

## Summer 2021 Working Playbook: Planning for a fun, healthy summer!

Last Updated: October 14, 2020

*This is an evolving document. We will update it as needed and add details when they become available. A more detailed Summer 2021 Playbook will be made available closer to summer. All information is subject to change.*

The Cohen Camps plan to open Camp Pembroke and operate safely in Summer 2021. We will adapt the camp experience to give each camper an awesome, spirited summer while reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission in camp. Some camps were able to open and operate last summer with no outbreaks of the COVID-19 virus. Our strategy *right now* is based on those camps’ learnings and best practices and on the most complete safety information we know *as of now*. Much will change or become clearer by summer.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) decides if camps in MA can open and what rules every camp must follow. MA DPH is currently focused on schools; they will turn their attention to camps later. In the meantime, we are closely watching COVID-19 recommendations published by the CDC and studied by the American Camp Association (ACA). The Massachusetts Camping Association, of which we are a member, is advocating for camps with the state and providing guidance as well.

### We are committed to:

- Safeguarding the physical and emotional health of our campers and staff;
- Getting us all back to our beloved home on Lake Oldham;
- Providing a spot at Pembroke for every 2020 enrolled camper and teen. We understand (and you’ve told us) how important returning to camp is for your children during this difficult year.

### Our Community Mitigation Strategies

We intend to create a camp “bubble” in which campers can live their Pembroke summer as normally as possible. Once here, we may require that all campers and staff will remain at camp, without leaving camp property. The basic steps of handwashing, physical distancing, mask wearing, cleaning/disinfecting, also known as “Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions,” will all play a role at camp next summer. While informed by the findings and recommendations of the several national and state camp associations of which the Cohen Camps is a member, we are also putting together a Medical & Safety Committee—which will include many of you who generously volunteered your professional expertise on the Parent Survey—and will tap other subject matter experts when needed.

### Israel

We have made the difficult decision that the Dor L’Dor Israel travel programs will not take place this summer.

- Teens of DLD’21: We’ve made room for you at camp with your friends for leadership opportunities and enhanced traditions.
- Teens of DLD’20: you are invited to an accelerated Kadima leadership program and to apply for a staff role.

*Details in the “For our Oldest Campers & Teens” section below.*

### Family Partnership

We treasure your partnership. You are essential to making next summer possible for each camper, and we look forward to working together to create the best possible experiences. Special thanks to the nearly 200 families who completed the recent Parent Survey. Your preferences and reactions have informed our planning. Your offers to talk about building the financial bridge to camp’s future and/or to contribute your professional healthcare expertise are deeply appreciated. We are also very grateful to the members of the Parent Perspective Committee—a small group with representatives from all camps and camper ages—for your feedback and support.

**Mitigation Strategies + Your Partnership = Summer 2021!**

# Enrollment



## Capacity

**Camp Pembroke will open 2021 registration with a cap on enrollment.** Because Massachusetts did not permit camps to open in 2020, we're looking at the guidelines other states established as our starting point. For now, we will limit enrollment based each cabin's capacity to maintain a 6' distance between sleepers' heads, a metric often used in other states. We will reassess this capacity when MA announces its own policies for 2021. We will adhere to whatever MA sets as the limit; we won't be able to "squeeze in" any extra people.

## Sessions Offered

**For Summer 2021, we are offering two 3.5-week sessions, each the same number of days and Shabbatot. We are also offering a full-season option.** We will not offer the two-week Taste of Pembroke option this year.

**1<sup>st</sup> Session: Tuesday, June 29 – Friday, July 23**

Weekend break for cleaning. Full season campers will have a cozy Shabbat and Virtual Visiting Day(s).

**2<sup>nd</sup> Session: Monday, July 26 – Thursday, August 19**

## Priority Enrollment Period for 2020 Enrolled Campers

Priority Enrollment opens

Starting Monday, October 19, login to [MyCampPembroke](#)

Priority Enrollment closes

Monday, November 9

During Priority Enrollment, we are holding a 2021 spot for your camper in the same session(s) for which you registered that camper in 2020, if they are still of camper age. If you had registered for a 2-week Taste session, we are holding a spot in the 3.5-week session of the same month as that choice.

We confirmed our opportunities by modeling every scenario, considering the number of campers in each age group, campers with siblings and their ages, and other factors. We considered our camp values of caring and appreciation for each person. We thought deeply about the experience of our older campers and how we could (re)capture the most important moments for them. We're so pleased that we will be able to welcome back every 2020 enrolled camper, if they are still of camper age, with special experiences for all our teens.

You will receive an email confirming when your application is accepted and your camper enrolled. If you apply after Priority Enrollment closes, we will place your child if space is available.

