



For 116 years Camp Billings has operated with the primary goal of providing a safe and fun summer camp experience for children ages 8-15. As we plan and prepare for Summer 2022 we want to share with our families what our current thinking is regarding COVID policies and procedures. As we have all learned throughout the last two years, our planning requires us to remain nimble and flexible. Our policies may need to change or evolve over the spring or even during the summer sessions depending on the pandemic environment at any given time. Our intent is to provide you with a framework for how we are approaching planning for the summer ahead.

For 2022 our primary objective is to provide both as safe and as “normal” of a Camp Billings experience as possible for all campers and staff. The policies and procedures that we implement will be guided by the American Camping Association (ACA), Vermont Camping Association (VCA) and federal and state guidance from the CDC and Vermont Board of Health. Our intention is to operate as we did prior to 2020 with four, 2-week sessions, providing all of our campers with the opportunity to unplug, make new friendships and memories and enjoy a return to normalcy.

Below is a list of common questions. Our answers will give you a framework for how we are planning for the summer. If conditions or guidance changes as the spring unfolds we may also adopt different policies at Camp Billings.

## **1) Will Camp Billings have a reduced enrollment in 2022?**

We are enrolling and planning for 100% capacity.

## **2) Will COVID vaccines be required for staff and campers?**

Camp Billings will be requiring all eligible campers and staff to be fully vaccinated and up to date against COVID-19 [per CDC definition](#) in order to attend camp this summer. Proof of vaccination will be required one month prior to your child’s first day of camp. Our top priority is to deliver an exceptional and authentic Camp Billings experience for all campers this summer, and we believe the best way to assure this experience is to have as many community members as possible vaccinated against COVID-19. If you have questions or concerns about getting your child vaccinated, we encourage you to consult with your pediatrician.

Religious or medical exemption requests will be assessed by Camp Billings leadership on a case-by-case basis. If your child is granted an exemption to the vaccination policy, additional precautions will be required in order to attend camp, not limited to but including additional testing, masking requirements, and eating arrangements. In addition, camp will continue to adhere to CDC guidance regarding isolation and quarantine protocols for close contacts; unvaccinated campers deemed to be "close contacts" will be required to follow CDC isolation and quarantine protocols, which could include departing Camp Billings. We will be using standardized exemption request forms that must be completed in order to be considered for an exemption. Families seeking an exemption must submit a completed exemption request form for a camper no later than April 30th, 2022. Please reach out to the Camp Billings Registrar to learn more about this process at [registrar@campbillings.org](mailto:registrar@campbillings.org).



### **3) What type of COVID testing will be in place?**

Our current plan is to conduct “gateway” testing for campers and staff to enter camp. While this may shift in terms of time intervals it is intended to give our families a framework to plan around.

- A. All campers and staff are required to come to camp with a negative PCR test for which the sample was taken 3 days prior to arrival at camp. Camp sessions all begin on a Sunday. The PCR sample should be taken on Thurs, Fri or Saturday prior to arrival at camp. Families are encouraged to schedule the tests with enough time to receive results.
- B. On the Sunday arrival at camp, each camper will take a sample for a PCR test that will be sent to a lab AND also a rapid antigen test. Once a negative rapid antigen test result is determined for a camper s/he will proceed through the remainder of the check-in process.
- C. On the first Tuesday morning (approximately 36 hours after check-in) each camper and staff will take a rapid antigen test.

### **4) If my child is staying for more than one session, are we allowed to visit during changeover? May we take our child off camp for a few hours or overnight?**

At this time, we are expecting that families will be able to visit and take their children off campus during changeover as we have done in prior summers. Upon returning to camp, all campers will participate in the testing steps B and C as described above. Our goal is to allow all subsequent sessions to be able to operate while giving families a chance to visit for campers staying for more than one session.

### **5) What will be the mask policy at Camp Billings this summer?**

Camp Billings is not planning to require vaccinated campers to wear masks at camp.

### **6) What happens if our camper tests positive for COVID leading up to camp?**

If your camper receives a positive result on the PCR test leading up to camp or on the rapid gateway testing to enter camp, the camper must isolate at home in line with guidance from the United States CDC (currently 5 days). Campers who test positive may arrive at camp after 5 days of isolation at home and with a negative result from a rapid antigen test. A rapid test will be confirmed upon arrival to camp and 36 hours later. Instead, if you would like to withdraw your child from camp, we will refund your tuition. Parents can call the camp office and send the positive lab result. We ask that you contact camp as soon as possible if this happens so that we can try to offer your camper’s spot to another child and give him/her time to test and pack and travel to camp.

### **7) What if international borders are closed or travel is very difficult due to required quarantine rules?**

If travel becomes difficult again and borders close or quarantine rules are in place that are restrictive for coming into the US or returning to your home country, please call the camp office to discuss. We will refund tuition to our families who are unable to travel. It is our goal to maintain long-term relationships with our families.