



2021 YMCA CAMP OF MAINE COVID PROTOCOLS FAQs

Are you only offering two-week sessions this summer?

Yes. We have made the decision, with the health and well being of campers and staff in mind, to offer only sessions that are at least two weeks in length.

What should my family do before camp?

Families are encouraged to engage in low-risk behavior in the two weeks before campers arrive at camp. Families should limit unnecessary travel and others exposures. Families should also talk about camp and get excited about camp!

What are you doing to prepare your counselors and staff differently?

We have been meeting with our full summer staff monthly since November, to discuss and prepare for summer 2021. Staff have been a part of brainstorming safe program activities, cabin life and mealtimes, planning for and managing their personal time, and caring for their campers' varying needs.

We have extended our staff training time to two weeks, during which time our staff will be trained extensively around new protocols, the potentially greater social and emotional needs of our campers, and deeper monitoring and caring for campers physical and emotional health.

All staff will arrive at camp with a negative PCR test, and will take the antigen tests along with the campers each session. Staff will not leave site during their time off throughout each session, and will remain in cohorts along with their campers.

Will my camper be required to take a test or have a vaccine?

Campers are required to arrive at YCamp symptom free and with a negative PCR test for COVID-19, administered no more than 72 hours prior to arrival. If the camper has a positive test due to previous exposure, they must bring proof of the original positive test. If the original exposure was less than 14 days before the start of their session, the camper will be rescheduled to a later session. Vaccines are not required.

We are working with a PCR testing service that families can choose to use, and we are happy to provide further details to interested families.

What can I expect at Check In?

- Families will need to reserve their drop-off time, prior to the first day of the session. This will limit the number of people onsite at one time, and the possible spread and exposures. Masks will be required, covering mouths and noses, for all, throughout the check-in process.
- Families are required to limit those in attendance at drop-off to two parents/guardians per family. Parents/guardians must be symptom free, must not have tested positive to COVID-19 in the last 14 days, and must not have not been exposed to anyone who is COVID-19 positive in the last 14 days.
- Once parked and having shown the campers' negative PCR results, campers and families will move the campers' belongings directly to their Village, where Camper Check-In and Health Check procedures take place. These will include:
 - COVID-19 Screen



- Lice Check
- Temperature Check
- Initial Symptom Monitoring
- Campers will be given cabin assignments, and families can take campers and their belongings, to their cabins. Family members must remain outside the cabin. Counselors will help campers move into the cabin and get settled.
 - Once campers are dropped off at their cabin, families will leave within their pre-assigned timeframe.
 - Medical Staff will be stationed in front of the Infirmary for families to meet with as needed, and to turn in medications and update health forms. 6' markers will be established to maintain social distancing and ensure confidentiality.

What will my camper do on the first day of camp?

Campers will settle into their cabins with the help of their cabin counselors.

Cabin groups will take camp tours and swim evaluations.

Campers will enjoy their first meal at camp with their cabin group, outside.

Villages will meet together to hear from their leaders what village life will be like throughout the session.

Will my camper have to wear a mask at camp?

Yes. Campers and staff members will remain masked unless they are in their cabins, with the exception of eating, teeth brushing and showering. For outdoor activities when proper distance can be assured, masks may be removed.

Will you be testing campers throughout the session?

Yes. On the fourth day of the session, everyone will be administered an antigen test onsite. The results of these tests are available within 15 minutes. Beyond this, tests will be given as needed.

What if someone tests positive for COVID-19 at YCamp?

If someone tests positive:

- The individual and their cabin group will be isolated.
- Families of the affected group will be notified.
- PCR Tests will be arranged for everyone in the group.
- If results are positive for COVID-19, arrangements will be made with families to pick up campers and take them home.
- If results are negative, individuals will be monitored additionally, while incorporating back into their group.

Will my camper get to be with other campers?

Yes. Campers will be placed in cohorts according to the guidance provided by Maine CDC.

Campers will participate in their activities and eat meals within these cohorts. As restrictions allow, cohorts will be eased. The cohorts will be:

- South Village (Boys' Unit)
 - Cobbossee Village
 - Rotary Village
- North Village (Girls' Unit)
 - Kennebec Porch
 - Sommerset Porch
 - Maine Porch



How are you handling meals?

