

Covid-19 protocols for summer of 2022

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. We have decided to add back a few activities we weren't able to offer in 2021 as long as we're able to follow the CDC, local and state guidelines at the time. These include the whale watch, trips to Bar Harbor and the end-of-session cookout. For this reason, we are requiring that all students and staff are fully vaccinated for Covid-19 by the start of the session. While there is still no guarantee of not being exposed to the virus even with a vaccine, research has shown the risk of serious illness and hospitalization is dramatically lower. As for other protocols, we will follow those recommended by the CDC, state, and local health departments at the start of the summer 2022. These could include protocols that we used last summer when we ran a Covid-free program such as masks inside, use of hand sanitizer, additional ventilation, air purifiers, pre-arrival health monitoring, pre-testing, etc. We'll continue to follow the science by monitoring the virus spread and make changes accordingly. 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 among students. If you wish to discuss any of the protocols prior to registering, please contact the Executive Director via email (explore@acadiainstitute.com) or by phone (800-375-0058).

While we're several months away from the start of the program, we can only make decisions on current guidelines of the CDC with best practices for keeping everyone safe. These are the current protocols we anticipate:

Pre-arrival

Our staff will do a thorough deep clean prior to the start of each session and regular 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. At this time, we are not requiring fully vaccinated students to be tested. We will ask that students complete a pre-arrival health monitoring for 14 days prior to the start of the program. If the CDC recommends a negative Covid test for participation in camps, we will need to require that as well.

Arrival/Departure

To avoid any outside contamination, only students and staff may come inside of the building on arrival. On arrival day, please remain inside your car and follow the directions of the staff present. The director will meet you at your vehicle for a preliminary health intake before allowing the family to help unload after which a staff member will escort the student inside. 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 facility, 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.

On the final Friday, students should plan to depart by noon to allow time for a deep clean of the building prior to the start of the next session. For interested families, there's a cookout between 11 am and noon. At this time, you're welcome to let your child take you on a tour of the building, watch the end of session slideshow and have lunch. Masks will be required inside. If you're unable to join us, there is a tour of the building (along with several other marine science videos) that can be found at our YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIViI4q_k2Qhhnx30kF7LNw

Dorms

We will limit the total number of students in the program to 42 students in a two-week program and 38 in a one week program. 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.

Medical

Our nurse will monitor students for fever, coughs, 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.

We require the completed health form is submitted prior to the start of session. This includes the AIO health form, the doctor's physical, immunization record, a copy of the insurance card and proof of Covid vaccination.

Other general safety measures:

- 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.
- everyone must wash hands before meals and use hand sanitizer before entering and leaving a room.

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.