

Coronavirus: Information and Update November, 2020

Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp aims to enthusiastically welcome students in June of 2021, and our administrative team is working daily to prepare for our upcoming season. But as the Coronavirus pandemic evolves, there is no effective way to predict what next summer will look like across the world. At Blue Lake, we are certain that the need for the arts, for in-person learning, for camp and all the experiences it brings, has never been greater.

While it is our goal that all Blue Lake summer programs operate as normally as possible, we fully recognize coronavirus mitigation will likely require that significant health and safety measures are in place for our community. If we are fortunate that the risk has been greatly reduced as we approach summer, we will adjust accordingly. We remain hopeful but realistic. Our administrative team continues to track national and state guidelines, consult with medical professionals, and develop plans and protocols with the latest recommendations. The safety, health, and well-being of members of our camp community remains our top priority and continues to drive our decisions.



Heidi Stansell
Interim President
Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp

What is Blue Lake's plan for Covid-19 related mitigation and response?

Using guidelines and recommendations for best practices from the Centers for Disease Control, the American Camp Association, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and local health professionals, Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp has put in place protocols for mitigation of spread of Covid-19, including practices such as pre-arrival testing and regular health screenings for participants, heightened cleaning and disinfecting strategies, and adjustments in numerous facets of camp life and instruction to allow for physical distancing, mask-wearing, and remaining in smaller groups. Depending on current mandates, last-minute adjustments within our camp community may be necessary.

Who is making these decisions?

Blue Lake's Administrative Team aims to monitor recommendations from the camping community and determine best practice for the preservation of health and safety within Blue Lake operations. In doing so, the administrative team continues to consult with medical professionals, follow official guidance, adjust camp protocol with a focus on health, plan appropriate student programs and activities, and maintain transparent communication with our Blue Lake community.

Blue Lake's Covid-19 Faculty Arts Advisory Council endeavors to survey the range of research related to Covid-19 and the arts, education, and performance. Research and outcomes for each discipline are reviewed for inclusion in planning for Blue Lake's camp life, instructional program, and performance schedules for the summer 2021.

How will precautions related to Covid-19 affect my camp experience?

Blue Lake has based its Covid-19 mitigation strategy on current accepted practice for camps in Michigan, which includes:

- Requiring pre-arrival testing and screenings for campers and employees, along with daily symptom screening throughout time at camp
- Adjusting camp programs and schedules with a focus on smaller groups, limited mixing, and maximizing outdoor activities
- Enforcing a closed campus, limiting visitors to essential personnel only
- Implementing stringent health, hygiene, and sanitation practices
- Practicing physical distancing and mask-wearing
- Enacting swift protocols should a positive case emerge

If accepted practice for camps in Michigan changes as camp approaches, Blue Lake may adjust these practices as deemed safe and appropriate.

How has Blue Lake adjusted its arts programs and camp activities?

At this time, Blue Lake is planning to provide programs, activities, and housing at a reduced capacity based upon current guidelines. Specific schedules, class structures, and other camp events remain in the planning phase and will be announced as soon as possible. Regardless of the specifics for each arts discipline, Blue Lakers can expect a day packed with instruction, camp activities, supervised free-time with friends, and evening arts events.

Will there be mask and distancing requirements?

Assuming that current guidelines remain in place, yes. We will follow all requirements and best-practice for Covid-19 mitigation. Facility use and camp programs have been adjusted to meet physical distancing guidelines, and all participants will be expected to wear face coverings/masks throughout the camp experience. If circumstances surrounding Covid-19 lessen as camp approaches, Blue Lake may adjust these protocols as deemed safe and appropriate.

What do you mean by a "closed campus?"

In a normal year, Blue Lake limits visitors during the camp experience but permits public to attend evening events throughout the season. This year, assuming that current restrictions remain in place, we will not permit mid-session family visits or evening attendance by the public. Traffic will be restricted to employees, vendors, and other essential services. If circumstances surrounding Covid-19 lessen as camp approaches, Blue Lake may adjust these protocols as deemed safe and appropriate.

