



COVID-19 Planning: Summer Camp Grades 9 – 12

December 16, 2020

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 and remaining in smaller groups. These protocols, as outlined below, may adjust as the season approaches, depending on any new mandates or guidelines for summer camps.

➤Employee Orientation and Training

Blue Lake faculty, counselors, health staff, and support staff routinely complete a thorough application process, including a video interview, written recommendations, and background checks. Our COVID-Careful planning also includes orientation sessions focused on enhanced health and safety protocols, as well as adjustments in program, camp life, camper supervision and care, and facility maintenance. Professionalism, care, respect, flexibility, problem-solving, and accountability are the pillars of all Blue Lake employee training. Our employees will be well-equipped to provide a safe, motivating, and positive camp experience for our campers.

➤Facilities

Blue Lake's campus consists of more than 1,600 acres of natural woodland forest with nearly 400 structures consisting of open-air pavilions, cabins, and a variety of unique arts facilities of all shapes and sizes. All buildings, whether enclosed or open-air, have been measured and inspected to determine the appropriate capacity to meet Coronavirus/COVID-19 safety guidelines. By the very nature of typical summer camps, most of our campers' time will be spent outdoors, in open-air sites, or in rustic structures with plenty of fresh-air ventilation. Enclosed sites, such as cabins, dining facilities, and a range of instructional and rehearsal spaces, will also be used daily. Additional cleaning and disinfecting protocols will be implemented on a routine basis within all facilities, including shared restrooms, the cafeteria, and classrooms. Shared equipment will also be cleaned between uses.

➤Camper Pre-Arrival, Check-in, and Pick-up

In the two weeks prior to arrival at camp, students will be expected to complete a daily temperature and symptom check and follow recommended practices of frequent hand-washing, wearing a mask and physically distancing when necessary, exercising caution in public spaces, and limiting interactions in social settings. Additionally, students will be required to obtain a COVID-19 test 1-3 days prior to arrival and provide a negative test result in order to check in. At this time, we are only able to accept a

molecular (PCR) test. We will continue to monitor testing options and may adjust our requirements as options evolve.

All essential documentation and communication relating to camper care and accommodations will take place prior to arrival so that Blue Lake can employ a contactless drop-off during camper check-in. Upon arrival, students will complete our health screening (including a temperature check), submit their negative PCR test result, then proceed to their assigned cabin where counseling staff help them move in and meet their cabin mates. Parents will be requested to remain in their vehicles throughout the drop-off period.

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

➤ **Travel To and From Camp**

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.

➤ **Daily Health & Safety Protocols**

Blue Lake will follow all requirements and best-practices for Coronavirus/COVID-19 mitigation and safe operation for summer camps, including the following strategies:

- Facilitate daily temperature and symptom checks for all campers and employees
- Promote recommended hand-hygiene practices, including both washing and sanitizing
- Implement stringent and frequent cleaning and sanitation procedures in all facilities
- Practice physical distancing and mask-wearing for all activities in all spaces, including cabin-time
- Enforce a closed campus, limiting visitors to essential personnel only

If accepted practices for camps change as the season approaches, Blue Lake may adjust these protocols as deemed safe and appropriate.

➤ **Program Adjustments and Considerations**

Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp has adjusted camp programs and daily schedule with a focus on smaller groups, limited mixing of participants, and maximizing outdoor activities. Enrollment for each major, minor, and housing area has been curtailed to meet recommendations for effective Coronavirus/COVID-19 mitigation. Class sizes and locations have been adjusted with the goal of keeping students outside as much as possible. Indoor facilities will remain in use, but with reduced capacities to allow for physical distancing and appropriate separation of groups. Regardless of the arts discipline, campers can expect a day packed with instruction, camp activities, supervised free-time, and evening arts events.

Students' housing will be assigned based upon their major, grade level, and a pre-arrival group placement. Housing groups and arts discipline will determine a camper's cohort. Campers will remain within their cohort for instruction, camp activities, evening events, and meals. By way of example, an Art major will be housed with other art majors, supervised by art staff members, taught exclusively by art faculty, and enjoy recreation and free-time with other art majors.

