SHOULD OUR FAMILY COME TO CAMP?

- Our decision to offer family camp this summer was predicated upon three primary considerations: seek the Lord and His direction, come under God-appointed leaders, and protect the safety of our staff and campers.
- If you are in a high-risk group: age, underlying health condition (hypertension, diabetes, asthma, etc.), or a COVID care giver, consider whether this is the year for you to come to camp.
- If you or a family member has symptoms consistent with COVID-19 as outlined by the CDC, you should not come to camp.
- If you or a family member were exposed to someone with COVID-19 less than two weeks prior to camp, you should not come to camp.
- Two weeks prior to your camp, we will provide you with detailed information regarding your week. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact the Business Office.

IF WE DECIDE NOT TO COME TO CAMP, WHAT HAPPENS TO OUR DEPOSIT AND CAN WE RETAIN OUR SPACE FOR 2021?

- You can roll-forward your deposit for the same week and site for your family camp in 2021.
- Alternatively, you can donate your deposit to help Fort offset expected revenue losses more than $250,000 due to cancelling youth camps and smaller family camp size.

WHAT DID YOU CONSIDER IN YOUR DECISION-MAKING PROCESS REGARDING CAMPS?

- We started with prayer and a desire to seek the Lord’s plans for camp, knowing His plans and purposes will prevail whether we have camp or not.
- Extensive discussions with Fort leadership, staff, and board.
- Extensive participation in Christian Camp and Conference Association (CCCA) conference calls regarding considerations for operating camps in a pandemic.
- Review of CDC, state, and county health guidelines, including multiple discussions with Oneida County health officials.
- Discussions with family campers.
- Extensive conversations with medical experts well-versed on this topic.

WHAT IS YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE DISEASE AND FORT’S PLANS TO KEEP MY FAMILY SAFE?

- COVID-19 is a new disease (novel coronavirus) spread primarily through respiratory droplets versus aerosolized (lingering in the air) or fomites (contact with disease on hard surfaces).
- Approx. 50% of those infected are asymptomatic (without symptoms) and can spread the disease.
- Disease is most easily spread indoors, particularly by projection: laugh, loud, sing and cough.
Disease transmission is significantly reduced outdoors, given sun, airflow, and wind.

There are no vaccines, therapeutic remedies or cures, so various mitigation strategies are advised to keep at-risk persons from the getting disease and managing public health considerations, including hospital capacity:

- Use necessary pre-cautions (mask, distance, avoid large gatherings) when in public places, particularly indoor facilities.
- Practice good personal hygiene – wash your hands frequently and thoroughly for twenty seconds (soap with cold or warm water)
- Take care of yourself: rest, healthy eating, good nutrition
- Staying home and isolated if ill, including known COVID-19 symptoms
- Cough in your elbow
- Avoid touching your face

**WHAT IS FORT DOING TO KEEP MY FAMILY SAFE?**

- We will conduct a brief health assessment of all family campers, including temperature check upon arrival. Campers with a fever over 100-degrees are unable to come to camp per health guidelines.
- Fort has established a series of well-being guidelines for all staff, including summer staff, to support the health of the entire Fort community.
- We will offer virtually all programs and activities outdoors where disease transmission is significantly reduced. See discussion regarding dining below.
- We have reduced camp size to 200 people, approximately 2/3 our maximum capacity.
- We will require campers to wear masks when indoors in public gathering places or at a program area / activity if the camper requires direct assistance from a Fort staff member (e.g. a child needing help mounting a horse or shooting a gun). Otherwise, masks are recommended when you are unable to distance. **You will need to bring masks for you and your family members – we recommend a three-ply washable mask.**
- We have enhanced our cleaning and sterilization process, particularly indoor facilities. We will have hand sanitization stations located at key places throughout camp. You may notice slight disruptions due to more frequent cleanings (e.g. Moonbeam).
- We will have signage for building entry and exit, queuing in program areas, where masks are required, reminders regarding distance and other alerts to keep everyone safe.

**WHAT HAPPENS IF I GET COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AT CAMP?**

- In consultation with our camp doctor, we have the following guidance and standing orders relative to treating COVID-19 or those presenting symptoms like COVID-19. **“There is no simple outpatient treatment for COVID, and most people who get COVID will have no or very minor symptoms. These symptoms are usually respiratory and can include cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, and/or loss of smell or taste. Of note, many of these same symptoms can be caused by seasonal allergies, other cold viruses, or bacterial illness, so presence of the symptoms does not necessarily indicate infection with COVID. History of similar symptoms in prior spring or summer seasons would lessen the concern for COVID, and people who have a history of allergic symptoms should be treated as if they have allergies unless symptoms worsen greatly. If someone has symptoms noted above WITHOUT a history of allergies or similar symptoms due to other known health issues, then the heads of Fort Wilderness should be alerted, and that person should be evaluated by the local health care providers to be tested for COVID. Until the results are back, the person should be kept in**
isolation away from other campers. Their living environment should be cleaned according to local guidelines, and those with whom they interacted must wear a mask whenever interacting. Individual symptoms can be treated as instructed in the applicable portions of these standing orders, but any worsening of symptoms must be reported to the heads of Fort Wilderness immediately, and there should be a low threshold for taking someone with worsening symptoms to the local hospital for further evaluation.”

