

# GUIDANCE FOR PIONEER GROUPS

*\*updated May 6, 2021\**

Here at Camp Lone Star, we are committed to doing everything in our abilities to keep you and your family safe. We pray this document helps to answer most of the questions you may have about Summer Camp 2021 at Camp Lone Star.

## Can you guarantee my child will not be exposed to COVID this summer?

No, we cannot guarantee your camper will not be exposed to COVID this summer. There is inherently a risk of exposure; however, we are committed to high standards of health & safety.

We believe that now more than ever, campers need what camp offers: to experience Jesus and the opportunity to disconnect from screens and engage in Christ-centered authentic relationships. If the risk does not outweigh the outcomes for you and your family at this time, then we completely understand and encourage you to wait till next summer.

## Is there anything Pioneer leaders need to do before coming to camp?

We want what is best for you and your campers, and we know you will partner with us to help create the safest environment possible for our campers this summer. The key to preventing the spread of illness is stopping it from even entering camp. Here's what we need from you before you arrive:

- **Practice Safe & Health-Promoting Practices:** We need your help to mitigate the risk by teaching your campers how to properly [wash their hands](#) and practice proper [respiratory etiquette](#).
- **Pre-Camp Health Screening Form:** We are asking all parents and campers to complete our [Pre-Camp Screening Health Form](#). **You will bring this form with you to check-in.** Please know that we are not just screening for COVID symptoms but any and all illnesses. It's important that if your child is sick in any way, you contact our office to reschedule for a future week.
- **Collect Forms & Medications:** As usual, Pioneer leaders are expected to collect all camper forms prior to departing for camp. This year, that includes the Pre-Camp Screening Health Form.
- **Screen Your Group:** For Pioneer groups arriving in the same vehicle, **if one camper is suspicious of being symptomatic during check-in then, unfortunately, the whole vehicle would be considered compromised (unless all riders are wearing masks)**, and as a result, not permitted to complete check-in. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you screen your group prior to boarding vehicles.

## Will my camper have to be tested prior to coming to Camp?

Campers will NOT be required to have a negative COVID test prior to arriving for their camp session. However, if you choose to have your camper tested prior to arriving, please bring the results of the test with you as it will aid us in our health screening process.

During the on-site health screening process, if your camper is symptomatic or suspected of having COVID, a free onsite COVID rapid test will be available to be used to rule out COVID on a case-by-case situation.

## Will campers or staff be wearing a mask/face covering during their camp session?

Since a majority of our summer camp day takes place outside, we do not plan on requiring our campers or counselors to wear face coverings at Camp Lone Star. However, we will fully support any family's decision to have their camper wear a face covering during their summer session.

Staff will be required to wear masks when they are serving food or serving as a medic assistant.

## What happens if a camper gets sick?

We are blessed this summer to have a licensed nurse (BSN) on staff and on-call 24/7. We have also identified multiple isolation/quarantine areas in our medic station. These spaces are reserved for isolating those exhibiting symptoms of communicable diseases. In short, we will follow our new Communicable Diseases Emergency Action Plan which includes:

- Staff or campers exhibiting new or worsening symptoms of possible COVID-19, or a camper or staff member who fails daily screening, will go to the Medic Station for further evaluation. Parents/Guardians will be contacted to be kept informed with their symptoms and treatment.
- There, our Medic Coordinator will examine them to evaluate their symptoms. If there are enough symptoms consistent with COVID-19, a COVID rapid test will be administered with results generating between 8-15 minutes. Once again, parents/guardians will be updated.
- In the event of a positive test, the camper will immediately be isolated in one of our multiple quarantine rooms in our Medic Station. We will contact parents/guardians once again to coordinate with them to pick up, or arrange to have picked up, the camper within 8 hours. We will be in contact with our county emergency officials, and state and local health departments to report the positive test and begin contact tracing.
- We will then notify all parents or guardians of campers in their cabin group. The parents or guardians may decide to either pick up their child from the camp or leave the child in the camp and trust the camp to take appropriate safeguards. We will keep the cabin containing the individual who tested positive for COVID-19 isolated from other cabins at the camp for the remainder of the camp session.
- Any contaminated or compromised area(s) of camp will be cleaned and sanitized according to CDC guidelines.

