

BYM Camps

Catoctin

Opequon

Shiloh

Teen Adventure

Health & Safety Plan

Summer 2021

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Camping Program Health & Safety Plan, Summer 2021

OVERVIEW

The Baltimore Yearly Meeting Camping Program is characterized by a broad and resilient community in which we care for one another and follow the long-held Quaker testimonies of Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, and Stewardship. Implicit in each testimony is the recognition that we live in close relationship with one another.

We are experiencing a global pandemic that is unlike anything we have witnessed in our lifetimes. The spread of COVID-19 throughout our world and within our region has led us to take precautions as individuals and as a community that have changed our daily lives in ways large and small. In the summer of 2020, it led to Baltimore Yearly Meeting not operating a summer camp for the first time in 62 years. It also highlighted the importance and value of this camping program – of Catoctin, Shiloh, Opequon, and Teen Adventure – in the lives of so many young people, so many staff members, so many families, so many alumni and members of the broader community. As a result, it has strengthened our resolve to safely reopen the BYM Camps in 2021, to have a joyous and restorative and safe summer together.

This Health and Safety Plan provides guidelines for all camp operations and activities related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan was created by BYM staff, in consultation with experts both inside and outside of our community. It has incorporated many sources of knowledge and guidance, including best practices within the broader summer camp community, and requirements from local, state, and federal agencies. Given the dynamic nature of the pandemic, this plan attempts to account for multiple scenarios and contingencies and will continue to be updated in order to adapt to changing conditions.

The BYM Camps Health & Safety Team will continuously monitor preparations for and implementation of this plan, leading up to and throughout the 2021 summer camp season, and we will update and adapt the plan as needed. All updates will be communicated immediately to staff and families.

As long as there are cases of COVID-19 in our region, there are no strategies that can completely eliminate transmission risk at a summer camp. However, we believe that we can keep that risk level as low as possible, while also balancing mitigation strategies and programmatic alterations to produce a magical, fun-filled summer for all campers and staff. We are cautious, we are diligent, and we are thrilled to welcome campers and staff back to BYM Camps in 2021.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In creating this plan and overall strategy for reopening BYM Camps, we followed these guiding principles:

Prioritize the health and safety of all members of our camp community

- The physical and social-emotional wellness of all campers and staff is our primary consideration.

Stay grounded and intent in our mission

- Amidst all that has happened and all that will happen, BYM Camps will remain focused on our mission to provide transformational experiences for the young people in our care by living out the core Quaker testimonies of Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, and Stewardship.

Remain committed to equality and equity

- BYM Camps will place considerations of equity, diversity, inclusion, and access at the center of all of our planning efforts.

Maintain integrity and trust

- BYM Camps will act with integrity, will strive to build and maintain the trust and confidence of our community, and will communicate clearly and transparently with all of our families, all of our staff, and all other stakeholders and community members.

Build Community

- BYM Camps is committed to building and maintaining a wise and resilient community, one where relationships flourish and grow in the summer, where they are nourished all year round, where these bonds that sustain us then go deeper and become stronger each summer thereafter.

HEALTH & SAFETY PRIORITIES

Appreciate and take advantage of fresh air and the great outdoors

- One of the BYM Camps' greatest sources of strength in combating COVID-19 is the fact that our programming is almost entirely outdoors, with ample fresh air flowing through every space. It has been proven that this virus is transmitted primarily through the air, and that fresh air and sunlight are very effective methods of minimizing risk of transmission. We will prioritize and emphasize outdoor activities, we will make changes to our program and facilities to get us as close as possible to being 100% outdoors, and we will maximize ventilation and air flow wherever possible.

Universal Mask Wearing

- Masks have been unequivocally proven to be one of the most effective mitigation strategies for COVID-19. We will require that all staff and campers wear masks.

