

Let's Do This Together!

Family Fest Winter Weekend Covid Plan

Family Fest recognizes that the past year has had, and continues to have, a real impact on how people gather. We are thrilled to resume camp this winter and are trying to make this year as normal as can be.

We know that while many campers, KCs, and Grand View Lodge staff have been vaccinated, there are some, including all kids under 12 years old, who cannot do so at this time. We wish to be compassionate, show dignity and respect to those who may want to continue wearing a mask just as much as those who don't want to wear a mask. Therefore, we consider Winter Weekend to be a "mask friendly" camp.

While there are some things we all can do to mitigate the risks of getting Covid, there is no way to protect individuals 100%. It is the responsibility of each family to assess the risks and decide what is appropriate for them. Family Fest has amended our cancellation policy for 2021-22. If an individual or family is uncomfortable about coming to Winter Weekend due to Covid, they may cancel seven days prior to the start of camp and get their deposit and any balance paid refunded.

We are committed to the safety of all our campers and are following the guidance of the CDC and the MN Dept of Health, as well as the American Camping Association. Family Fest differs from many other programs in that we have a wider range of ages, and it is difficult to control all aspects of interaction amongst campers. With many levels of comfort surrounding Covid, we expect that each family will decide what is best for themselves.

KCs and Family Fest staff and volunteers will not be responsible to enforce your personal expectations. For instance, if you prefer your child to wear a mask indoors, it will be up to you to make sure that your child understands and complies with your expectations.

What Grand View Lodge Will Do:

Grand View Lodge has been back to normal operations for the most part. The dining room is back to serving meals from the kitchen. All buildings and activities are open once again. What has changed is the enhanced cleaning by the Grand View staff. Bathrooms and common areas are cleaned several times per day. Hand sanitizing stations are situated in various public areas.

What Family Fest Will Do:

While we may do some of our kid's programming outside, we anticipate some programs will continue inside. We will space out in the main clubroom more than we have in the past.

We are asking all KCs (Kid's Counselors) to either show proof of vaccination or proof of a negative Covid test taken no more than 72 hours prior to arrival.

The KCs will wipe down tables, toys, and other surfaces with disinfecting wipes after each program session.

As part of the adult program, we have typically had a table of snacks for the breaks. This year, Family Fest will provide delicious, pre-packaged treats that the small group leaders can pick up and bring to their groups.

Adult small groups may choose to spread out into the entrance and adjoining rooms.

All kids' programs at Winter Weekend will do some programs outside. If there is inclement weather, we have large indoor spaces for groups to use.

What We Ask Families To Do:

Per the guidelines from the CDC and the MN Department of Health, we encourage eligible individuals to get a vaccination. Unvaccinated guests are encouraged to consider wearing masks indoors or during close outdoor contact for their own protection. Parents of children can decide what steps they want to take for their children.

We would also encourage those who are unvaccinated to take a Covid test within 72 hours of arrival.

Parents should encourage their kids to wash their hands often.

Families should do a pre-camp health screening. This includes confirmation that each person in your family is not experiencing known symptoms of Covid-19. If any symptoms emerge, the individual in question should not take part in Winter Weekend unless they have received a negative Covid test.

Finally:

The Covid situation seems to be changing week to week. We are hopeful that by the time Winter Weekend camps happen, we will have seen improvement in the cases. Because of this ever-changing situation the policies and procedures may change as well.