

## **An Open Letter to Our Camp Community**

What a remarkable time it has been for our nation and the world as concerns with coronavirus and COVID-19 continue to evolve each moment. Our thoughts go out to families who have been directly impacted, whether through illness, quarantine, or disruption in everyday life. School closures, cancelled events, trips, practices, sports, performances, competitions, festivals, ever-changing restrictions – we realize it is overwhelming and deflating for our young artists, who have worked so hard to prepare, poised to take center stage or field or studio, only to have it wiped away in an instant with no clear direction if or when they may have a future opportunity. Nevertheless, we respect our health officials and are grateful to our healthcare heroes who are acting in the best interest of the public during these extreme times.

Naturally, for those of us who are Blue Lakers, we immediately begin to think about summer and potential impacts on our camp operation. We are, of course, concerned. But we must also remain hopeful. As with all Blue Lake endeavors, the health, care, safety, and well-being of our camp community are paramount within our work. We can also assure you that, by the time summer rolls around, our young artists are going to need a good dose of camp fun along with the opportunity to get back to our music, art, dance, and theater!

As the situation and response guidelines are changing daily, we know that many things will look different between now and summer. We are continuing to prepare for a great summer of arts enrichment. We are also consulting with camp and medical professionals to develop a variety of protocol adjustments in order to implement additional precautions that would benefit our campus environment. And we have revamped our refund policy to eliminate risk for families should withdrawal or cancellation due to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic become necessary. You can count on Blue Lake taking an aggressive and reasonable approach to enhancing protocols and addressing family concerns.

Enrolled families will receive updates on our summer details as we move forward and you are welcome to contact us with questions and concerns at any time. We are looking forward to seeing you this summer.

Sincerely,

Heidi Stansell, Vice President, Operations & Finance  
Adrian Cook, Director of Campus Services  
Jessica Bryant, Director of Student Services  
Joshua Farmer, Director of Health Services

## **Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp's Response to COVID-19 Concerns**

### **March 23, 2020**

Blue Lake's administrative team meets regularly to plan and respond to this ongoing concern. We are monitoring recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, and are in consultation with our local and state officials, as well as our licensing agency, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

### **Blue Lake's Health Services and Current Practice**

Blue Lake's health infrastructure works to keep our environment as healthy and clean as possible. We have a number of existing practices in place aimed at protecting the members of our camp community from potential illness or infection, including camper health screenings on opening day during check-in, monitoring camper health during the session, and acting upon any concerns immediately. Blue Lake's support staff routinely clean and

disinfect restrooms and community spaces, and our counseling staff promote good hygiene practices among campers. We use a lot of hand sanitizer at camp! Blue Lake's Health Services team works alongside medical professionals and local consultants to provide around-the-clock care and guidance within our camp community.

The Health Lodge provides first-aid care for campers and addresses any emergencies which may occur. Camp nurses and other certified personnel are available 24 hours a day to assist campers with medical needs. Ambulance and hospital care are available 15 minutes from the camp. Transportation is provided by qualified health personnel.

### **Additional Health Safety Measures Summer 2020**

Blue Lake's administrative team is consulting with camp and medical professionals in order to develop additional precautions that would benefit our campus environment. While plans are still developing, you can count on the camp taking an aggressive but reasonable approach to enhancing protocols and addressing concerns.

Plans include:

- Pre-camp screenings for campers prior to arrival
- Enhanced health screenings on opening day
- Camper education on hygiene, cleanliness, and best practices
- More frequent routine and deep cleaning of common spaces and surfaces, including use of the Clorox Total 360 Program
- Additional hand-sanitizing stations in high-traffic areas

### **Camper Family Education**

We feel that it is a responsibility of our camper families to stay educated on the coronavirus and COVID-19. You can find helpful information at these following links:

<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/coronavirus-facts-infographic>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/share-facts-h.pdf>

[https://www.nasponline.org/Documents/Resources%20and%20Publications/Resources/Crisis/COVID-19\\_parent\\_handout\\_NASP\\_NASN\\_2-20\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.nasponline.org/Documents/Resources%20and%20Publications/Resources/Crisis/COVID-19_parent_handout_NASP_NASN_2-20_FINAL.pdf)

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Is Blue Lake going to offer camp this summer?**

Yes. We are busy planning a great summer of camp, and there are no plans to cancel any sessions or programs at this time. If Blue Lake cancels any sessions or programs, your camp tuition and any payment for unfulfilled orders or services would be fully refunded.

### **When are pre-orders and final payments due?**

All pre-orders, the camper health record, acknowledgement of the camper-family handbook, and final payments are due at least 30 days prior to the start of your camp session.

## **What is Blue Lake's refund policy?**

Blue Lake has adjusted its standard refund policy to reduce risk for families as we navigate complications relating to the coronavirus and COVID-19. Please contact us if you have any concerns or questions. Refunds are processed within 30 days of written notice to [admissions@bluelake.org](mailto:admissions@bluelake.org).

All tuition and unfulfilled orders or services will be refunded, including the deposit, if a student or family is impacted directly by the current coronavirus and COVID-19 concerns, such as but not limited to the following examples:

- Student cannot travel to Blue Lake due to government restrictions as of June 17, 2020
- Student cannot attend Blue Lake due to adjusted school dates which conflict with Blue Lake session
- Student has personal or family health or activity restrictions due to COVID-19 concerns
- Student family faces financial hardship directly related to COVID-19 concerns
- Student fails Blue Lake's pre-arrival screening, opening day health screening, or is considered potentially contagious while at camp (the student will not be permitted to attend).
- Blue Lake cancels a program or session

Blue Lake's Standard Refund Policy: Refunds to those whose applications have been accepted will be processed within 30 days of receipt of written notice to [admissions@bluelake.org](mailto:admissions@bluelake.org), as follows:

- If written notice of cancellation arrives 30 days before the opening of the session, all payments made, less the non-refundable \$200 deposit, will be refunded.
- If written notice cancellation arrives 10 – 29 days before the opening of the session, all payments made, less a \$300 fee (incl. deposit), will be refunded.
- If written notice of cancellation arrives 1 – 9 days before the opening of the session, all payments made, less a \$400 fee (incl. deposit) will be refunded.
- If a student withdraws from camp before the end of a session, all payments made less a \$450 fee (incl. deposit), will be refunded. The balance will be pro-rated on the number of days left in the session. The parent/guardian must complete an Early Withdrawal form at the Unit Director's office.
- Fees for minors are non-refundable unless cancellation notice or request to change minor enrollment status is received 30 days prior to the opening day of the session.
- No refunds will be considered for withdrawals resulting from homesickness.

## **What is your protocol if a camper, staff member, or faculty member tests positive for coronavirus while at camp?**

Individuals who display any symptoms which would be considered potentially contagious, regardless of specific ailment, will be immediately isolated from the camper population. Individuals testing positive for the virus, or any other contagion, will remain isolated until arrangements can be made for departure. Our specific protocols for 2020 will depend in part on local, state, and government recommendations, as well as availability of testing.

## **Are there international students coming to Camp?**

In a typical season, Blue Lake hosts approximately 75 students from the international community during summer camp sessions. All international students will need to abide by any government or CDC travel restrictions at the time of their travel. Given that uncertainty at this time, we anticipate many of our 2020 international students may defer their participation to next season. Currently, Blue Lake is not prohibiting the registration of international participants, and will not change that practice unless it is the recommendation of governing agencies. All campers will be required to complete the pre-screening prior to camp, and the health screening upon arrival.

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