Cohorts

- As a way to both reduce transmission risk and allow for the space to engage in normal activities, all campers will be a part of cohorts, referred to as a Cabin Family and a Unit Family. Activities within Cabin and Unit Families will be emphasized. Rules for engagement between Cabin and Unit Families will be strict and well-defined. Campers will not be required to stay physically distanced from their Cabin Family, and will have relaxed mask-wearing rules when with their Cabin Family in the following settings: while in cabin, while eating, while bathing, while swimming, and while on trips.

Physical Distancing

- We will create conditions and procedures that allow for campers to stay physically distant from other campers outside of their Cabin or Unit Family. We will provide auxiliary dining and sheltered space, we will create staggered dining and bathing schedules when necessary, and we will disallow large group activities that require campers to have prolonged close contact with other campers outside of their Cabin or Unit Family. To the greatest extent possible, we will ensure that campers do not have prolonged close contact with other campers outside of their Cabin or Unit Family.

Daily Health Screenings, including at arrival

- At arrival, and at the beginning of each day thereafter, a routine temperature and symptom check will be performed on all of campers

Pre-Arrival Testing

- All campers, staff, and volunteers will be required to have documentation of a negative COVID-19 molecular test performed within 72 hours of arrival at camp. Persons who fail to provide this documentation will be sent home.

On-Site Testing

- All campers and staff will be tested for COVID-19 between 4-6 days after the start of each session.

Frequent hand washing

- BYM Camps will ensure adequate outdoor hand-washing and sanitizing stations at each residential camp. Campers and staff will be encouraged to wash or sanitize their hands frequently, and will be required to do so before or after certain activities.

Minimize touching shared surfaces

- To the greatest extent possible, we will modify our facilities and protocols to limit the need for multiple people to touch a surface unless it has been cleaned.

Increased sheltered outdoor space

- To allow for physical distancing and to minimize congregating, each residential camp will create at least one auxiliary sheltered space, to be used as an additional dining space, and as an additional sheltered space in the event of inclement weather. The auxiliary space will be capable of accommodating at least half of the camp at adequate spacing.

HEALTH & SAFETY TEAM

Following industry-wide best practices, BYM Camps has formed a Health & Safety Team to oversee health and safety preparedness and response planning for the reopening of camp. This team is responsible for facilitating the planning process, monitoring implementation of the Health & Safety Plan, and continued monitoring of regional health data to assess implications for school operations and potential adjustments to the Health & Safety Plan throughout the 2021 camp season.

Health & Safety Team Members:

- Baltimore Yearly Meeting
 - o Brian Massey, Program Manager, BYM Camps
 - o David Hunter, Property Manager, BYM Camps
 - o Wayne Finegar, General Secretary, BYM
 - o Sarah Bur, Infectious Disease Management Consultant
- Catocin Quaker Camp
 - o Dyresha Harris, Director
 - o TBD, Health & Safety Coordinator
- Shiloh Quaker Camp
 - o Hope Swank, Director
 - o TBD, Health & Safety Coordinator
- Opequon Quaker Camp
 - o Jared Wood, Director
 - o TBD, Health & Safety Coordinator
- Teen Adventure Quaker Camp
 - o Rosie Eck, Co-Director
 - o Jesse Austell, Co-Director
 - o TBD, Health & Safety Coordinator

COMMUNICATION & TRAINING

Family Communication Plan

When and how will BYM Camps communicate important information and updates with families?

- March: Families will receive the Draft Health & Safety Plan.
- April: Families will have the opportunity to participate in a Virtual Town Hall with the Program Manager of BYM Camps and other members of the Health & Safety Team, with ample opportunities for asking questions and having concerns directly addressed.
- May: Families will receive the Finalized Health & Safety Plan. Families will also receive support, as needed, in accessing vaccination, testing, or other resources.
- June, July, & August: Families will receive updates on procedures and protocols, as well as reminders of the current known symptoms and transmission dynamics for COVID-19. Families will be sent our Statement of Community Agreements & Collective Responsibility.