## What will check-in look like?

We recognize that our regular space for summer registration check-in is small, compact, and hot. This summer we will be moving our check-in to the Hangar (large pavilion near the ball field). We will have parkers and greeters to help point you in the right direction upon arrival. This allows for space to spread out as well as provide shade and a breezeway. Additionally, here are a few changes you can expect:

1. **Drive-Thru Health Screening Check:** As we have always done, we will conduct temperature, symptom, and lice checks during our check-in process but this time it will be as soon as you arrive on campus. Cars will be directed forward, and all passengers will be temperature and symptom checked. Campers will also go through a lice-check at this time. We maintain a no-nits policy. Please refer to our [Lice-Prevention Policy](#) in our registration materials for more information. Any camper who is *unexplainably* symptomatic or is suspicious of being symptomatic will not be allowed to check-in. We will have COVID rapid tests available to help should it become necessary. But don't worry! If there are any issues, we will work with you to find a better time for your child to come so the virus does not spread to other campers.
2. **Social Distanced Check-In:** We will be vigilant in following the CDC's recommendations to maintain 6 ft. of distance between families during our check-in process. This also means we desire to limit the amount of people in the check-in area. We are asking families to have as few

people in the check-in line as possible—only registered campers and ONE parent/guardian. Other family members are welcome but are asked to wait in their vehicles.

3. **Cabin Drop-Off:** We know coming to camp is an exciting time and we want to preserve that excitement but also protect all campers and staff. Therefore, to lower traffic and transmission in our cabins, **only campers and staff will be allowed to enter cabins**. You will be greeted by your camper's counselor outside their cabin. A Junior Staff member will be there to help unload your camper's things and help get them settled into their cabin. Our counselors will be excited to visit with you and answer any specific questions you have about the week ahead. If you're curious what the inside of a cabin looks like, check out our [facilities page](#) on our website.

**Wait...there's more!** We also realize that one of the challenges to Pioneer Camp check-in remains that not everyone arrives at the same time which can delay the check-in process. As a result, we have made some adjustments to make this process smoother for Pioneer campers and their leaders. Here are a few more enhancements you can expect:

1. Pioneer leaders will **only** check in those campers whose **parent is not present**. This means that if a pioneer group brings a majority of the campers, they will not have to wait for a parent bringing their camper separately.
2. Any campers who are **brought by their parent** must be **checked-in by their parent**.
3. If you are traveling with the entirety of your Pioneer group, you will check in as a group.

We will have signs directing you to your perspective check-in areas as well as staff to help answer any questions you may have. We hope that this helps ease the stress of Pioneer campers, now and in the future.

### **Will Pioneer campers be able to interact with campers from their same group? Will we be able to have Pioneer time each day?**

Gov. Abbott's Open Texas recommendations state that campers and staff are to be separated into groups or cohorts that remain consistent over the camp session. This means that there is not a requirement to practice as much social distancing within our cabins; however, we will practice full social distancing **between** cabin cohorts. This means Pioneer campers who are not in the same cabin or cohort together will not be able to interact in the same way.

That being said we recognize the loss Pioneer time was last year, so we want to make it happen! **Pioneer time will be allowed provided all campers and pioneer leaders are wearing a mask during the entirety of the time together**. It is also recommended that the pioneer campers sit 6ft apart during their Pioneer Time. Pioneer leaders are responsible to ensure masks are worn properly. The wearing of masks and distancing during this time will ensure that our cohorts do not cross contaminate.

### **Outside of that time, will Pioneer leaders be able to see/interact with/check-in with their campers?**

Yes! Pioneer leaders and their relationship with their campers is very important to us here at Camp Lone Star. Pioneer leaders are welcome to visit their campers during some of their activities and during meals; however, they will need to maintain a safe distance and wear a mask.

### **Will Pioneer leaders be able to leave camp during the week?**

Pioneer leaders **will be** permitted to leave Camp property but must sign out in the office prior to leaving and must sign back in when returning. At the same time, please keep in mind that the goal is to limit the amount of possible external exposure so please use this opportunity sparingly and only as needed.

## How have camp activities changed?

Camp is all about being together and leaning on one another for support. We will be modifying or temporarily discontinuing some of our closer-proximity activities while maintaining an adventurous, fun and safe experience. As a rule, we will employ the following general procedures for all program activities:

1. Sanitize all program areas
2. Sanitize equipment before and after use
3. Wash hands or hand sanitize before and after activities.

