

Dear Parents and Friends,

We have run throughout the entire pandemic period safely and without incident by using common sense precautions. This summer has been entirely issue-free until last week. Our last camp was impacted by a small number of cases of Covid (no campers were infected). In response to the growing number of cases locally and the infectious (but luckily relatively mild) nature of the most recent strain, I am going to be prepared with some precautions to keep your children and families as safe as possible whilst maintaining a fun, loud, creative camp.

I understand that many of us wish to leave Covid behind however many youngsters will interact with elderly or vulnerable family and friends, especially on vacations, so I would like to be considerate of that. Please be aware these protocols are not blanket measures, merely flexible rules designed to be non-invasive, and not impact your children unless there is a known outbreak.

Regular Protocols

- 1) Your camp directors and counselors will all be tested for Covid before each week starts.
- 2) Your camp directors and counselors shall also remain masked whilst indoors to allow your children to interact in their most positive and natural ways.
- 3) We shall work outdoors more, especially in the cooler early parts of the day.
- 4) We ask that your child bring a mask each day. This is a precaution. We hope not to use it. I shall have backups in the event of necessity.
- 5) If you have Covid/cold/flu symptoms please remain home. This applies to staff and students.
- 6) Anyone at camp with cold/flu symptoms will have their parents contacted and be required to test negative before returning to camp as is standard throughout the state.

In the event of a confirmed Covid case

- 1) A positive Covid test will require you to remain out of Sellwood Studios for 5 days. On the 6th day, if you test negative and are free of symptoms you may return to Sellwood Studios. If you test positive you must stay out for 4 more days before returning. On returning please wear masks in public hallways and spaces.
- 2) If someone within the camp ecosystem is confirmed with Covid we shall inform all close contacts and require masking by everyone including campers whilst inside if appropriate. Please provide a mask for your child each day. We shall not ask them to wear it unless there is a risk incident.
- 3) To minimize masking, in the case of a Covid incident we shall also move almost all camp operations outdoors until we know we have isolated the issue. When we are sure that we have no contact cases, we shall revert to our normal state with campers not requiring masks indoors.
- 4) If outdoor protocols are in place I have shade, games, fun water cooling stations (sprinklers, sprays, and water tubs), and much more ready so children will have even more fun while working towards our end goal show. To that eventuality, we shall ask children to supply a towel and clothes that can get wet and/or a change of clothes as preferred. Sneakers are still required for dance and sports-based games.
- 5) In an effort to avoid camper masking while still maintaining safety, Sellwood Studios may require the audience of performances to mask on entering the building and while in Fellowship Hall.

Decisions to close camps due to Covid outbreaks are not a choice I would like to make and may not even be at my own discretion as our landlord, the church, has the final say so please understand that I am taking all these measures and more to ensure a complete two-week theatre camp experience without disruption or cancellation.

Thank you for your understanding as we try to keep everyone happy and healthy.

Kind regards,

Tom Sellwood
Director