sides of the face)
- Masks made with tightly woven fabric (i.e., fabrics that do not let light pass through when held up to a light source)

All campers should bring a minimum of 8 face masks to camp so that one or two can be worn each day. We will not have the ability to wash camper's masks. All face coverings should be labeled with the camper's first and last name or first initial and last name. (Ex: Katherine Johnson/ K. Johnson)

Face Shields and neck gators are not an approved face covering. All campers must wear a face mask if also wearing a face shield.

[We recommend Lovable Labels to help you label your camper's masks!](#)  
[CDC | Cloth Face Covering Guidance](#)

## **12. Vaccine**

The CDC has verified that summer camp staff are included in the COVID-19 vaccination phase 1b. We will strongly encourage staff, who are able, to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccination currently adds a layer of

protection for the individual from the disease; however, we currently do not know if those vaccinated can still spread the illness, if contracted, to others. Therefore, testing, face coverings, and other NPI's will still be implemented to support the camp bubble's health. We do not foresee wide access to a COVID-19 vaccine for our camper population before the 2021 summer season.

For more information regarding the vaccines, please visit: [CDC Frequently Asked Questions about Vaccination](#)

### **13. Who should not attend**

The VSFA team will do everything we can to keep your campers healthy and safe during their session; we cannot guarantee that they will not contract COVID-19 or other communicable diseases at camp. If your child is at higher risk for complications from COVID-19, we highly recommend that you consult your medical provider to discuss the risks of attending camp this summer. Families who cannot pick-up their child if their child has tested positive for COVID-19 within 24 hours should not attend camp this summer. If you are worried about your child contracting COVID-19 this summer, we recommend that you defer camp enrollment until next year.

### **14. Visitors and Tours**

To protect our camp bubble's health and safety, we will not permit visitors at camp during the summer season. As a part of the camp curriculum, campers and counselors may travel off-site on VSFA buses in their cohorts/pods to off-site locations, including Rocket Lab, NOAA, and NASA's Wallops Flight Facility. Access to these off-site field trips will be dependent on COVID-19 requirements and guidelines.

## **Q's & A's**

### **What are my options if my child tests positive before coming to camp? If my child tests positive from their pre-camp COVID-19 test?**

- If a camper cannot attend camp due to testing positive for COVID-19, a refund of **\$450** will be applicable. We cannot give refunds or credits for late arrivals or early departures.
- In the event of a cancellation before May 31, 2021, a refund of **\$450** will be applicable. After June 1, 2021, cancellations are **not eligible** for a refund unless a medical statement is signed by the camper's physician, in which case the \$450 refund will apply. Changing the week of camp once a camper is registered is not permitted.

### **Will you require your staff to be vaccinated?**

While vaccination will not be a condition of employment, we strongly encourage our staff to receive the vaccine for COVID-19 before the 2021 season.

### **What if my child gets sick while at camp?**

Should your child become sick at camp, we will evaluate and monitor their symptoms. If COVID-19 is suspected and they test positive for it, we will require that you make arrangements to pick them up within 24 hours. Our medical staff will provide the attentive and loving care that we always do for your child until you arrive. As always, communication is our top priority while your child is in our care, and our camp staff will contact you.