



COVID-19 Planning: Suzuki Family Camp

May, 2021

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.

➤ COVID-19 Vaccine

Blue Lake strongly encourages all age-eligible participants to pursue scheduling a vaccine as soon as possible. All individuals 16 and older are now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine in every state. At this time, there are no vaccines approved for pediatric use (15 and under).

Vaccinated individuals will follow the same guidelines/protocols as everyone else at camp.

➤ 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 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 and families.

➤ 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, much of a camper's 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/Family Pre-Arrival, Check-in, and Departure

In the two weeks prior to arrival at camp, all participants (Suzuki families, faculty, camp employees) 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, participants (6 yrs and older) who

are attending 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. **Any participant who has been fully vaccinated at least two weeks prior to camp can show proof of vaccine upon arrival in lieu of the molecular (PCR) test.** To be considered “fully vaccinated,” an individual must receive the final dose of the vaccine at least two weeks before arrival.

All essential documentation and communication relating to the Suzuki Family Camp experience and accommodations will take place prior to arrival so that Blue Lake can help to limit interactions during family check-in. Upon arrival, families will complete our health screening (including a temperature check), submit their negative PCR test result, then proceed to their cabin for move-in prior to the first schedule commitment.

➤Travel To and From Camp

Those traveling prior to Blue Lake are expected to follow current CDC guidelines. The CDC recently announced newly updated travel guidelines for vaccinated and unvaccinated travelers. For more information, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html#quick-reference> Regardless of travel plans, participants are expected to complete a daily symptom check for 14 days prior to arrival. At this time, Blue Lake is unable to provide local transportation to/from travel depots for students, faculty, or staff. We recommend that all participants plan to drive in a private vehicle to camp, if possible.

➤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 employees and participants
- 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 according to CDC and ACA guidelines for camps
- 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.

➤Vaccinated Versus Non-Vaccinated Status

The CDC has recently expanded acceptable activities for vaccinated individuals, including more flexibility with gatherings and when a mask is not necessary. However, for purposes of camp operation, our staff is unable to distinguish between those who are vaccinated and those who are not. Therefore, all participants will adhere to the same health and safety expectations, regardless of an individual's vaccination status. At camp, participants are expected to wear masks during the majority of the time, including instructional activities, group events, during mealtime (except when eating), and anytime the recommended 6' distance cannot be maintained. Participants are not required to wear a mask when eating/drinking, swimming, showering, sleeping, or when exclusively within their family cohort (in the cabin, or alone with the family group outdoors).

➤Program Adjustments and Considerations

Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp has adjusted Suzuki program offerings and daily schedule with a focus on smaller groups, limited mixing of participants, and maximizing outdoor activities. Enrollment for each 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.

For all participants, evening events will focus on small group gatherings with faculty and group members, whether a recital, instruction, or traditional camp activities. Multiple groups 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. 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. Families will eat together, but apart from other participants. Groups will eat at staggered intervals to limit capacity, with assigned meal lines and appropriately spaced tables. All participants 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 participants 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.

➤ Recreation and Free Time

As a part of the Suzuki Family Camp schedule, participants have daily opportunities for recreation, fun, creativity, and free time. In order to facilitate physical distancing, opportunities for recreation, pool use, or other activities may be indicated at specific time-windows within a family's schedule.

Because remaining COVID-free during camp is critical to our operation, Blue Lake recommends that participants exercise caution and common sense in their activities outside of the camp program. Blue Lake will provide recommendations for off-camp establishments that promote safe operations, including providing patrons with outdoor and appropriately spaced seating and curbside pick-up.

➤ 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.

Participants will be notified if they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, within the limits of HIPAA compliance. While a vaccinated individual is not required to quarantine after exposure, the recommended 14-day quarantine for a non-vaccinated individual would prohibit that student from remaining at camp.

➤ 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.
