

## **Covid-19 protocols for summer of 2021**

We are excited to welcome students back for the upcoming summer and look forward to offering them our strong field science program and a chance to interact with other students who love the ocean as much as they do. To accomplish this, it's important that parents, students and staff understand the importance of working together to have a safe and successful summer. As we prepare for the summer of 2021, we plan under the assumption that the Coronavirus will still be with us. We will promote social distancing but understand that the students want to connect with peers. The joy of camp is making friends through talking, laughing and learning. With that said, know that we'll create as safe an environment as possible while still allowing for those important social connections.

While we're several months away from the start of the program, we will work under the guidelines of the CDC with best practices for keeping everyone safe. These are the current protocols we intend to follow.

### **Pre-arrival**

Our staff will do a thorough deep clean prior to the start of each session and a daily cleaning of touchable areas. Students should have their own "cleaning pack" which includes several masks and hand sanitizer. We also have hand sanitizing stations and hand washing stations around the property, but students should have their own to use as they wish while in the field.

The best way to keep everyone safe is to be sure that those entering the program are healthy. Assuming that testing is more available in the spring of 2021, we are asking that the students receive a negative Covid-19 test with 72 hours of the start of their session. To aid in getting the test, we'll be sending you a letter for your physician that states they'll be attending a program where students will be living together and that they require a test. Our staff will also be tested prior to the start of the season and then maintain only essential contact with anyone off site.

### **Arrival**

Upon arrival, please remain inside your car and follow the directions of the staff present. After meeting with the director, a staff member will help remove the luggage from the vehicle and escort the student inside. To minimize contact, only students and staff will be allowed in the building. Please have medications, health form, snack food, etc., ready to go and say your goodbyes to your child prior to your arrival. Once inside, the student will find a bunk, get a tour of the building and meet with the nurse. If you would like to talk to the nurse about anything, we recommend you call prior to the start of the session. You can find a tour of the building at our website.

## **Dorms**

We will limit the total number of students in the program to 40 students in a two-week program this summer in order to allow for even more physical distancing. As has always been the rule, students will sleep with their heads at least six feet apart. Each dorm room has multiple large windows that will remain open for ventilation and air circulation. Air purifiers will also be in the sleeping areas and other places where students congregate. Touchable surfaces will be disinfected regularly by staff.

## **Dining**

Students have their breakfast and dinner at the site but we will eat outside at physically distanced picnic tables as the weather permits. In the case of inclement weather, meals will be served in two seatings in order to reduce the number of people in the kitchen by 50%. Food will be plated by kitchen staff and lunches will be made for the students to take on their morning activity. We'll take orders for sandwiches each evening.

## **Vans**

Students will be spread out in vans and masks are required. The insides of the vans will be disinfected each evening.

## **Activities**

While we don't typically run into many people from the outside on our activities, there are some places where it's impossible to avoid the public. All of our academic and recreational activities will go ahead per usual. Boat trips for water testing, fishing, etc., are on a boat that AIO charters and there are no outside passengers. We will not be offering a whale watch this summer since it is only available from a large tour boat that can hold 300 people. We will also not be taking students into Bar Harbor where they could interact with other tourists. We would recommend you consider a visit to Bar Harbor or a whale watch on the weekend following the program. All other program activities should not be affected by these protocols.

## **Medical**

Our nurse will check students each morning for fever, cough or other potential symptoms. If symptoms are present, we will follow the CDC guidelines for isolation and testing if appropriate.

To avoid contamination, bring new bottles of prescriptions and leave them in the bag from the pharmacist to give to our nurse. Do not bring over the counter medicines as we are well stocked.

**Other general safety measures:**

- chairs in the kitchen and lecture halls will be arranged to allow for distancing and masks are required unless students and staff are eating.
- touchable surfaces throughout the building will be disinfected daily.
- there will be additional hand sanitizers and handwashing stations inside and outside on site.
- no outside visitors will be allowed in the building once the program starts but you are still welcome to call your child on our landline or send an email. Since phones and computers would need to be wiped down between uses, they will only be available during free time blocks when staff are available to clean.
- everyone must wash hands before meals and use hand sanitizer before entering and leaving a room.
- we will still offer snorkeling, but students will need to bring their own mask and snorkel. We will have fins available. No sharing of equipment is allowed.

Please keep in mind that the CDC guidelines may change from now until the start of the summer so our guidelines may need to change as well.