## Changing Your Session

We have some flexibility with space in 2021, even though we are capping enrollment, because we had ceased enrolling campers at the start of the pandemic while we still had some spots open. On your application, please indicate the session(s) you would like in 2021. After Priority Enrollment closes, if you have requested a session change—a switch to the other session or an increase to the full season—we'll contact you to discuss availability.

## New Siblings and New Family Enrollment

Please submit your application as soon as possible, starting on Monday, October 19. This will put you first in line for any available spots once Priority Enrollment closes. Space permitting, we will process these applications (siblings first, then new families) starting on November 10.

## For Younger First-Time Campers

Younger first-timers will get even more care and support than usual this summer. While we will not offer the two-week Taste of Pembroke sessions, our caring staff will ensure these campers have a terrific regular session.

## Tuition

Your tuition deposit is required to hold your child's spot at camp.

- **If you rolled over tuition from 2020**, you will see that as a credit on your [MyCampPembroke](#) dashboard. We will apply any credit before charging any new fees. If your credit covers your deposit, you will not need to enter any payment with your application.
- **If you rolled over more 2020 tuition than you need for Summer 2021** (for example, if you rolled over Dor L'Dor tuition), then you have your choice: you may request any difference back as a refund or convert some/all of it into a tax-deductible donation to the future of camp. Simply [send us an email](#) and let us know your choice. If you request a refund, we will send you a check.

### **COVID-19 Fee**

This year, Pembroke requires a COVID-19 Fee of (per camper) \$200 for one session and \$350 for the full season to cover the additional costs of PPE, testing, cleaning, etc. Payment of this fee is also required to hold your child's spot at camp.

### **Cancellation Policies**

We are clarifying our cancellation and refund policies. These will be included in the application forms and on our website. Your deposit and COVID-19 Fee are fully refundable until December 1, 2020, so that if you would like to adjust your plans you will have time to do so with no risk.

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## **Before Arriving at Camp**

To minimize the risk of COVID-19 coming into camp, campers and their families must remain vigilant and refrain from contact as much as possible with people outside of their households for the time period recommended by the CDC at that time. We will send guidelines before camp when we know the latest recommended practices, including the possibility of pre-camp testing.

### **Symptom Screening**

At this time, symptom screening is not recommended by the CDC. It is possible that Pembroke will implement a symptom screening procedure upon recommendation of the CDC and our Medical & Safety Committee.

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## **Transportation and Pick-Up/Drop-Off**

As we get closer to camp, we will inform you how pick-up and drop-off will work, both for driving and for flying.

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## **During Camp**

### **Cabins and Pods**

We will scale our groups as required by the MA Department of Public Health. Your camper's cabin will be their camp family. If MA DPH permits it, we anticipate that several cabins—up to 50 people, including counselors—may socialize as a “pod.”

### **Start of Session**

Campers will stay with their cabin for all meals and activities. If pods are permitted, pods will use community mitigation strategies such as masks for however long (currently 14 days) the CDC recommends next summer. This will minimize risk and speed up contact tracing if needed.

### **Later in the Session**

After the CDC-recommended period, if there are no cases of COVID-19 present in camp, we will consider resuming a more usual daily schedule and relaxing the limits so that age groups (and siblings) can socialize more fully. We will follow advice from the CDC, the ACA, MA DPH, and our Medical & Safety Committee.

### **In-Camp Testing**

Much depends on next summer's CDC recommendations and test availability. We will explore all the options and share plans as we get closer to summer.

### **Outdoor Living**

Since ventilation reduces the risk of transmission, we will conduct as many activities as possible outdoors. We plan to install shade tents for activities that might otherwise take place inside. Because many of our buildings use garage doors as walls, we can ensure good ventilation even in covered spaces throughout camp.

### **Mask-Wearing**

Until the CDC issues its Summer 2021 recommendations, it's too soon to determine our actual mask policy. For now, we expect that campers and staff will be required to wear masks when inside buildings, except when

eating or inside their own cabin. Activities in pods and in outdoor activities where physical distancing cannot be maintained will require mask wearing. Staff who interact with multiple groups may be masked at those times.

### **Health Center Enhancements**

We will add to the PPE and readiness of our Health Center. We will establish clear processes for recognizing COVID-19 symptoms, monitoring and quarantining as necessary, and providing swift care and notification to families. All our procedures will follow the latest state, local, and CDC rules and recommendations. We will approach these plans thoughtfully and in ways that protect and do not stigmatize campers. We will update you about our plans and procedures as we get closer to camp.

If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 at camp, we will notify all campers' families while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with current privacy laws. If your camper is in direct contact with a confirmed case, we will get in touch with you specifically about your child's health and wellness. We will notify state and local health officials of any confirmed positive test as required.

### **Cleaning, Handwashing & Sanitizing**

We will do lots of cleaning of communal spaces, shared items, and frequently touched surfaces and lots of overall handwashing and sanitizing. During the weekend between the two sessions (Friday-Monday), we will do deep cleaning and let spaces "rest."

