



Dear Families

RE: Covid-19 Update

May 22nd, 2020

Earlier this week, the Premier of Ontario announced that day camps **WOULD BE ABLE TO OPERATE, (assuming the Covid-19 stats permit Camps to operate)**. The requirement for all Camps that wish to operate is to ensure we are working in partnership with local public health, the Ministry of Labour and the local municipality. This is now the clear directive for us to work together with these authorities to ensure our day camp can operate safely. We are now able to reach out to York Region Public Health and to the City of Richmond Hill to work together with us to ensure we together can set out protocols that will ensure the safety of all campers and staff. As it is everyone's interest to ensure we are all doing the best we can to operate safely this summer, we are sure that this co-operative effort will prove successful.

Many of our families have reached out to us in the last few days to see if we will be operating this summer. This announcement by Doug Ford has reaffirmed our commitment to provide a RHCC Day Camp in 2020.

You have our assurance that although this year is a significant challenge for everyone it is important for us to achieve protocols that work towards offering children as normal a summer as possible which obviously includes the great experience Camp offers. We will be adding several additional fun activities to the camp schedule as well.

Safety for campers and staff will continue to be our number one priority in determining how we can operate camp this summer.

We are scheduling extended training for all staff to ensure they follow all protocols set in place. This is the reason we have shifted the start for camp to July 6th for the first session. We embrace the opportunity for both York Region and City of Richmond Hill Health Services to work with us to provide the protocols they will deem necessary for our day camp to operate.

Although we have already initiated many of the measures and protocols that we need to take in order to keep everyone safe, we will have these reviewed by the local authorities and expect to enhance them once York Region and the City of Richmond Hill provide their input. Our next step will be to confirm the final protocols and provide them to you when they are finalized.

As always, the team at the Richmond Hill Country Club Day Camp is committed to the safety of our campers and staff. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself or any member of our team.

Stay healthy.

Jay Wolkoff, Camp Director

Here are some FAQ's that we have received from Parents.

- ***When will a decision be made for sure on operating camp this summer?***
We have confirmed that we are operating this year and will advise if we are permitted to do so hopefully within the next 2 weeks.
- ***How many campers will be allowed to attend camp at one time?***
While we do not have a specific number yet from Public Health, we have committed to operate the camp and to reduce the number of campers to half our current capacity and to focus on smaller groups. We need to ensure the camp operates safely and as the Camp is part of the Richmond Hill Country Club there will be plenty of space to keep groups separate and to give each group ample room to socially distance where possible. Two counselors will be assigned to each group. We are mandating that all staff wear (happy face -face masks) and remain with their group. We expect to identify how this will work in our consultation with the various authorities and will follow their guidance.
- ***How will camp be responsive to our current COVID-19 realities?***
Bussing is no longer possible for our Campers this year as we cannot control your child's safety while on the bus to and from Camp. In this regard the regular Camp programs will run from 9 am to 4pm daily; however we will be extending the camp hours for extended hours from 8:30 am to 5 pm daily permitting a more flexible drop off and pick up time for parents to drive to and from camp each day. These extended hours will be designed to keep all campers active and engaged as well. We will have staff to greet Parents and to have the assigned Counselor in the group to handle each child on drop off and pick up during these extended hours. The extended hours are designed to permit parents more flexibility to schedule drop off and pick up.

We have committed to hiring a health care team, inclusive of qualified RN /RPN staff to assist in ensuring all campers are monitored during each day, with protocols from taking temperature to keeping detailed protocols to ensure we minimize the risk for all.

We are all in this together and to achieve everyone's goals to operate the Camp safely we will need your help. We are requesting all parents ensure they do not send their children to camp if they or others in their family have been in contact with others who have been diagnosed with the virus or have symptoms of fever, cough or other symptoms of the virus. If parents take the necessary precautions set out above while at home, our Health Care/ Nursing Team will follow up and monitor all staff and campers throughout the day to ensure everyone is symptom free.

Although we cannot fully diagnose all participants attending camp due to asymptomatic individuals, we will limit all outside exposure by restricting access to our staff and will focus on keeping all groups separated by PHYSICAL DISTANCING for activities they participate in during the day.

We are also adding several dedicated full-time maintenance staff who will be cleaning washrooms several times throughout the day, as well as high touch surfaces.

We will make hand washing stations more accessible and in addition to the current washroom facilities to ensure these will be available to all campers several times a day. We will also have hand wipes available for staff to hand out during the day.

We will be adjusting the schedule of the day to allow for proper hygiene including hand washing. We are focused to avoid congestion on our camp site from Drop off to Pick up every day.

- ***Will campers be screened before coming to camp?***
Our Nursing team will require all Campers to submit a screening form daily upon check in. Temperatures of all campers and staff will be taken daily upon arrival as well. Campers presenting with fever or symptoms will not be allowed to attend camp. If the camper has interacted with anyone outside of camp (like a family member in the house) who has COVID-19 symptoms, they will be unable to attend.
- ***Will campers from other countries be allowed to attend camp?***

Currently, there is a travel ban and therefore they would be unable to attend camp.

- ***Will services offered by the camp be impacted as a result of COVID-19?***

Campers will need to be kept in cohorts (groups), maintaining Social Distancing with other groups on the campsite.

Bussing will not be available this summer. Camp hours are being extended to operating from 8:30 am to 5 pm.

Lunch will be prepackaged when served to campers.

We will need to readdress the Mix and Match programs offered this season

- ***What will the camp experience be this year?***

Emphasis will be on physical distancing. Where-ever possible, groups will be participating together and participating in all activities; however they will be staying together in their individual groups to minimize exposure for all.

Of course, there are other things that make camp special such as taking on challenges or learning to adapt to a new situation. We're going to do what we can to try and make camp as special as it has been. We have already begun to adapt our programming to be responsive to the current situation and we have an amazing summer lined up for your child.

- ***Will campers receive instructional and recreational swim?***

We continue to work through what this will look like. Currently, public pools in the province are closed. Once they are allowed to open, we will be able to provide updates on the signature component of our day camp experience.

- ***Will it be safe for staff to work this summer?***

We will follow the protocols provided by York Region Public Health and the Ministry of Labour to ensure the safety of our staff.

- ***When will the final payment be processed?***

We have shifted final payments to June 8th. Payments will not be processed until the 8th of June.

- ***What is your refund policy if we decide to cancel?***

We have shifted our no-penalty cancellation policy to June 8th.

We hope however that you will allow your child to participate in the wonderful summer experience

- ***With the significant changes and protocols imposed on the Camp to protect our Children from the Covid-19 Virus, how will this year's camp experience be impacted?***

We are focused on making this year's camp experience a magical one. By reducing the number of campers with our focus to provide more personalized attention to all campers and add many new activities all the while permitting camp to function within all the health protocols we will be following. **LIFE CAN STILL BE FUN DURING A PANDEMIC!**

- ***As there is still some uncertainty about all the details how the camp will operate this year how soon will all details be finalized for parents to make an informed decision if it is safe for their children to attend camp?***

While we still don't have all the answers at this time, we will continue to update you as we know more information. We appreciate how there is still uncertainty about what camp will be like this summer we are working hard to see camp operates safely this summer and is still an exceptional experience for all Campers. Being part of the Richmond Hill Country Club, the Camp can be flexible to make camp safe for all this year and in doing so continue our 29 year camp tradition in 2020. We thank you in advance for your patience thus far and hope a decision will be finalized in the coming weeks once we have more information.