

**Fernbrook Farms Environmental Education Center**

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October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020



Dear FFECC Families,

I hope you and your families are doing well and staying healthy!

This letter is intended to detail our most up-to-date protocols for mitigating the spread of COVID-19. These measures have been put in place to help ensure the safety and well-being of your children and our staff during our programs. Many of our procedures for our winter programs follow the protocols we put in place for our summer camp & fall programs while also following new guidance for youth sports and other similar activities. These protocols have been guided by the CDC, NJ DOH, and EH&E. We have participated in several webinars with doctors, nurses, and health officials to ensure that we have fully understood the procedures before designing a protocol that reflects both their recommendations and Fernbrook Farms' programs.

To begin, we will use groups to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. At Fernbrook Farms, our groups will be the Saplings, Pre-K/K, LLHS(up to three groups), ULHS, and Afterschool/Virtual Assistance. Within each group, students will be organized by age and grade as we have in years past. Each group will be able to come along with optional masks\*, but they will maintain social distance from other groups. While this will have an impact on how we structure a students' semester, it will not impact what is available to students or many of the Fernbrook Farms traditions that students love. For example, LLHS students will not come together as one community at the beginning of the day or for the end of semester jeopardy. But we will get to utilize our pond, forest, meadow, creek, & more to engage with nature.

Next, we continue to make changes to our facilities to ensure the continued health and safety of our camp community. There will be additional hand-washing stations and hand sanitizer placed in and around the Education Center. We continue to order extra sanitation supplies to maintain the high amount of times per day any shared surfaces are disinfected. As well, in the event of inclement weather, each group will have a designated heated indoor space that is their own or groups will be separated by more than 6 feet.

Furthermore, we ask families & staff to do a self-screening process for 14 days prior to attending classes and continue to self-screen throughout the duration of your attendance in our programs. The self-screening form is available on our website and is for your records. We are all in this together and it is very important that we self-monitor and stay home if we are sick or experiencing even the subtlest of symptoms or have been in a high-risk environment.

In addition, our drop-off/pick-up procedures include temperature checks for all students using our No Contact Infrared Forehead Thermometer and parents wearing masks during drop-off & pick-up. If you would like to use your own thermometer, please bring it with you. If you are unable to wear a mask, please remain at your car during drop-off & pick-up.

Finally, as of right now, families are not permitted to stay at Fernbrook Farms during classes. We love being able to share Fernbrook Farms with all of you but unfortunately, we are unable to do that safely right now. We hope you understand and thank you for your cooperation. The health and safety of our students is our priority. You may stay in the parking lot or we can recommend some local parks (i.e. Crystal Lake) to spend your time while your students are in class.

Should you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to email me.

Thank you,

Brian Kuser  
Education Director

\*For Upper-Level (ages 12-14) Homeschool students, we ask that students wear a mask while they are indoors. We plan to be outside as much as possible but some activities require us to be indoors with heat during the colder winter months. Please bring a mask and be prepared to wear it indoors.

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