Staff Communication Plan

Staff will have ongoing opportunities to provide feedback that will inform and support the following communication structures:

- March: Staff will receive the Draft Health & Safety Plan.
- April: Staff will have the opportunity to participate in a Virtual Town Hall with the Program Manager of BYM Camps and other members of the Health & Safety Team, with ample opportunities for asking questions and having concerns directly addressed. Staff will also receive support, as needed, in accessing vaccination, testing, or other resources.
- May: Staff will receive the Finalized Health & Safety Plan, and will have the opportunity to participate in professional development, either required or encouraged, to assist in their implementation of the plan this summer.
- June, July, & August: Staff will receive updates on procedures and protocols, along with confirmation of whether any camper or staff have reported testing positive or have come into contact with someone who has tested positive.

BEFORE CAMP

Statement of Community Agreements & Collective Responsibility

- A letter containing a statement of community agreements and collective responsibility will be sent to all families and staff in the weeks before camp, both in paper and digital form, with a link provided for all families and staff to electronically sign the statement, indicating their understanding and affirmation.
 - o A draft of the letter can be found in the Appendix.

Testing Requirements for Campers

All campers, staff, and volunteers will be required to have documentation of a negative COVID-19 molecular test performed within 72 hours of arrival at camp. Persons who fail to provide this documentation will be sent home.

- A COVID-19 molecular test is also known as a PCR, RT-PCR, NAAT, or viral test.
- BYM Camps are committed to supporting families and staff with this requirement, if necessary. Please reach out to the Program Manager (brian@bymcamps.org) if you need logistical or financial assistance with regards to getting tested.
- BYM Camps will also share as many resources as we can, so that all families have access to testing that is as convenient as possible. Please read all communications from BYM Camps, and regularly check our [COVID-19 Family Resource Center](#), to ensure that you are up to date on the requirements and how to meet them.

Quarantine & Home Health Log Requirements for Campers

- Campers and their families will be asked to read and affirm the Statement of Community Agreements & Collective Responsibility in the weeks leading up to arriving at camp. Campers are not required to quarantine at home prior to arriving at camp.
- All families will be asked to be intentional in their behaviors for the weeks leading up to arriving at camp, to minimize possible exposure to and transmission of COVID-19.
- We are planning to ask all campers to maintain a home health log for the 14 days before arriving at camp, which would include a daily symptom and travel self-check.
- All families will receive detailed guidance in May related to all pre-arrival expectations and requirements.

Vaccination for Staff & Work Grant Volunteers

- All staff will be strongly encouraged to get vaccinated, with the support and assistance of BYM Camps.
- All work grant volunteers will be required to get vaccinated, if at all possible.
 - o If a volunteer would like an exemption from this policy, they can contact the Program Manager (brian@bymcamps.org) to discuss alternatives.

ARRIVING AT CAMP

Health Screening

- Our standard procedure in any year is to screen all campers and staff upon arrival. In addition to our normal intake screening process, we will do temperature checks, screen for symptoms of COVID-19, and review any required pre-camp home health log. If a camper does not pass the screening, they will not be allowed into camp, and must provide documentation of a second negative molecular (PCR) test before returning.

Arrival Day Rules

- To prevent crowding, we will stagger drop-off times. Families will receive their specific arrival times and the detailed procedures before they arrive. If a family arrives early, they will be asked to wait in the car until their pre-determined arrival time.
- We request that only one family member travel with their camper(s) for actual drop-off.
- We will employ a curbside drop-off system where the family member must stay in the car until the health screening is complete, and then next to their car as they say goodbye to their camper(s) before they depart.
- Physical distancing and masks will be required during drop-off.

CAMP LIFE @ CATOCTIN, OPEQUON, & SHILOH

Cohorts & Units

- It is the traditional structure of Catoctin, Opequon, and Shiloh that all campers are assigned to both a cabin and a unit at the start of each session. That structure will continue, and form the basis for the “cohorts” that BYM Camps will use to limit and contain any potential transmission of COVID-19, should it make it past our initial layers of protection and into the camp itself.