### **Dining Hall**

Our kitchen staff will have appropriate COVID-19-related food safety training. Our family style meals and mixed-age dining are a special aspect of Pembroke life. While we hope to eat family-style, we likely cannot include mixed-age dining in next summer's experience. As with other activities, we will know more about what's possible closer to the summer.

### **Bubble Integrity**

To keep the camp "bubble" safe and free from COVID-19, visitors, guests, and volunteers will not be permitted. (If you have friends thinking about touring camp, please let them know we'll welcome them for "virtual tours.")

If your child will stay the full season, there will be Virtual Visiting Day(s).

We will be especially grateful to each of our counselors and staff people next summer. In addition to taking on the joyful, rewarding, intense job of caring for your children, they will be doing so under different circumstances than previous summers. Our commitment remains to keeping a balance between the health and safety of our community and supporting our staff who make it all possible.

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## **For our Oldest Campers and Teens**

### **Decision to not run the Dor L'Dor Israel trips**

We had hoped to take two groups: DLD'21 and DLD'20. Israel's COVID-19 situation and intelligence from our longtime Israel tour partner indicate that large groups like DLD (each cohort is ~130 people from three camps) are unlikely to be allowed. A domestic US trip would cost families more—and possibly have similar health risks.

Some camps with 30-40-person cohorts still hope to travel to Israel or domestically. Some may cancel their trips next spring, with no alternative to offer their teens. We choose a different approach: to guarantee all our 2020 enrolled campers and teens—including those of DLD'21—a spot together at camp next summer, and to offer DLD'20 a special opportunity. To do this, we must start planning now, so we must make this decision now.

**If you rolled over tuition from 2020 toward DLD, you'll see that as a credit** on your [MyCampPembroke](#) dashboard.

- **Parents of rising 11<sup>th</sup> graders:** We will apply any DLD credit before charging any new Summer 2021 fees.
- **Parents of rising 12<sup>th</sup> graders:** you have your choice: you may request DLD tuition back as a refund, apply it to a sibling, or convert some/all of it into a tax-deductible donation to the future of camp. Simply [send us an email](#) and let us know. If you request a refund, we will send you a check.

**If you are a rising 10<sup>th</sup> grader (Y'Rush'21):**

You will have the Y'Rush summer you've longed for, even though camp will be a little different than a typical summer! While the DLD'21 teens will also be at camp, they will have their own leadership experiences. Together, Y'Rush'21 and DLD'21 will lead the way in Sisterhood. We can't wait to see you all at camp!

**If you are a rising 11<sup>th</sup> grader (DLD'21):**

This will be a special summer tailored to your group and age. You'll live together in bunks and enjoy leadership opportunities that recognize that you are a year older. We'll blend this with modified Kadima leadership and camper care workshops. Your weekly schedule will mix personal experiences and your Kadima personal growth.

We still want to get you to Israel with your camp friends! We hold hope that in Summer 2022 we can offer you an Israel leadership program.

**If you are a rising 12<sup>th</sup> grader (DLD'20):**

***Please watch for more information in a separate email and join us for an online orientation session on November 1.*** You are invited to take part in an accelerated, online Kadima Camper Care and Leadership program this fall and then apply to join the camp staff for Summer 2021! Kadima will meet by Zoom for five Sundays this fall and winter, at 2 hours per session.

This mini-course will add to your resume, enhance your counselor skills, and help you create wonderful camp experiences for the younger campers who look up to you. While Kadima participation is not required to apply for a staff role, your Kadima certification will give you a leg up for your application and, if hired, a higher salary than you would receive without it. Details will come to you directly from Stacey Smalley, Director of Kadima, or you may always contact her at [stacey@cohencamps.org](mailto:stacey@cohencamps.org).

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## **Thank you for partnering with us to provide a safe, healthy camp experience.**

We are making only the decisions that must be made now. We're staying flexible on as many details as possible so that we can adapt to what the state and local authorities require and the CDC recommends next year. This document reflects what we know—and what we do not yet know. We will regularly update this information.

If more is allowed/recommended by MA, where we can do so, we will adjust. It takes 10 months to prepare for the two months of summer. This year in particular, we do not want to scramble. Giving us all a clear starting point lets us plan over time and puts us in a better position to adapt as we go should the actual scenario change.

**As always, we're here for you if you'd like to get in touch.**

- Got questions about camp sessions or your child's enrollment? For the quickest answers, please [email us](#).
- Would you prefer a longer conversation by phone or Zoom? Please [pick a time on our online calendar](#).

We look forward to welcoming your family and giving each camper the best possible Summer 2021!

**Warmly, and with so much Pembroke Sisterhood,**

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