- We can isolate individuals with COVID-19 symptoms if it is necessary.

WHAT WILL OUR WEEK OF FAMILY CAMP LOOK LIKE?

- Mission - Fort exists to influence lives for eternity through God's Word, Adventure Programs, the Wilderness, and warm Christian Fellowship – all of that will remain the same! Creating community is at the core of what we do, we create relationships for eternal impact.
- Outdoors – is one of the best defenses against COVID-19 and we plan to use the beautiful Northwoods to its fullest. So, bring appropriate clothing and rain gear, lawn chairs and bug spray as we enjoy God’s creation.
- Programs – historically, the waterfront, horse rides and Nature Center are our three most popular programs. We anticipate limited changes with these programs or how they are offered, except for additional cleaning and sterilization procedures. We are unable to offer certain other programs such as the climbing wall.
- Food Service – will look different than years past. We plan to provide meals for dining in multiple locations (Dining Hall, Inn guests in the Elk Room, and staff in the Big Top) with no more than fifty persons in one area. We will sub-divide the dining hall into two separate rooms.
  - Food – same great food, served differently in a pre-packaged container, with the option to order a regular or large portion. We will not have a salad bar but will continue to offer salad and other options for those with a restricted diet.
  - Breakfast – each family will enjoy two specialty breakfasts at no additional cost: wranglers and one at Adventure Outpost in our new cooking shelter. The remainder of the week you will eat in the Dining Hall or Elk Room.
  - Lunch – we will start lunch at noon and serve until 1:15 p.m. You will eat in the Dining Hall, Elk Room or outdoors.
  - Dinner – you will eat three of your evening meals in the Dining Hall. You will eat your other three meals outdoors at your housing site.
  - Outdoor seating – we will expand the outdoor seating capacity with more picnic benches.
- Worship and teaching time – will be outdoors. We are unable to offer Children’s Ministry. Junior High and High School age children will have programming consistent with years past.
- Limited use of certain facilities – we will not use the Gathering Place, except as a contingency for rain. Campers should plan to use the bathroom facility in their housing unit or the Moonbeam.
- Other special surprises...stay tuned. Our creative juices are flowing...You will receive more information two weeks prior to your week of camp.

ARE SOME FAMILIES AT RISK OF NOT COMING TO CAMP BECAUSE OF REDUCED CAMP SIZE?

- Yes, there is a possibility not every registered family registered can attend camp.
- We may need up to fifty families who registered for weeks 4, 5, 6 and 8 to consider switching their week, for this year only, to weeks 1, 2, 3 or 7. Approximately 200 spots are available for week 7 (August 1-7). Keith Ogorek a long-time family camp speaker will teach that week.
• Why do you need to reduce camp size? Oneida County Health guidelines limit gatherings to no more than fifty people in one area. Historically, we have had camps with over 300 people. A camp of that size would require eight distinct dining sessions to accommodate campers and staff. Furthermore, we will have less staff and volunteers to serve campers given housing requirements and distance considerations.

• We will establish groups of fifty who will congregate together for any large group gathering: dining, teaching and worship, large scale program events like the Western show. Of course, we will create distancing requirements between family groups.

HOW IS FORT DOING FINANCIALLY? WILL YOU SURVIVE THIS PANDEMIC?

• Our hope and trust are in the Lord.
• Having said that, we have no debt other than a $300,000 forgivable loan under the Paycheck Protection Program, and sufficient short-term reserves.
• We do expect a significant revenue reduction of more than $250,000 this summer due to cancelling youth camps and smaller family camps.

HOW ARE THE STAFF DOING AND HOW CAN I HELP?

• We are greatly encouraged by your ongoing love, prayer, and support of us. Your continued encouragement in the Lord and His plans bless us.
• Continue to pray for Fort that the gospel is proclaimed, lives are impacted, it is done safely with COVID-19 not entering camp, and for unity among staff and campers despite Satan’s efforts to create division and unrest.
• Pray for the campers many of whom desperately want to come to camp, with a desire to return to some sense of normalcy, and for the Lord to meet their needs while they are here.
• The staff are excited to offer Family Camp and Leadership Lab this summer. Please show us grace and patience. Planning camps in a pandemic is stressful and taxing. We will also have reduced staff and volunteers from years past.
• Pray for and consider sharing your resources, as God has given to you, to meet the needs of camp with the anticipated decline in summer revenues. Consider partnering with and supporting one of our missionary staff currently raising or needing extra support: Nathan Duley, Hannah Hacker, Robyn Leyden, Katie Lutz, Cindy McMartin and Jon / Amber Schlatter. If you need additional information, please contact Craig Holmquist at (715) 277-2587.