- For the purposes of the Health & Safety Plan, we will employ the following cohort terminology:
 - Cabin Family – Campers and Counselors who all sleep in the same cabin.
 - Unit Family – The combination of two Cabin Families, the Campers and Counselors who are all of similar age and are in the same Unit.
 - Camp Family – All campers, counselors, and staff at Camp.
- For the first several days of camp, camper activities will be primarily concentrated among the Cabin Families. Activities involving the entire Unit Family and the entire Camp Family will be de-emphasized.

Cabins

- When in their own cabins, all Campers and Counselors do not need to wear their masks.
- Campers are not allowed to enter cabins other than their own.
- Counselors and Staff outside of the Cabin Family may enter a cabin if necessary, but they should avoid doing so to the greatest extent possible, they should make their time in the cabin as short as possible, and they must always wear a mask.

Masks for Campers

- All campers are required to wear a mask at all times, with the exceptions of when they are:
 - In their cabin
 - Swimming
 - Taking a shower
 - Eating
 - On a trip with their unit
- Appropriate masks: surgical masks, N95 masks, multi-layer cloth masks
- Inappropriate masks: single-layer masks made of thin fabric, masks with exhalation valves
- Best practices for mask usage include:
 - Masks should be labeled with camper’s name
 - Masks should not be shared
 - Masks must be worn in a way that covers both the nose and the mouth
- Campers should arrive at camp with at least 10 masks labelled with their name.
- Camp will have a sufficient stockpile of extra masks on hand for when one is needed.

Masks for Staff

- All mask-related policies for campers also apply to staff.
- All staff are required to wear a mask at all times, with the exceptions of when they are:

- In their cabin
- Swimming
- Taking a shower
- Eating
- On a trip with their unit
- Appropriate masks: surgical masks, N95 masks, multi-layer cloth masks
- Inappropriate masks: single-layer masks made of thin fabric, masks with exhalation valves
- Best practices for mask usage include:
 - Masks should be labeled with camper's name
 - Masks should not be shared
 - Masks must be worn in a way that covers both the nose and the mouth
- Staff should arrive at camp with at least 20 masks labelled with their name.
- Camp will have a sufficient stockpile of extra masks on hand for when one is needed.

Food and Meals

Eating

- In the first several days of a session, campers will only eat meals with their Cabin Families.
- During and after their first trip, campers will be able to eat meals with their Unit Families
- Meal times will be organized so that Cabin / Unit Families do not all line up at the same time, and are able to eat with adequate space between different Cabin / Unit Families.
- Auxiliary dining spaces will be created at each camp, sheltered and outdoor, to provide for more room for Cabin / Unit Families to eat with adequate space between them.
- Meals will be served family-style, with each Cabin / Unit Family having enough serving dishes at their table for everyone. Serving dishes will not be shared between different Cabin / Unit Families.
- If a camper or counselor has a specific request or need – i.e. a peanut butter & jelly sandwich, something related to taste or allergies – then the counselor will go and get it from the kitchen staff. There will be no general self-serve stations.

Work: Cooking, Setup, & Cleanup

- Kitchen staff will be subject to all general health & safety protocols, including: daily health screenings, universal mask wearing when in public spaces, and enhanced hand-washing and hygiene requirements.
- In-Camp Staff will be responsible for meal setup. Campers and counselors will not assist with this chore.

- All diners will be responsible for returning used plates and utensils to designated dish collection areas after initial cleaning/scraping procedures. They will do so in an organized, staggered fashion, to prevent crowding.

Bathhouses

- Each camp will ensure that each Cabin Family has a specific schedule for when they can take a shower, to prevent crowding and mixing between cohorts.
- Generally, there will be a limit on the number of people who can use the bathhouse at one time, and folks will be asked to wait outside until there is room to enter, with sufficient distance between each camper.
- Instruct campers to all bring their own bathroom supplies in a container labeled with their name. Those personal items will be stored in cubbies. And everyone is to generally avoid sharing common bathroom supplies.
- Sufficient soap, toilet paper, and paper towels will be stocked in the bathhouses at all times, and hand sanitizer will be stocked in porta-potties, when applicable.
- Bathhouses will be thoroughly cleaned, with a clear set of instructions, on a daily basis.