Any activity in which more than one cabin is present such as Song Time, All Camp Activity, and Evening Campfire will take place where each cabin can be 6 ft. from another.

## How about meals? What happens in the Dining Hall?

Our Kitchen Team, Summer Staff and Junior Staff are trained to use enhanced sanitation procedures when supervising the campers during mealtimes in order to ensure the cleanest and safest environment possible to protect the campers and staff.

- ✓ All hands are washed prior to entering and upon exiting the Dining Hall
- ✓ In addition, hand sanitizer dispensers are available to be used prior to entering the serving lines
- ✓ Disposable gloves and masks will be worn by staff serving food.
- ✓ There will not be any self-serving in the Dining Hall; however, the Summer Staff and/or Junior Staff will still be providing salad, and peanut butter & jelly during lunch and dinner.
- ✓ Meal times remain the same, but we will have a lot less people in the Dining Hall at one time. We will be using the Retreat Center Dining Hall in addition to our normal Base Camp Dining Hall. These are located in the same building but allow for better spacing between cabin groups.
  - There are a few times when a retreat group may also be on-site, in which case only the Base Camp Dining Hall will be used, and cabin groups will take their food to-go for a picnic.

Tables are sanitized using an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) commercial grade disinfectant, Purell FoodService Surface Sanitizer and Array Comprehensive Cleaner, by Junior Staff wearing gloves before and between cabin use.

## Is there anything extra I need to send with my camper that isn't on the packing list?

Yes! Camp Lone Star is committed to safety and will have ample supplies for sanitizing, but there are some additional items that will help make sure everyone is safe. In order to decrease the risk of heat exhaustion campers will be **required** to bring a **Nalgene or Refillable Water Bottle** to keep with them at all times throughout the day. Please make sure this is labeled so it doesn't get lost. If you don't have one, you will be able to purchase a Camp Lone Star Nalgene during registration check-in.

While our counselors will always have hand sanitizer with them, we are also **recommending** that each camper bring an **individual hand sanitizer**. We also **request** each camper brings a **drawstring bag or backpack** to carry their water bottle and hand sanitizer with them.

In accordance with the Texas regulations, wearing masks/face coverings are NOT required and are at the discretion of individual families. If you would like to send a cloth mask with your child, you are certainly welcome to do so but we would encourage packing several for the week in case some get dirty.

## What about Closing Program?

Our closing program location, time, and format are all changing this year. Before we explain further, here are the high-level changes:

- ✓ Closing Program will take place in The Oak Grove
- ✓ Closing Program will be from **10:45am-11:30am**
- ✓ Lunch **will not** be served
- ✓ Campers will be **picked up & checked out** at their **cabins** after closing
- ✓ Parents or the Pioneer leader will sign their camper(s) out at their cabin
- ✓ **Trading Post refund and medications** for pioneer campers will be given to the Pioneer leader immediately following closing, as we have done in previous years.

While we love the Koop Center, the space is not large enough to socially distance between families and cabin groups during our Closing Program. Instead, we will be in the Oak Grove. This area is the tree covered area between the Koop and the lake that is used each year for our annual BBQ Weekend Outdoor Worship Service. Well-spaced seating will be available.

We recognize that, because we have moved Closing Program outside, we need to do it at a cooler part of the day as well as shorten the program. During Closing Program, you will still get to see your campers be interactive in closing program, but perhaps in a different way. The goal remains the same: to give you a chance to see a spiritually-uplifting glimpse into your camper's week at Camp Lone Star.

In an effort to make things easier for families, camper check out will take place at the individual camper's cabins. Counselors will have a clipboard with approved signers. Simply show your ID to the counselor and sign your camper out. The counselor will also have any of your camper's medication to return to you at this time. If your camper has any Trading Post money to be refunded, you can visit the Refund Table under the carport near the upper set of cabins. If you would like to donate this refund to our Summer Mission Partner (Upbring), you may skip the line and we'll consider it a donation just as we've done in years past.

## A Final Word

We understand the amount of trust and confidence you are placing in Camp Lone Star to care for your campers. This is not a responsibility we are taking lightly. We have been tirelessly working to develop a Health and Safety Plan and take necessary precautions to best care for your campers and make this place the safest camp in Texas. We commit to walk alongside you and your campers. Please don't hesitate to reach out and call our Office (979-968-1657) if you have further questions or concerns.

## IT'S SUMMER TIME AT CAMP LONE STAR!