



March 2021

Dear MCBC Families,

Madeleine/Maddog here, Director of Youth Programs at Burns Recovered/Midwest Children's Burn Camp. It's March...2021! Camp is in 5 short months! Many of you have already started or completed your camp applications on CampDoc and I'm sure many more are thinking about getting started soon (here's the link: <https://app.campdoc.com/register/mcbc>, applications are due June 25, 2021). MCBC Senior Staff and Volunteers are already deep into planning our 2021 camp program to make sure it is fun, engaging, and safe.

Speaking of safety, I wanted to share an update on what you can expect in terms of our COVID-19 mitigation procedures and practices that will be in place for both camp sessions. I also wanted to share what we will not be doing so that your family can make an informed decision about attending camp this year.

A note before we start: we at Burns Recovered and MCBC recognize that, when gathering with people outside of your household, the risk of COVID-19 transmission is never zero. One of our favorite metaphors to describe the level of risk combined with the following mitigations efforts is the layering of swiss cheese on a sandwich (we love cheese): each slice of cheese by itself has some holes, but when layered on top of each other, those holes become smaller and smaller. The same goes for COVID transmission: when these mitigation efforts are layered on top of each other, the risk of transmission gets smaller and smaller.

We also recognize that the COVID-19 landscape is always changing and procedures that are deemed appropriate today might not be appropriate two or three weeks from now. We will keep sending you updates on what to expect this summer as we finalize our policies and procedures. Now, let's dive in...

Before Camp

The most important thing we can do to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission this summer is to arrive at camp healthy and we are putting our pre-camp expectations in place with the goal of having every volunteer and camper arrive at camp in the healthiest state possible. We had an opportunity to do a trial run of pre-program expectations at our Changing Times Young Adult retreat in February and the feedback from our program participants was largely positive. Retreat attendees felt like the expectations were "just right" and that the organization was taking the risk of COVID-19 transmission seriously. We plan on having the same expectations prior to MCBC. They are...



Pre-Screening of Symptoms

14 days before the first day of your camper's session, you will start logging on to CampDoc daily and answering a series of pre-screening questions related to possible COVID-19 exposure as well as entering your camper's temperature (*this would be a good time to make sure you have a working thermometer around the house*). Maddog will send out daily reminders using the CampDoc text messaging feature (*make sure you have those activated on your account*) to complete the pre-screener. Prior to camp, Maddog and Nurse Rocky will review the entries and determine if we need any more information from a camper and will contact a family directly if this is the case.

Quarantine

We ask that starting 10 days before the first day of your camper's session, everyone in your household quarantines to the best of your ability. This means that you stay home except for essential trips (e.g., medical appointments, work, and class). When possible, use curbside or delivery for grocery purchases and eating out. If you have to spend time with someone outside of your household, please practice appropriate physical distancing and wear a mask.

At Camp

Health and COVID-19 Screening before arriving on campus/getting on charter bus

We are fortunate to be able to have one medical provider at each departure location (Kansas City, St. Louis, and Springfield) who will perform a COVID-19 screening and temperature check as well as the traditional health screening that happens every year when your camper arrives on campus. At your departure location, Burns Recovered full-time staff or Board Members will be present to check for completion of the pre-screening and quarantine attestation form. For families who are bringing their camper directly to Taum Sauk's campus, Nurse Rocky will meet you at the entrance to campus to perform the COVID-19 screening, temperature check and traditional health screening.

Outside, Masked, Distanced - 2 of 3

This is our mantra for the summer. At all times, anyone who is on transportation to and from the campsite or is on Taum Sauk's campus, must make sure they are following two out of three of these expectations. For example, if you are inside, you must be masked and distanced from another person. If you are outside and distanced from another person, you do not have to be masked. If you are outside but cannot be distanced from someone, you must wear a mask. Fortunately for us, most of our activities already take place outside and the smaller camp groups each session will mean more space for campers to spread out, so we do not anticipate there will be a lot of mask wearing when campers are outside. Campers will *not* wear masks while sleeping, eating, showering, or participating in water sports.



Campers should bring at least three masks with them to their camp session which will be washed daily by MCBC staff. If campers cannot bring an appropriate face covering to camp, MCBC will provide several for your camper.

Cabin Pods

Your camper's cabin group will be their "pod" for the duration of the camp session. This means that they will eat together and travel to and participate in activities together. There will only be one "pod" at any given camp activity this summer. Members of one pod will not be allowed to enter another pod's cabin at any time and for any reason this summer.

We are using the Pod strategy to keep risk of transmission of the virus low and to also make contact tracing easier if a program participant starts to display COVID-suspect symptoms while at camp. The "Outside, Masked, Distanced - 2 of 3" expectation will be slightly modified when campers are in their cabin. When your camper is in their cabin, your camper can remove their mask as long as they can maintain six feet of distance between themselves and another cabin pod member. Because we are splitting up our camp sessions, we anticipate having less participants assigned to each cabin to allow for participants to spread out when inside cabins.

Meals

Activities Director Susana is working closely with Camp Taum Sauk staff to devise an eating schedule that provides space and time for Cabin pods to eat outside in separate areas of the Taum Sauk campus. An inclement weather plan is in development and will be shared in more detail in our COVID-19 handbook that will arrive with the Parent Manual in June.

Captain Clean and Handwashing

We have assigned a "Captain Clean" for each session who will be responsible for managing and overseeing the cleanliness of all common spaces (including cabins), facilities, and meal times. Cabin Counselors will have hand sanitizer and disinfecting spray to bring with them from activity to activity. We are also building dedicated handwashing times into our daily schedule.

Modified Activities

Only one pod will be present at each activity at any given time to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission between pods. Activities will be held outdoors whenever possible and large group activities such as dancing, energizers, and Evening Program will be modified to accommodate physical distancing and smaller group sizes.

What we are NOT doing

We are not requiring proof of a negative COVID test before arriving on campus.

Our emphasis this summer is a) on everyone arriving to camp healthy using the pre-screening and quarantine expectations and b) complying with the protections we have in place (outside,



masked, distanced, etc..) while everyone is on campus. Without the negative COVID test requirement, it will be essential that our camp families comply with our pre-screening and quarantine expectations so that everyone in our community feels safe coming to camp.

There are some exceptions to this policy, including if your camper or anyone in your household has traveled internationally within two weeks of arriving at camp. This question comes up in the pre-screener on CampDoc and Maddog or Nurse Rocky will contact your family directly if that is the case.

We are not requiring that our campers have the vaccine before coming to camp.

Since it is not predicted to be available to those under the age of 16 before the end of the year, we will not require the vaccine for our campers.

We are not requiring that our counselors have the vaccine before coming to camp.

Since it is unknown when it will be available for all who want it, we will not require the vaccine for our counselors.

More detailed information regarding these expectations will be shared in our COVID-19 handbook that will arrive with the Parent Manual in July once camp registration closes. This month, we will have a Q&A session with Camp Leadership to address any unanswered questions related to how we are handling COVID-19 this summer.

As always, the MCBC team is a phone call or email away if you have any immediate questions. Please call the office at (314) 939-1550 or email Maddog at madeleine@brsg.org.

Yours in Service,

MCBC Leadership