



LUTHERHAVEN

2021 SUMMER CAMP HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDE

Updated 02/02/21

Lutherhaven Ministries believes it is vital for us to work with you to be part of the pandemic solution.

- We have a stellar team of medical and public health professionals helping us make decisions and implement policies based on scientific public health policy.
- We've written these protocols keeping in mind we draw campers from around the region and across the nation.
- Finally—alongside the more than 7,000 summer camps around our nation—these protocols have been developed in conjunction with the 2021 [CDC guidelines for summer camps](#) and the American Camp Association's [2021 Field Guide for Camps](#).



Camp Lutherhaven + Shoshone Mountain Retreat + McPherson Meadows

Dear Camper Families,

We are excited to pivot back to summer youth camps for summer, 2021. Our staff leadership team has closely with our professional Health Care Team to develop these COVID-19 protocols and precautions to help keep campers, staff, volunteers, and folks back home safe and healthy.

We know regional and national rates of community spread, public health recommendations, and testing and vaccination scenarios are changing regularly, and things will look very different by June—for the better. Thankfully, a growing number of our friends, neighbors, and family members—especially the most vulnerable—are being vaccinated.

These protocols and precautions provide parents and care givers information to help them decide on summer camp for their children. Developed in early January, we understand these may change by June, and we will work hard to keep you informed of changes along the way.

We're here for you!
-Team Lutherhaven



HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES

COVID-19 Exposure and Symptoms – Please! Closely observe your camper's health and contacts in the days leading up to camp, and keep them home if they a) have been in contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 within the previous 10 days; b) have been diagnosed with COVID themselves within the previous 10 days; or c) show any symptoms associated with COVID-19. See the CDC Symptom List: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

Vaccines – Multiple COVID-19 vaccines are increasingly available to an expanding range of adults and youth over the age of 16. As a policy, Lutherhaven will strongly urge all staff and adult volunteers to be vaccinated, as available and medically advisable. Lutherhaven encourages everyone to be part of the global pandemic solution and stay informed about the value of COVID-19 vaccinations for all. Vaccinations are in addition to other safety steps.

Testing – Based on American Camp Association and Association of Camp Nursing recommended best practices, the recommendation of Lutherhaven’s professional Health Care Team, and an overwhelmingly (80%) positive response from surveyed camper parents, the use of COVID-19 tests will be part of how Lutherhaven helps to mitigate the risk of COVID at camp for summer 2021. In 2020, camps around the country that required testing of staff and campers prior to and during camp were all able to successfully keep COVID out of camp. **Lutherhaven will test summer and full-time staff on a regular basis, and require testing for campers and other participants 72 or so hours prior to their arrival at camp, with certified negative test results.* Volunteers coming to camp a camp week or more must also be tested.** We know that testing is only part of a multi-layered system to decrease the risk of COVID at camp. We will keep parents, care givers, and group leaders informed about testing options as summer gets closer.

Persons with Compromised Immune Systems – Individuals who are immunosuppressed (as defined by their family physician or live in a home with an immunosuppressed person should consult with their health care provider(s) before deciding whether or not to participate in any summer camp program, and must be cleared to come to camp in writing by their physician. Though we are taking extensive actions to keep camp safe, we are not able to guarantee a person on our sites will not be exposed to COVID-19; thus, participation in any camp program during the pandemic may not be recommended for individuals with known vulnerabilities that put them at greater risk, or with a vulnerable individual back home.

Arriving at Camp – Campers with a temperature over 100.4 degrees, or exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, or who have been exposed to COVID-19 or have tested positive for the virus in the previous 10 days, will not be permitted to enter camp and must return home.

Drop off and Pick-up Procedures – We are implementing new procedures for dropping campers off at camp and picking them up at the end of their camp stay, and restricting the number of non-campers on camp at registration and pick-up. We will keep you informed of these as your camp week gets closer.

Temperature Checks & Daily Health Screening – Campers and staff will have a health screening and temperature check upon arrival at camp.

Masks – All indicators point to mask wearing as one of several best practices to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. **Masks will be worn by staff and campers at all times indoors, and outdoors when physical distancing of at least 6 feet cannot be maintained—except when eating, swimming, or sleeping.** Campers should plan to bring one mask for each camp day. Camp will also have masks available.

Social Distancing – **Physical distancing of at least 6 feet will be used by all camp participants at all possible times** to allow for safe social interaction at camp.

Cabins and “Households” – Campers will be divided into cabin and small “households” of ten or fewer who will live, eat, and do most group activities together and only intermingle within their cabin or “household” while at camp. When programming has cabin groups or “households” come together for large group activities, campers and staff will maintain physical distancing between other cabin groups, and wear masks.

Outdoors – Lutherhaven Ministries will take full advantage of its magnificent outdoor spaces to help mitigate the risk of COVID. Campers will spend as much time outdoors as possible—weather permitting—which greatly reduces the risk of spreading COVID.

Hand Hygiene – Our camps will see increased hand hygiene among campers and staff, with additional hand washing stations and hand sanitizing throughout the day.

Cleaning/Disinfecting – There will be an increase in cleaning and disinfecting around camp, from equipment to facilities.

Dining – Weather permitting, all meals will be eaten outdoors. Campers will wear masks as they are served through our serving line. Bad weather? We will utilize staggered eating times.

Sleeping – Summer 2021 could see modified cabin group size so that campers can sleep with their heads at least six feet apart, head-to-toe fashion. In addition, thanks to grant funding, camp is upgrading ventilation and filtration systems in cabins and other indoor spaces to optimize air filtration and outside air circulation. We'll have the windows open! Campers should bring an extra blanket for cool camp nights!

All-camp Gatherings, Worship, & Games – One of the most special parts of summer camp is when the whole camp comes together for song, worship, and activities. Lutherhaven's long tradition of large camp gatherings will continue—safely, socially distanced, and outdoors. This summer will see modification to camp gatherings to lessen the risk of COVID, but campers can still count on all the fun of every camp summer, with increased emphasis on health and safety of all.

Modified Program Activities – Certain camp activities you might be familiar with could be changed up to avoid too much contact with other people or equipment. You can still expect swimming, the challenge course, the climbing wall, all sorts of other favorite camp activities... and the best week of your summer!

Visitors – Visitors will not be allowed on main camp when campers are present, to ensure the extended "household" we create at camp remains COVID free.

Off-camp Trips and Activities – Older campers in traditional summer camp programs will still have overnight campouts this summer—just in smaller "household" groups with increased health guidelines. If lake or river tubing is a regular part of your camp program, bring your swimsuit! Idaho Servant Adventures participants will continue serving others in the community—on an enhanced precaution-aware basis to keep everyone healthy.

Isolation – Camps will have facilities reserved for campers, staff, and volunteers who may develop COVID-related symptoms during camp, for use until they can return home to recover or test COVID-negative.

Staff Interaction and Time Off – Counselors and seasonal staff shall maintain social distancing while interacting with other staff and campers, and wear masks when social distancing of at least 6 feet cannot be maintained. Staff will be encouraged to leave camp on a limited and enhanced precaution-aware basis on days or nights off. All staff shall be reminded of the best practices they should independently follow to mitigate spread during time they spend off camp property.

***Youth Groups Coming to Camp** – Some of these protocols and procedures will be modified for youth groups from the same congregation coming to youth camp or Idaho Servant Adventures as their own "households".