Some majors may experience unique requirements. For example, wind players in the Band program will be expected to use bell coverings; choreography chosen for the Dance program will be limited to physically distanced repertoire.

For all campers, evening events will focus on small group gatherings with faculty and staff, whether a performance, seminar, instruction, or traditional camp activities. Multiple cohorts from one area (ex: all band majors) may gather in a separated and physically distanced manner at Blue Lake's 4,000-seat Stewart Shell in order to enjoy a larger event such as a faculty recital or camper talent show. A complete calendar of evening events will be distributed to families prior to arrival.

➤ Dining Hall & Meals

Based on current guidelines, many familiar dining hall procedures will look different during the upcoming summer. Menu modifications will focus on cafeteria style easy-to-serve and "grab-and-go" items to reduce interactions with others and limit self-service spaces. Campers will eat with their cabin mates and counselor. Groups will eat at staggered intervals to limit capacity, with assigned meal lines, and appropriately spaced tables. Campers will be expected to wash and sanitize hands before and after meals, and all tables, chairs, and the rest of the facility will be cleaned thoroughly between meals.

Our dining and menu plans are evolving and we will be able to provide more detailed menu information closer to the time of camp. Given the nature of the required changes to our food service, we encourage campers with food allergies and/or other significant dietary restrictions to contact Joshua Farmer, Director of Health Services at healthservices@bluelake.org for more information before registering.

➤ Cabin Life

A camper's housing will be assigned based upon their major, grade level, and a pre-arrival group placement. Blue Lake's cabin capacity has been reduced to allow for appropriate physical distancing within the cabin. For most cabins, this will equal six campers and one counselor, although some cabin sizes vary. Mask-wearing will be required within cabins during waking hours. Students will have a designated space for personal storage within the cabin, and will share responsibility in maintaining their own space and contributing to cabin cleanliness.

➤ Recreation, Rest, and Free Time

As a part of Blue Lake's typical camp schedule, students have daily opportunities for recreation, rest, and free time. In order to facilitate physical distancing and staying within groups, opportunities for rest, recreation (including swimming), and visiting the camp store, will be blocked within group schedules.

➤ Visiting Camp

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.

➤ Protocol for COVID-19 Symptoms or Positive Test

Blue Lake's protocol for managing COVID-19 follows the camp's existing health service policy for all highly contagious diseases. If an individual has a fever or exhibits any symptoms of COVID-19, they will be immediately isolated and arrangements will be made for examination by a physician. If deemed necessary by the physician, the individual will be tested for COVID-19. Camper parents/guardians will be contacted immediately. If the test is positive, the individual will remain isolated at Blue Lake until arrangements can be made for them to continue isolation and/or seek treatment at home or off-site.

Parents/guardians will be notified if someone in their child's cabin has tested positive for COVID-19 or if they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, within the limits of HIPAA compliance. The recommended 14-day quarantine for anyone who has experienced close contact would prohibit a student from remaining at camp.

➤ **COVID-19 Vaccine and Other Vaccines**

While recent news regarding COVID-19 vaccines is encouraging, it remains too soon to know when a vaccine will be widely available to the public prior to our summer season. 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. Blue Lake requires all participants to submit a complete, up-to-date vaccination/immunization record as a part of the camp health record.

➤ **Individuals Considered "High-Risk" for COVID-19 or with 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.

➤ **Communications from Blue Lake**

Blue Lake's administrative team is committed to clear and transparent communication with our camp community. Blue Lake families, employees, and other stakeholders will receive regular communications from the administrative team relating to COVID-Careful planning, as warranted. Blue Lake uses a variety of methods to communicate with our community depending on the circumstances. Notifications for families may arrive via email, messages through our registration platform, website updates, social media, Remind, and/or emergency notifications. Campers are not permitted to have cell phones while in residence.
