

3-27-2020 – 12:00pm

Our current, dynamic situation illustrates the resilience of our Manito-wish community. State orders to stay at home have required our staff to create a virtual platform with which we continue essential meetings and clear planning channels as we now work remotely. Social posts, links, e-mails and phone calls have maintained our ability to keep in touch with our local and broad community. To receive the quickest response from our staff, e-mail is the preferred method, however we are still available to answer any questions you have about Camp via phone as well. We have benefited from proactive efforts from Y-USA, the American Camp Association, our Board, and the families and alumni that encourage Camp forward with photos, drawings, and positive messages.

We, like the rest of the world, are monitoring a variety of situations that may have an impact on our summer. We have amended our timelines for final payments, now extended to May 15th. We still expect our final information packets to families to be delivered next week. With all this said, we are leaning inward, knowing that Camp will weather these uncertain times. We resolve to continue to uphold our core values and pursue our mission to deliver experiences that provide growth in wisdom, in strength, in favor with God, and in favor with one another. Please stay in touch, keep bringing light to your communities as Manito-wishers do, and refer back here for future updates.

For additional information, please review the list of [FAQ's](#) we have put together to assist you.

3-20-2020 – 12:00pm

Our local, state and national recommendations and mandates for best business practices are continuing to be dynamic. Camp will update this thread regularly with our most current information to serve our community of families, partners, and staff. We encourage all readers to keep checking in here and through the links provided below for current advisories from the CDC, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and the American Camp Association. The most common question that we are facing is, “Is Camp happening?”

To answer that question, we are continuing to prepare for full programming. Staff recruitment is in full force, campers are still registering, and our facilities team is following our plan to ensure we have our campus ready for Leadership programming, our Memorial Day Work Weekend, and our Outdoor Leadership School that leads into our Staff Training. While these preparations are on track, we are also aware that there are variables that affect our 2020 plans that are beyond our control. The state has continued to enact increasingly restrictive business practices including size limits for assembly of people. Canada and the United States have agreed to suspend travel across our northern border which, depending on the length of the suspension, could impact some of our wilderness trips. We are communicating with our Leadership groups and have agreed postponing programming for the next four weeks is an appropriate measure. We have also adjusted plans for staff travel, recruitment gatherings, and alumni events. We are preparing some virtual visits to keep up our Manito-wish spirit and will be circulating some ideas for activities that our campers and families can embrace so that they are ready to hit the ground running when they arrive at Camp.

Here in northern Wisconsin, and nation-wide, there continues to be a heavy focus on what we can do as individuals and households. Personal best practices are consistently reinforced- washing hands,

covering coughs, and maintaining safe distances from anyone with elevated risk of exposure continue to be the most important steps we can take. Our on-site staff have taken increasingly conservative measures to promote social distancing and best practices for maintaining clean workspaces. We are also taking many calls that are allowing us to provide guidance for how to be ready for Leadership, Summer Camp, and Outpost experiences. Please reach out if there is desired information not contained here or in our referred links- we will be happy to hear from you.

For additional information, please review the list of [FAQ's](#) we have put together to assist you.

3-13-2020 – 12:00pm

At Camp Manito-wish YMCA, we take your health and safety very seriously. The respiratory illness Coronavirus (COVID-19) has spread in many areas of the world. When a serious health issue arises, our staff team comes together to reassess our strategies to promote and protect the health of our campers and staff.

We are working with our local [Health Department](#), the [American Camp Association](#), YMCA of the USA, and monitoring the guidance of The [Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC) to verify best practices in preventing exposure and transmission of this illness.

As you prepare for your time at Camp there are things that you can do to help limit the risk of exposure. Simple basic hygiene as recommended by the [CDC](#) is the best defense:

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap – if soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, utilize an alcohol-based sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick, especially people exhibiting respiratory symptoms and fever.
- Stay home if you are feeling sick. Coming to Camp with a group? Check in with your participants 48 hours prior to arrival. If participants are showing [symptoms](#) – have them stay home.

Camp Manito-wish YMCA is taking extra precautions to further reduce the chance of exposure:

- Staff who are showing signs of illness will be being sent home and we will be following CDC guidelines for returning to work.
- Limiting required travel of staff.
- Asking participants who may be showing signs of illness to stay home.
- Increasing intentional hand-washing breaks into our programming.
- Adding additional cleaning supplies and custodial service to cabins and common spaces.
- Modifying team building activities and are encouraging smiles and head nods instead of high fives, handshakes etc.
- Updating screening protocols prior to attendance to Camp.
- Leadership meeting regularly to monitor and discuss new developments and implement new best practices as necessary.

While information regarding the COVID-19 coronavirus continues to evolve, we recognize that these precautions may need to be updated over time. Please bookmark this [link](#) (found on our homepage) to reference in the future as Camp will post any changes to our operating procedures to this link on a bi-weekly basis (you may need to refresh and/or clear your “cached images and files” in order to see the update). At this time, leaders of groups coming to Camp can expect a call from Camp leadership prior to their attendance to answer any questions. As your time at Camp draws near please feel free to reach out or reference the link above to receive the most up to date information.

Did you know that trip insurance is offered, through CampDoc’s, to our Summer Camp and Outpost participants? [Click here](#) for more information.