

GFC Infectious Disease Protocol

Each summer, our first and top priority is the health and safety of our campers. For this reason, it is imperative that we do everything we can to avoid any sort of viral outbreak, and that we be well-prepared just in case.

Greene Family Camp's Communicable Disease Protocols are outlined below. These protocols were developed in 2000 and revised in 2009 and 2017 in response to significant illnesses at camp. They represent our standard operating procedure. Please take time to review them, particularly those areas that relate to before camp.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES BEFORE CAMP

We look to parents to make sure their children are ready health-wise for the camp experience. We recommend the following:

- In the 7 days prior to departing for camp, please take your child's temperature EACH DAY. Any child registering a fever in any of the 7 days prior to their anticipated departure for camp may potentially have a communicable disease.
- If your child registers a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, have your child evaluated by his/her physician, and immediately notify the camp of your concern.
- If, after physician's testing, it is determined that the child has a communicable disease, the camper **MUST REMAIN AT HOME** until the child's physician declares the child to be of no threat to others. A discussion with the Camp Director and/or Medical Director will determine when the child will be able to come to camp.
- Even if the illness is not a communicable disease, no child should come to camp until they are symptom free and healthy for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medication. Again, a discussion with the Camp Director and/or Medical Director is required.

CAMP PROTOCOL ON OPENING DAY

Immediately upon arrival, a medical screening will be conducted by our infirmary staff and will include the following steps:

- Two questions will be asked by staff: (a) "Has ANYONE (adults, campers, siblings) had any illness in in the last 5 days – any nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, fever, chills, muscle aches, rash, or cough that is unusual for them?" And (b) "Has ANYONE (adults, campers, siblings) had a KNOWN exposure to someone with a communicable disease in the past 10 days?" The camper's temperature will also be taken.
- If the answer to either question is YES, then detailed information will be gathered, a more comprehensive exam will be conducted. If a camper arrives displaying a fever or other flu-like symptoms, parents will likely be asked to take the child home for further evaluation, and to not return the child to camp until s/he is symptom free and healthy for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medication; others who answer YES to the questions above may also be asked to leave the grounds.
- A lice head check will also be conducted.
- Prescription medications will be collected at the gate as well, so be sure to have completed medication administration form as along with the medications in their original containers.

PREVENTION THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER

During both the pre-camp staff training and in-service sessions conducted, staff members will be trained in the specifics of communicable disease prevention.

- Hand washing facilities and alcohol-based hand sanitizers will be available at numerous locations throughout the camp. Reminders and instruction on safe coughing practices and appropriate hand washing procedures will be incorporated into the daily life and culture of camp.
- Housekeeping staff will disinfect all public bathrooms and additional “high contact” areas around camp including door and sink handles throughout each day.
- Regular inspections will be conducted and additional staff training and camper reminder strategies will be implemented through the summer.
- Infirmary visit/sick-call log will be regularly evaluated for illness trends.

TREATMENT PROTOCOL

- Anyone experiencing symptoms that would suggest a communicable disease will be immediately separated from the general camp population; if it is a camper, the primary parent will be notified.
- If proper testing and evaluation can be conducted on site, we will do so. If not, further determination will be made as to whether camper will need to go to urgent care, ER and/or be picked up by a parent and taken home for treatment.

OUT-OF-CAMP TRIPS

For those units that take out-of-camp trips (all but Bonim) itineraries will be planned to minimize contact with those from the general community, and all trip participants will be reminded regularly of proper health and safety practices.

CONCLUSION

Our success in keeping a communicable disease from entering camp begins with your diligence and assessment of your child’s health in the week prior to their departure. We cannot think of anything more disappointing than having to tell your child that his/her departure for camp has to be delayed because of illness. We are counting on you to help us by serving as the first line of defense. Clearly if your child is ill, the place they will be most comfortable is in your care in their own home.

We monitor the local Health Department data to keep track of what is happening throughout our area, and we’ll do everything possible as summer progresses to update you promptly with any necessary information.

It is our hope that with heightened and diligent hygienic practices and a camp-wide awareness of communicable disease detection and prevention we can avoid any exposure and enjoy a healthy and happy summer. For our plan to work, we depend on your help and follow through with pre-camp monitoring, and honest assessment of your child’s health prior to their departure.

As always, we are available should you have any questions or comments.