Group Activities

- To the greatest extent possible, all activities will be outside.
- Outdoor activities involving multiple Cabin Families or the whole camp will be deemphasized, while activities involving just Cabin or Unit Families will be emphasized.
- Indoor activities involving multiple Cabin Families or the whole camp will be strongly discouraged.
- At the discretion of the Director and the staff, activities involving multiple Cabin Families are allowed, but only those activities where physical distancing can be maintained, and where campers from different Cabin Families are not in close proximity for any meaningful length of time.
- As stated previously, all campers and staff will wear masks during all activities.

Transportation

- Individual transports will only involve one Unit Family to the greatest extent possible.
- Campers and Staff will all wear masks during the transport.
- In order to maximize ventilation and air flow, vehicle windows will be open whenever possible.
- Between transports of different Unit Families on the same day, the vehicle will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

Trips

- When they go on their first trip of the session, Cabin Families will merge to become a Unit Family. When they are on their own on the trip and not interacting with persons outside of their Unit Family – while hiking on the trail, canoeing on the river, cooking and sleeping at their campsite, etc. – they will not be required to wear masks.
- To the greatest extent possible, Unit Families should avoid public spaces or any close interaction with members of the public. When that is unavoidable, all campers and counselors should wear masks and maintain physical distance.
- Daily temperature and symptom screening should occur while on the trip.
 - o If a person on the trip is identified with a temperature over 100.0 F or reports symptoms, the person should be instructed to put on a mask, the Director should be contacted, and arrangements should be made to bring the camper off the trip and back to the infirmary immediately.

ON-SITE TESTING & MONITORING

Daily Health Screenings

- At the beginning of each day, counselors will perform a routine temperature and symptom check on all of the campers in their Cabin Family.
- Each cabin will be supplied with a no-touch thermometer, and a laminated screening questionnaire.

On-Site Testing Details

- It is our plan for all campers and staff to be tested for COVID-19 between 4-6 days after the start of each session. We will share details of that testing system when it is finalized.

Infirmary

- Masks will be required by all campers and staff while in the infirmary.
- There will be a temperature and symptom check performed on all campers before entering the infirmary.
- A tent will be set up outside of the infirmary for triage.
- The Health & Safety Coordinator on staff will support the infirmary the entire summer.

Response to Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 Case

- Every camp must create and / or designate a location where a camper or staff member could isolate for 12 hours, if necessary. This location must be outside, with adequate shelter and protection from the elements. It must remain unused, except for this purpose, to the greatest extent possible.
- If a camper or staff member develops COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive, they will be immediately placed in the aforementioned designated isolation location, separate from other persons, with a mask on.
- These individuals must be sent home as soon as possible for an evaluation and a PCR test for COVID-19.
- The Health & Safety Coordinator shall maintain contact with the parent / legal guardian with the request that the result of the PCR test be reported to camp immediately. Those with a negative PCR test may ask to return to camp, at the discretion of the Program Manager.
- COVID-19 test positive individuals must remain in isolation away from camp until: ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared; the individual has not had a fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication; and symptoms have improved. For an asymptomatic case, the person must stay away from camp for 10 days from when their positive test was collected. At that point, they may ask to return to camp, at the discretion of the Program Manager.
- Persons with positive COVID-19 tests are reported immediately to the local health department, along with our follow-up plans.
- Contact Investigation: When a case of COVID-19 is identified at camp, a contact investigation needs to be performed to identify persons who have had close contact with that person. For campers, this will generally be confined to the Cabin Family or Unit Family.
- Follow-up of exposed persons:
 - o Quarantine – Close contacts would need to leave camp, being picked up by their families within 12 hours. They would need to quarantine for 7-10 days, and are advised to seek out a COVID-19 test. Depending on the timing and the interest, they could work with the Program Manager to determine if they might be able to come back to camp later in the summer. Those and all other details would be worked out with the Program Manager.

