

DEAR CAMP BARNEY MEDINTZ FAMILY,

We want to “talk” to you in this email about Coronavirus, as it pertains to Camp Barney, what we’re doing, as of today, and how we’re striving to remain a very healthy and happy community this coming summer.

In early January, many of us began to hear about this virus originating in Wuhan, China. Soon after, it had spread to several Far East countries, then Western Europe and now, into many countries throughout the world including the United States.

As more cases have been reported globally, all of us have been inundated with updates from throughout network media, social media, from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), various departments of Public Health, from our children’s school systems, our work and places of business, and from each other. We are now more acutely aware of symptoms, precautions, and the potential impact on large gatherings and our daily lives.

OUR STRATEGIES BELOW HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO MINIMIZE THE EMERGENCE OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AT CAMP BARNEY. No single strategy will be 100% effective; rather, campers and staff have stronger protection when more prevention strategies are in place. Almost everything below has been “Camp Barney protocol” for many years and again, we are including:

- 1 Every camper and staff member should arrive** well-rested, nourished and hydrated. The goal is for individuals to arrive as resilient as possible.
- 2 Delay arrivals**, regardless of the inconvenience, if not healthy. This includes symptoms of fever, flu, virus and active gastro-intestinal issues. CBM reserves the right not to admit or to send home a child or staff member who pose a communicable disease risk to others, until cleared by a qualified medical professional.
- 3 Current Health History** for each camper and staff member is required. Families and our nearly 30 Camp Barney Medical Staff form a partnership dedicated to managing individual health as well as the health of our entire CBM community.

At Camp Barney, we have been following every aspect of Coronavirus since early January. Like “security” issues, we’re exceedingly pro-active, never waiting for an event to reach our ‘backyard’, engage a tremendous amount of consultation with professionals, pursue ongoing planning and preparations.

We recognize this is a “fluid” situation and what we’re sharing now in mid-March will precede additional information that we’ll learn and share with everyone in our Camp Barney community as we get closer to our summer season together.

We also recognize that Camp Barney is different from school, day camps, child care, our places of work, entertainment venues, travel destinations and aspects of life which are unlike a resident overnight camp: campers are not going ‘home’ each day and potentially being exposed to communicable illness from the general population; not eliminating risk but making it less likely.

Our planning and preparations at Camp Barney include guidance from the Atlanta-based CDC, the U.S. and Georgia Departments of Public Health, Infectious Disease Specialists, guidelines from the American Camp Association, and well-positioned members of our Camp Barney Medical Staff.

THE LIST BELOW ARE TYPICAL AND ANNUAL ROUTINES AND PROTOCOLS AT CAMP BARNEY. AGAIN, THIS SUMMER, WE WILL ACTIVELY INITIATE THE FOLLOWING:

- 1 Proper handwashing and/or hand-sanitizing** before each meal, mornings and evenings and in between when appropriate. Several dozen additional hand-sanitizing stations will be mounted around Camp prior to this summer. NOTE: Camp is not a particularly “antiseptic” environment as you know, however diligent and routine hygiene will be paramount and routine.
- 2** We will guide everyone to **cough/sneeze** into a tissue/napkin or, more realistically, into one’s elbow or shoulder.
- 3** We’ll remind everyone to **resist putting fingers and hands** on their faces. Challenging for all of us but it’s on our list!
- 4** We’ll **insist that everyone not share** water bottles, cups, hairbrushes, contact lens solutions, pillows or towels, and keep fingers and hands off all foods being consumed by others.
- 5** **We’ll sanitize** all mattresses between sessions, dining hall tables and products after each meal, in our Marcus Health Center and bathrooms throughout the day.
- 6** **We’ll again work with our Camp Barney summer medical staff** (including approximately 8 physicians and more than 20 RNs), **identifying symptoms, appropriate treatment** in our setting, **isolating individuals** when appropriate and feasible, **reinforcing “best practices”** at Camp, **and communication with families** if a child or staff member must spend the night in our Marcus Health Center (or requires off-site medical providers or new/change in meds), should return home briefly or for the remainder of a session to receive care from a physician versus remaining in isolation at camp for more than a few days.

Our goal at Camp Barney every summer is to enable every camper and staff member to manage physical and emotional risk while having the most meaningful, growth-inducing, exciting and very special experience. We will know more and share more in the coming months. Thank you for your help in this endeavor. We’ll remain acutely focused and diligent in our efforts to be a safe, healthy and happy Camp Barney community at CBM in 2020!

Sincerely,



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