How will Opening Day and Final Sunday work?

If current guidelines remain in place, all essential documentation and communication relating to camper care and accommodations would take place prior to arrival so that Blue Lake can employ a contactless drop-off during camper check-in. Students would arrive at an initial location for symptom screening and temperature checks, then proceed to their assigned cabin where counseling staff help them move in and meet their cabin mates. Parents would be requested to remain in their vehicles throughout the drop-off period.

If current guidelines remain in place, student final presentations would be video-recorded at the conclusion of the session and made available to families for viewing within several days, so that the final Sunday of the session would serve as a contactless check-out time.

And even though we are repeating ourselves, if circumstances surrounding Covid-19 lessen as camp approaches, Blue Lake may adjust these protocols as deemed safe and appropriate.

What special things relating to Covid-19 mitigation will I have to do prior to arrival?

The following list gives you an idea of the types of things relating to Covid-19 mitigation that you may be asked to do prior to arrival in the summer of 2021:

- Attend a webinar highlighting important information about camp and how to prepare.
- For all majors except Art, submit an ensemble placement video by the requested deadline. (This will take the place of opening day auditions, and more information will be provided after enrollment).
- Complete a Covid-19 molecular PCR test and daily health screenings in the days prior to arrival at camp.
- Bring face masks and/or bell coverings (for wind instruments) with you, or purchase them along with your Blue Lake uniform items. (More information will be provided after enrollment).

What if plans change?

Blue Lake's administrative team is committed to clear and transparent communication with our camp community. Should circumstances that impact your experience change, you will be notified. We request your flexibility and understanding as we work through this unusual year.

Can I delay my registration pending the lifting of restrictions?

Blue Lake accepts applications on a first-come, first-served basis. If you delay your registration, you may find that choices for sessions and majors are limited or unavailable. It is our goal to accommodate as many students as possible within limitations for 2021 operation, and our admissions office maintains a wait-list for students. Should circumstances adjust so that we may safely accommodate more students, those on the wait-list will be our first contacts.

What if I am considered high-risk for Covid-19 complications or have other health concerns?

If participating in a camp experience at a time when Covid-19 remains a factor and raises significant questions relating to your health, we suggest saving your Blue Lake experience for a future summer. We strongly caution against any activity that may put your health at risk. If you would like more information on camp in relation to your health concern, please contact Joshua Farmer, Director of Health Services, at healthservices@bluelake.org. All participants will be expected to endorse an assumption of risk and waiver of liability as a part of the enrollment process.

What if travel remains restricted?

At this time, because participants will be expected to limit social interactions in public places prior to arrival, Blue Lake is unable to accommodate those who must rely on public transportation to get to camp. Blue Lake is further unable to provide local transportation to/from travel depots for students, faculty, or staff. We continue to monitor national and international travel limitations carefully. Should guidelines adjust to allow for safe public travel without a need to self-quarantine upon arrival, we will adjust this temporary policy. In the meantime, we recommend that all participants plan to drive in a private vehicle to camp.

When a Covid-19 vaccine becomes readily available to the general public, will it be required for participation at Blue Lake?

It remains too soon to know when a vaccine will be widely available to the public. If a vaccine is readily accessible within a reasonable timeframe prior to the start of camp, and is further recommended by the CDC and other governing agencies as a safe and effective mitigation strategy for Covid-19, then Blue Lake may require this vaccine for participation.

What about other vaccines?

Blue Lake requires all participants to submit a complete, up-to-date vaccination record as a part of the camp health record.

What is your refund policy?

Please visit [Refund Policy](#) to review prior to enrolling, and please feel free to contact us with any questions.

I have more questions.

Great! We would love to hear from you! Please contact us with any questions you may have about Blue Lake, its programs, our upcoming season, or just to say hello. We look forward to hearing from you! Visit our [Contact](#) page.

