

Let's Do This Together!

Family Fest Winter Weekend Covid Plan

Updated January 3, 2022

Because of the resurgence of the Omicron variant of Covid, we have updated our Winter Weekend Covid Plan. Please take the time to read this as there are some **very important** changes to our program.

Family Fest recognizes that the past year has had, and continues to have, a real impact on how people gather. We believe that by cooperating together, we can achieve our goal of doing ministry to families, by families, in an environment that cares for the health and well-being of our community.

We recognize that some things have changed over the past couple of months. Omicron has a higher transmission rate than that of previous variants. Since we are a large, multi-generational group from various communities, and since our event is multiple days with much of it taking place indoors, some new strategies are necessary to have this weekend together.

Over the past few weeks, the Family Fest board has spent many hours coming up with a plan that we think will help us create the best environment possible. We have consulted doctors and other medical professionals who have been to Winter Weekend and who understand the unique elements of our program. Besides using guidance from the CDC and the MN Department of Health, we have consulted with other camp directors, the staff at various churches, as well as the American Camping Association who are leading similar programs..

With the advice of our medical advisors, we have developed a two-part strategy to help us mitigate the risks of Covid. The first is that our entire community will do what we can to not bring Covid to Winter Weekend. The second strategy is designed to help contain the spread of Covid to others.

Strategy One: Pre-Camp Testing.

- **PCR or Rapid Test:** Attendees will take either a PCR test (preferred and more accurate but needs to be done where you can get the results just prior to arriving) or a Rapid at home test the day you arrive at camp. We understand that these tests might not catch all people who have Covid, but hopefully will help if someone does have Covid and doesn't know it or is asymptomatic. We encourage you to start making a plan for your testing now.

- We will not ask you for proof of a test - we as a community would ask that you do this on your honor.
- **Locating a PCR or Rapid test:** If you google “covid testing near me” you should get different options that may work for you. Many Walgreens and CVS pharmacies have onsite or drive through testing and Rapid tests that you can purchase. You can also check the MN Department of Health site at <https://mn.gov/covid19/get-tested>. If you have trouble finding an at home rapid test, please call us at 952-881-0939 by Thursday morning (Jan 13) and we will see if we can help you.
- If you have tested positive for Covid in the past 90 days it is possible that a PCR test will still show that you are positive, even though you are no longer contagious. In this case, a Rapid test will work better. Consult your doctor for more information on this.
- **Positive Tests or Symptoms:** If you or someone in your family tests positive for Covid, or is showing symptoms, we would ask that you not come to Winter Weekend. We will refund your deposit and balance if your cancellation is covid related. We would also ask that if you have tested positive for Covid but now are symptom free, that you would follow the guidelines of the MN Department of Health or the CDC on when you can stop your quarantine.
- **Limiting Exposure Prior to Winter Weekend:** It would be really helpful if campers can try to limit their exposure during these days leading up to camp.

Strategy Two: Masking.

- We will have kids ages 5 & up, KCs, and workcrew wear masks during scheduled programming. Parents of kids 4 and younger may choose to have their child use a mask if they wish.
- Masks will be worn by all at club when kids and adults are together.
- Masks will be worn during singing during the adult programs. Once the singing is done and we spread out, adults may choose to take off their mask while seated.
- Masks will be worn in the dining room while moving about or getting food.
- **Note about the Dining Room:** We will be using the larger Gull Lake Center ballroom for the Family Fest meals this year. This gives us more space and allows us to be segregated from other Grand View Guests at meals.

If you desire to cancel: Friends, we understand that for some, these strategies may either be too much, or not enough. There are no right answers here. We are just doing the best we can with the advice we have to find a

good balance. If these strategies do not feel comfortable for you and you decide to cancel your registration for this year, we would need to let Grand View Lodge know by **Friday, January 7th** to get you a full refund.

If you need to cancel due to Covid symptoms, a positive Covid test, or exposure concerns, **anytime prior to the start of Winter Weekend**, Family Fest will give you a full refund.

What Family Fest Will Do:

- We have intentionally kept the size of our camp smaller than normal to allow for better distancing during programs.
- If the weather cooperates, we will try to do more of the kids' programs outside.
- 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, we are only doing coffee, tea, and water and will have stations on both sides of the Norway Center.
- 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.
- Since masks cannot be safely worn in the pool, we are creating a very fun alternative event for our 4th-9th graders on Sunday night. (The pools are still open to families during your free time.)

What Grand View Lodge Will Do:

- 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.
- All Grand View Lodge staff are fully vaccinated and will be wearing masks.

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 should encourage and help their kids to wash their hands often.

- Families should do a health screening. This includes confirmation that each person in your family is not experiencing known symptoms of Covid-19.
- **If someone in your family develops covid symptoms during camp:**
 - Please have them stay in their cabin and let Pete Larson or one of the workcrew know. We can arrange grab and go meals for them so they don't need to come to the dining room.
 - Your family may decide to go home, or to quarantine in your cabin for the rest of the weekend, but do not come to any programs or meals.
 - If you are not sure about the symptoms, the workcrew can provide locations of local testing sites near Grand View Lodge.

COVID-19 Statement and Understanding: Family Fest will take what it believes to be reasonable measures to mitigate and minimize the risks of COVID-19 associated with our Winter Weekend event. However, in these times and circumstances substantial risk of COVID-19 transmission and illness still exists, and you and your family assume the risk of becoming exposed or infected by COVID-19, or another communicable disease(s). If you are uncomfortable with these risks and choose not to come, let us know and we will refund your camp payments. By choosing to attend the event you and your family understand that you are freely choosing to participate in a risk event and that it is your responsibility to exercise the utmost care and safety to mitigate or minimize the risks of COVID-19 for the protection of the whole community. Family Fest their staff, agents, employees, licensees, volunteers, and participants are not responsible for any injury, damages, claim, or action of any kind originating from the event, and by participating you waive any and all rights to the same.

Thank You!

We know that none of this is fun or easy, but we do believe it is going to be best for this community at this time. We are so grateful for you cooperation and for your willingness to do what we can to make it a great weekend.

The Family Fest Board
January - 2022