February 23, 2021

The Current Situation

On February 17th, 2021, Governor Cuomo announced that day and overnight summer camps in New York can begin to plan for reopening in June. Although this is fantastic news there are still many unknowns as we wait for the Department of Health to issue specific reopening guidance. However, since the fall we have been diligently working with, and learning from, other camp professionals both in New York State and across the nation. Based on increased understanding of the virus, the advancement in testing technologies as well as data collected from summer camps that ran both successfully and unsuccessfully in 2020, we have been able to ascertain what some of the safest practices are and what will most likely be some regulations.

Vaccinations

There may be a few campers that are fully vaccinated by the time summer rolls around, but it is improbable that there will be enough to create any sort of herd immunity. There is still a possibility that either the majority of or all staff can be fully vaccinated. We are consistently monitoring this situation and will continue to share updates as they come.

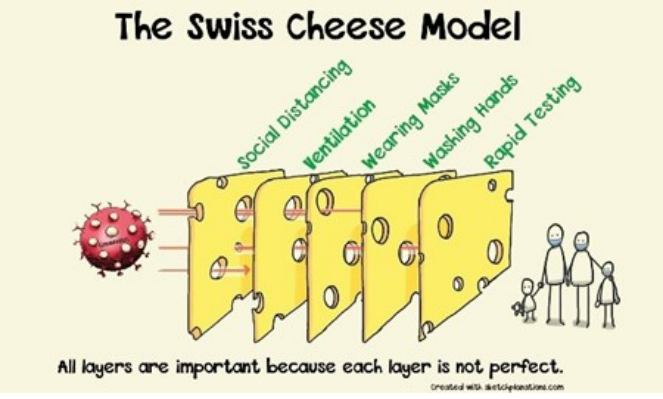
Our Plan

With guidance from the CDC, state and local Departments of Health, and the American Camp Association we will further develop our safety plan. Your family will have full access to this plan prior to camp beginning so that you can make an informed decision regarding your camper's attendance. All registered families will receive an email with this information as soon as we have a plan to pass along. You may also find this information on our website under Covid-19.

Based on what we know so far, we can most likely expect the following for summer camp at CSM this year:

- A testing plan (TBD).
- Mask wearing by staff and campers most of the time.
  Exceptions will be sleeping, showering, swimming and eating.
  Safely distanced mask breaks will be incorporated throughout the day.
- Divisional cohorting and physical distancing.
- Increased handwashing
- Eating at tables with cabins and decreasing total number of campers in the dining hall with multiple seatings.
- Outdoor activities as much as possible.

*Please note a more detailed list will be given as we get closer to summer camp.

Nonpharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs)

NPIs (also known as mitigation strategies) are actions, apart from getting vaccinated and taking medicine, that we can do to help slow the spread of illnesses. Examples of NPIs that have proven to be successful with Coronavirus are physical distancing, cohorting, mask wearing, hand hygiene, cough/sneeze etiquette, testing, tracing, ventilation, and quarantining. Because each individual intervention has imperfections, we have seen a lot of success in layering the interventions. You may have even heard of this layering as the Swiss cheese model.