CAMP LIFE @ TEEN ADVENTURE

- The start of camp at Teen Adventure will look very similar to that at the residential camps.
- Teen Adventure will follow all of the policies outlined above under the sections “Before Camp”, “Arrival Day”, and “Camp Life @ Catoctin, Opequon, and Shiloh,” where applicable.
- Each TA Trip will be assigned as early as possible, and will be treated as a “Trip Family”, akin to the Cabin Family and Unit Family at the Residential Camps.
- Each Trip Family will have a distinct “campsite” at the base camp, Common Ground, where they will be allowed to take off their masks while sleeping and eating.
- At the beginning of each day throughout the summer, Trip Leaders will perform a routine temperature and symptom check on all of the campers in their Trip Family. Each Trip Family will be supplied with a no-touch thermometer, and a laminated screening questionnaire.
- During transports, all campers and staff will wear masks, and all windows will be opened, to the greatest extent possible.
- All reasonable efforts will be made to avoid doubling up Trip Families during transports. When that is not possible, Trip Families will sit separately with as much space between as is feasible.
- Once all Trip Families have left the base camp and are on their own, Teen Adventure will operate purely under the “Transportation” and “Trips” guidelines outlined above.

Testing @ Teen Adventure

- It is our plan for Teen Adventure to participate in the same testing system as the residential camps. We will share details when they are finalized.

GENERAL PREVENTION MEASURES

Daily Health Screenings

- To repeat: At the beginning of each day, counselors will perform a routine temperature and symptom check on all of the campers in their Cabin Family.
- Each cabin will be supplied with a no-touch thermometer, and a laminated screening questionnaire.

Facilities & Supplies

- Each residential camp will create at least one auxiliary sheltered space, to be used as an additional dining space, and as an additional sheltered space in the event of inclement weather. The auxiliary space(s) will be capable of accommodating at least half of the camp at adequate spacing.
- BYM Camps will explore any and all possibilities of increasing ventilation in all kitchens, dining halls, and any other semi-indoor spaces.
- BYM Camps will ensure adequate outdoor hand-washing and sanitizing stations at each residential camp.
- BYM Camps will ensure that adequate high-quality masks – surgical and N95 / KN95 – will be available for all staff, and that extra masks will be provided to campers if necessary.
- BYM Camps will ensure that adequate cleaning supplies are on-site at each residential camp.

Hygiene

- Campers and staff will be encouraged to frequently wash or disinfect their hands, with extra emphasis on the following situations:
 - o Before eating food
 - o After using the restroom
 - o After using common items, or touching high-touch surfaces
 - o After coughing, sneezing, or blowing one's nose.
- Campers and staff will be encouraged to use standard cough and sneeze etiquette: moving and turning away from other people, coughing / sneezing into one's elbow, and washing hands afterwards.

Cleaning & Disinfection

- Communal spaces and frequently touched surfaces will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected at least once every day. This includes the dining halls, tables, bathhouses, sinks, toilets, and showers.
- To the greatest extent possible, these areas will be cleaned and disinfected multiple times a day.

Visitor Policy

- During the 2021 summer, to limit potential introduction of COVID-19 into the camp setting, families or other persons will not be permitted to visit camp while camp is in session.

Deliveries of, and Shopping for, Camp Supplies

- Deliveries of supplies to camp, and shopping trips to pick up supplies for camp, will be minimized, to the greatest extent possible.
- When deliveries are made, vendors will be greeted by staff, and directed to drop-off the supplies in the most direct and efficient way possible. All vendors will be required to wear a mask while on site. Staff interacting with vendors are required to wear a mask as well.
- When shopping for supplies, camp staff will be required to wear a high-quality mask, and will minimize their time in indoor spaces.

