

(Updated June 18, 2022)

The following are updates to existing and additional information regarding protocols for summer 2022.

The American Camp Association and Y-USA worked with Environmental Health & Engineering, Inc. to develop a "[Field Guide for Camps on Implementation of CDC Guidance](#)." This document, which helps inform Camp Birch Hill's policies, will continue to evolve. Our plans will likewise evolve alongside best practices and New Hampshire's guidelines.

The NH task force released updated guidance for both the "Overnight Congregate Settings for Children" and the state's universal guidelines. Both the Universal Best Practices and Overnight Congregate Settings for Children documents are live on the [covidguidance.nh.gov](https://www.covidguidance.nh.gov) website. This guidance is largely in line with the recently published CDC guidelines for camps.

PLANNING FOR SUMMER 2022:

The Camp Birch Hill health care team pledges to ensure compliance and a clear focus on keeping ourselves and each other safe. We will continue to provide information related to your campers session as summer approaches. As you read the update below, please reach out with any questions, clarifications or recommendations.

TESTING, DROP OFF AND PICK UP:

Birch Hill is planning coordinated efforts to minimize exposure and risk on these high traffic days. Families will be made aware of exact pick-up and drop off times and procedures for campers and guardians. Information will be communicated by email and posted here as it becomes available. Camp Birch Hill plans to use COVID testing as a part of our 2022 plan for entry and admittance to camp, for diagnostics and ongoing monitoring. Please note the following:

- All campers are required to have a negative COVID PCR test completed 3-5 days prior to arrival. Documentation of a negative test will be required upon arrival at camp.
- Additionally, Camp Birch Hill will be completing an antigen test onsite for each camper and staff member on check-in day.
- On day 5 of each session Camp Birch Hill plans to complete an onsite antigen test for each camper and staff member. Antigen tests will be available onsite for diagnostics and symptom monitoring.

Please contact the camp office if your camper has tested positive within 90 days of their enrolled session.

• Session One check-in information has been sent by email.

• Camp Birch Hill has not posted check-in times for campers arriving on July 10 (session II) and July 24 (session III). Thank you for your patience. We are working through the final discussion on testing and timing which will dictate the drop off process. Families will be made aware of exact drop off times one week prior to the start of the session.

- Pick-up times are tentatively planned for 10am-12pm for all sessions. Specific details will

be shared soon.

- The [Camp Store](#) will be closed on check-in days. Camp Store will be open online before your camper's session and you will be able to access and get camp items that can be sent to you ahead of time.

Camp Community Pre-Arrival Behavior Expectations. Our expectations for pre-arrival activities are based on current CDC, American Camping Association and NH State Guidance. We will require all families to meet pre-camp expectations that will include symptom monitoring and low risk behaviors.

- **3-5 days before camp:** Get your COVID PCR test. Remember, you must arrive at camp with a negative PCR test that is no older than five days.
- **Once tested:** We encourage you to engage in low-risk activities to help keep us all safe. If your camper is feeling sick or has any COVID symptoms please plan to stay home. Also plan to stay home if you have been in close contact with a person with a positive test. Please contact camp to talk with the health team and do not arrive at camp on check-in day. Also, prior to arrival please complete COVID testing if you or anyone in your household is symptomatic 2 weeks prior to camp and share with us if there is a positive case in your household.
- **Before leaving home:** Camp Birch Hill strongly recommends that campers take an at-home covid test before heading to camp. It is also highly recommended that campers have their temperature taken and heads checked for lice. If your camper has a fever, tests positive for covid or has head lice please contact us immediately and do not arrive on check-in day.

Travel The current NH State guidelines do not require that travelers quarantine for domestic travel. It is essential that your family still follow the pre-arrival behavioral expectations. Also consider ways to reduce COVID transmission in travel including direct travel/less lay-overs and pack food for travel/avoid dining in restaurants. Please refer to the [CDC guidelines](#) for national and international travel.

Masks

At this point in time, Camp Birch Hill is not planning to require masks and plans for them to be optional. However, masks will be part of our plan for preventing spread of virus at camp if needed and masks WILL be required for all individuals throughout the check-in process. We will continue to lean on CDC and state guidance and watch current trends of the spread of the virus. We are going to need to be flexible and at times even adapt mid-session depending on the situation. Please pack masks.

Packing List & Info

Camp Birch Hill suggested [packing list](#) will guide you in what your camper should bring to camp. Please note the following:

- Plan on bringing at least 14 cloth or disposable masks to camp.
- Water bottles are required. Water bottle fill stations are located throughout camp.
- Medications – Be sure to update your campers online health history form to reflect current status on your campers medications. On check in, all medications must be submitted to our camp nurses station in the original prescription bottle individually stored in a ziplock bag. **If your camper has been prescribed a dosage change or new medication medication in the past 60 days please email Camp Birch Hill with the details.*

Visitors

When camp is in session, for the safety of our campers and staff, visitors will be strictly limited. Updated information regarding this policy will be provided in the 2022 Resource Page found in CampMinder under the forms and documents tab. Please note that permission is required to visit camp during non-summer / off-season months.

