

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

Latest Update: December 21, 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 are fully committed to opening Camp Pembroke as broadly as the state allows this coming summer. We are feeling increasingly optimistic that we'll be able to provide the wonderful, fun camp experience campers love here, even if some health and safety modifications remain necessary, so long as we retain a sense of flexibility and an ability to adjust along the way. 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 public health department to advocate for the state to develop flexible guidelines as quickly as possible. While we hope for more clarity soon, the recent surge in infections is delaying some of this work. It's possible that guidelines will not arrive until March or April.

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 Tel Noar summer as normally as possible. 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.

Medical guidance

We are now forming our Medical Committee to advise us on health protocols leading up to and during the summer. We will hold our first meeting early in January. Also in January, a task force of the American Camp Association (ACA) and the national YMCA will release their data analysis of the best practices from camps that operated last summer. This data will inform our Medical Committee and assist state and national bodies in developing practical guidance.

Israel

We have made the difficult decision that the Dor L'Dor Israel travel programs will not take place this summer. *Details in the "For our Oldest Campers & Teens" section below.*

Family Partnership

We treasure your partnership. 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, to the members of the Parent Perspective Committee—representing all camps and camper ages—and to those who have donated to the Sustainability Fund.

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.

1st Session: Tuesday, June 29 – Friday, July 23

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

2nd Session: Monday, July 26 – Thursday, August 19

Priority Enrollment Period for 2020 Enrolled Campers

Priority Enrollment opened

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

Priority Enrollment closed

Monday, November 9

During Priority Enrollment, we held 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 held 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 would 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 now that Priority Enrollment has closed, 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 apply](#) as soon as you are ready. We are now processing these applications and placing campers!

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 are included in the application forms.

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.

Pre-Camp Testing

Much depends on next summer's CDC recommendations and test availability. We are researching pre-camp COVID testing options. It is possible that Pembroke will require pre-camp testing upon recommendation of the CDC and our Medical Committee.

Vaccinations

The national and state camp associations of which the Cohen Camps is a member are petitioning the CDC and state administrators to include camp professionals (at least our staff who are beyond college age) among the earlier waves of childcare professionals to receive the vaccine. Dr. Anthony Fauci has said that the vaccine will be widely available to adults in April, so we will encourage all staff to begin their two-shot regimen then. The vaccine makers will begin their youth trials in January, so we will await word on those results before making vaccine recommendations for campers.

It's not yet known whether the vaccines protect people from infection entirely, or just from symptoms, nor whether vaccinated people might still be able to get infected and pass the virus on. Therefore we are including vaccines as part of our wider COVID plans, not an end to the need for those plans.

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.

During Camp

Program

We are operating under the assumption that camp will be a closed community "bubble" this summer, with multiple layers of protection to limit potential transmission of the coronavirus. Programs will stay fun and engaging: we're looking at each activity to plan ahead for those that can remain as usual and those that we'll adapt to make COVID-friendly. We will replace trips out of camp with in-camp fun. Campers will have as "normal" a summer as possible!

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 Committee.

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 are researching in-camp COVID testing options, including both rapid and PCR tests. The American Camp Association (ACA) and the other camp organizations we belong to are working to secure ample testing resources for camps.

Outdoor Living

Since ventilation reduces the risk of transmission, we will conduct as many activities as possible outdoors. To run as many programs as possible outdoors, we are working on securing open-sided tents; as you might imagine, the demand for these is high these days. We'll improve ventilation in many cabins. 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 separating those with possible symptoms from those with normal camp scrapes or colds, 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 protocols as we get closer to camp.

For those campers and staff with pre-existing health conditions which could be significantly affected by COVID, we will work individually with families and their health care providers to plan for the summer.

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.



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 had to make this decision this fall

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

- **Parents of rising 11th graders:** We will apply any DLD credit before charging any new Summer 2021 fees.
- **Parents of rising 12th graders, or who rolled over more 2020 tuition than needed for Summer 2021:** 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 10th 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 11th 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.

For rising 12th graders (DLD’20):

We’re delighted that so many of you are taking part in our fall/winter accelerated, online Kadima Camper Care and Leadership program and planning to apply to join the camp staff for Summer 2021! 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. Stacey Smalley, Director of Kadima, is available to you at stacey@cohencamps.org.

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](#).

Thank you for building the bridge to camp's future.

The long-term sustainability of camp depends on completing the \$3 million Sustainability Fund. This \$3M will cover most of the Cohen Camps' loss of tuition for Summer 2020. Generous donors have already contributed \$1.7M, and camp will open in 2021. Beyond that, the future for campers and camp depends on securing the remaining \$1.3M. After that, we can begin to think about new projects such as continuing building renovations and the Kadima program's yurt villages. We invite you to learn more in in your [2020 Video Impact Report](#), celebrate the [Sustainability Fund Donor Honor Roll](#), and [make or increase your gift](#).

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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