Administration & Staffing

- Directors will be responsible for ensuring compliance with the Health & Safety Plan.
- The Program Manager and the Property Manager are at the service of the Directors and Camp Staff throughout the summer, in support of Health & Safety Plan implementation.
- Directors will be responsible for fostering a culture of safety in the camp in which all staff and campers are accountable for following the Health & Safety Plan and keeping each other healthy and safe.
- Directors will hire one of their staff members to be Health & Safety Coordinator, who will then take the lead on monitoring and supporting implementation of the Health & Safety Plan. The Health & Safety Coordinator will also be primarily responsible for supporting the infirmary in all COVID- and non-COVID-related tasks.
- Directors and the Program Manager will prepare for absence of staff by developing a roster of qualified individuals who can fill in if staff members are sick or have to return home for personal reasons.

RESOURCES

[ACA Field Guide for Camps](#)

[CDC Suggestions for Youth and Summer Camps](#)

[CDC Camp Readiness and Planning Tool](#)

[CDC COVID-19 FAQs](#)

[Association of Camp Nursing – Communicable Disease Management in the Camp Setting](#)

[Maryland Department of Health](#)

[Virginia Department of Health](#)

[Frederick County, Maryland – Department of Health](#)

[Madison County, Virginia – Department of Health](#)

[Frederick County, Virginia – Department of Health](#)

APPENDIX A

Draft Statement of Community Agreements & Shared Responsibility

Dear BYM Camp Families and Staff,

The Baltimore Yearly Meeting Camping Program is characterized by a broad and resilient community in which we care for one another and follow the long-held Quaker testimonies of Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, and Stewardship. Implicit in each testimony is the recognition that we live in close relationship with one another.

We are experiencing a global pandemic that is unlike anything we have witnessed in our lifetimes. The spread of COVID-19 throughout our world and within our region has led us to take precautions as individuals and as a community that have changed our daily lives in large and small ways. In the summer of 2020, it led to Baltimore Yearly Meeting cancelling camp for the first time in over 50 years. It has also highlighted the importance and value of this camping program – of Catoctin, Shiloh, Opequon, and Teen Adventure – in the lives of so many young people, so many staff members, so many families, so many alumni and members of the broader community. As a result, it has strengthened our resolve to safely reopen the BYM Camps in 2021, to have a joyous and restorative and safe summer together.

The pandemic has also reminded us that our decisions and actions do not only impact us, rather, they also impact those around us. We must remember that the nature of this disease has made it possible for individuals to spread the virus from one person to another unwittingly. It is not possible to completely eliminate the chance of spreading COVID-19, but we know that we can significantly mitigate the risk of contagion. The BYM Camps' Health & Safety Plan is intended to break the chain of spread and to provide a safe and joyous environment for all of our campers and staff to live, work, and play together this summer. Our individual tolerance for risk varies from family to family and person to person, but we must make sure that we, as individuals, do all that we can to maintain a safe environment for all community members.

In addition to prioritizing the health and safety of all of our community members, the BYM Camps are committed to providing an in-person camp experience this summer. We are convinced that the safest way to reopen Catoctin, Shiloh, Opequon, and Teen Adventure, and the surest way to enable us to have a joyous and restorative summer, is for each of us to:

- Observe the guidance of the [CDC](#) and other federal, state, and local public health professionals in the weeks leading up to our arrival at camp;
- Commit to doing our best to follow the practices and procedures outlined in the BYM Camps Health & Safety Plan, and;

- To recognize that our decisions and actions on a daily basis may have consequences not only for ourselves but for others in our community.

If we each bring seriousness of purpose to protecting others and ourselves, we will greatly reduce any chance that COVID-19 may be transmitted from one person to another in our community. We thank you for your active partnership as we work to have a joyous, restorative, and safe summer in 2021.

Sincerely,

Brian Massey
Program Manager, BYM Camps

On behalf of:
BYM Camps Health & Safety Team

I understand, affirm, and agree with this statement.

Signature

Date