As often as possible, meals will be served and eaten outside. Meals will be served “cafeteria style”. Campers will eat on picnic tables with their cabin group.

When outside dining is not possible, meals will be taken indoors. One cohort will eat in the Dining Hall and the other cohort will eat in the Auditorium. Cabin groups will eat together.

Will my camper be able to choose their activities?

Camper choice is an important part of the culture of YCamp, and we are working hard to preserve this, safely. Cohorts will have access to each Program Area for half of each day. Campers will have some opportunity for activity choice within those Program Areas, at their assigned times.

What activities are you offering this summer?

Our activity selection is always determined by the skillsets and interests of the staff whom we hire. Many of the traditional camp activities will look the same, this summer, as they usually would - archery, many arts and crafts, paddling, tennis, for some examples - others will be reimagined so they can be safely enjoyed, with a twist, using the creative minds of our counselors and staff!

My camper always loves the all-camp activities in the evening. Will those happen?

We hope so! For the first week of the session, evening activities will be planned within cohorts, with everyone masked and socially distanced. Our program staff will be working to adapt many camper favorites, and to introduce new activities.

For the second week of the session, we hope to offer large group activities that all campers can participate in together. This will be determined each session, depending on the health of the group.

What extra health and safety precautions are you taking?

Along with all of the protocols outlined in this document, we have added hand washing stations around camp, and counselors will be reminding everyone to use those, and providing hand-sanitizer, frequently. High touch spots (light switches, door handles, etc.) in common areas will be cleaned with higher frequency. Counselors and staff are being trained to closely monitor their campers and note any health concerns. We are rapid testing anyone who presents symptoms of COVID-19. All staff members are strongly encouraged to receive a vaccine before coming to camp.

What happens at Pick-Up?

- Families will need to reserve their pick-up time, prior to the first day of the session. This will limit the number of people onsite at one time. Masks will be required, covering mouths and noses, for all, throughout the pick-up process.
- Families are required to limit those in attendance at pick-up to two parents/guardians per family. Parents/guardians must be symptom free, must not have tested positive to COVID-19 in the last 14 days, and must not have not been exposed to anyone who is COVID-19 positive in the last 14 days.
- YCamp staff will guide drivers to parking spots based on their camper’s Village, to help simplify the pick-up process.



- Campers from North Village (girls) will move their luggage to the Dining Hall area and parents/guardians will meet their campers there.
- Campers from South Village (boys) will move their luggage to the grass beside the Jeff Smith Union (parking lot), where their parents can meet them.

Can we shop in the Camp Store?

We have some great new items in the Camp Store for 2021! Our online store is open, (<https://www.maineycamp.org/camp-store>) with 2021 items coming soon.

Orders can be placed ahead of your camper's session and be picked up on arrival at YCamp! You can also choose to have your items shipped to you for a fee.

We are unsure exactly what will be available for "shopping" on check-in or pick-up days, so online is the best option at this point.

With all of these changes, is my camper really going to get a real "camp" experience?

For 105 summers, YCamp has been "camp" for campers and staff. Every year, there are changes. Sometimes they are subtle, sometimes more obvious, but camp has continuously been changing for over a century.

Since March 2020, our kids have been adapting to change. Things have been really different. Things will be different at YCamp too, but there will be a lot that isn't different. YCamp is the people, the food, the cabins, the woods and lake. YCamp is looking people in the eye, and having a conversation as you eat a meal together. YCamp is paddling a boat with a new friend. YCamp is the feeling you get when your arrow hits the target for the first time. YCamp is Taco Tuesday - every Tuesday! YCamp is supporting a friend who is struggling with something and being supported when you need it. YCamp is not having your phone, and learning that you actually don't really miss it. YCamp is a smell and it's a feeling.

YCamp is going to be different this year, just like it is every year, and it is going to be a "real camp experience". We are so ready to share that experience with your camper!

If you have a question that isn't answered here, call or email us. We want to hear from you!