Transition Days for 4-Week and 6-Week Campers

Like last year, we plan to provide these campers with a fun experience unique to 4-week and 6-week campers.

2022 Updated Refund Policy

You are now eligible for a FULL tuition refund (less the \$500 non-refundable registration fee): *If your camper tests positive for COVID 14 days prior to the start of their session or the first day of camp and is unable to attend a Camp Birch Hill session. You must present camp with documentation of a positive test result. If the test is a home test a letter from the pediatrician may be submitted.*

You are now eligible for a PRORATED tuition refund:

If during camp your camper is sent home due to a COVID positive test. The refund will be based on the number of days the camper was unable to attend.

Please note you are not eligible for a refund after June 1 for any other reasons not listed including inability to travel to camp and change in plans.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS YOU ARE PREPARING FOR CAMP

FORMS: Required health and activity forms should be marked as complete in the CampMinder account.

PACKING:

Don't forget masks (just in case).

Water bottles are required and we recommend water bottles that have a strap or carrying device.

Avoid sending anything valuable.

We are not responsible for lost, stolen or broken items.

Campers may want to bring \$10 - \$30 for the camp store.

ELECTRONICS POLICY - *Let's keep it campy.*

Electronic devices that connect to the internet are not welcome at camp. Campers may bring mp3 players (or other music players that do not connect to the internet) with headphones to use in their bunk. We respectfully request that parents partner with us and support the technology-free feel of Camp Birch Hill. Summer camp is one of the last places on earth where children can connect with nature and escape technology, and we hope you will support us in keeping Camp Birch Hill technology-free. Campers found with devices may be asked to leave camp.

BRINGING SNACKS: Campers may bring a few snacks to camp provided the snacks contain NO NUTS (**absolutely NO peanuts or tree nuts**). Campers must bring snacks in

an airtight container no larger than 14x10x6 (7 quarts).

Note: Items which do not meet these requirements will be removed from the cabin.

LETTERS FROM HOME: Address letters from home as directed below to ensure speedy delivery.

Camper Name

Cabin Name (you will be notified of your campers cabin upon arrival)

Camp Birch Hill

333C Birch Hill Road

New Durham, NH 03855

NEW CARE PACKAGE POLICY: In an effort to create an inclusive environment, reduce waste and limit potential exposures to our camp community, Camp Birch Hill will **not be allowing packages for summer 2022.**

- If your child has a **birthday** while at camp, they are allowed to receive ONE birthday package via USPS addressed as follows:

“OFFICE-BIRTHDAY PACKAGE”, camper name and date it should be delivered, 333C Birch Hill Road. New Durham, NH. 03855

As always, your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

- If your camper **forgets something at home?** Please contact the main office (603-859-4525) for instructions on how to send the item. We will determine if we are able to provide the camper with the missing item (such as a toothbrush or a sleeping bag).

BUNK CHANGES: We take into consideration all bunk requests and hope your camper is happy with their cabin. We will ask campers to keep personal belongings in their assigned cabin, and will make all changes while the campers are in opening day rotations. Camper cabins will not be changed during the drop-off time period.

PHONE CALLS : There are no camper telephone calls during the first week of camp. We understand that you are anxious to hear how your children are doing at Birch Hill, but we must allow time for them to adjust to their new environment here at camp. Experience has taught us that speaking to parents shortly after arriving at camp may create homesickness. *While we do allow scheduled phone calls home, unless your camper is requesting to call home we strongly recommend allowing your camper to enjoy their time at camp and wait until they return home to hear about all the fun they have had. If necessary, after the first week of camp, you can email the camp office to set up a phone appointment: summer@campbirchhill.com.

PHOTOS: We will publish photos to our Facebook page at the end of each week of camp. If you are not comfortable with your campers photos being on our Facebook page, please let us know. We do our best to post photos often, but please understand our first priority is to be sure our campers are happy, healthy and safe. We appreciate your patience with our photo posting.

CAMPER BEHAVIOR:

Camp Birch Hill prides itself on being a welcoming and friendly community. In order for our

community to thrive, we expect our campers to display positive and inclusive behavior while at camp. Their behavior must not detract from the experience of other campers. Camp Birch Hill welcomes, supports and celebrates all children no matter their economic, ethnic, geographic, racial, religious, sexual or social group. We foster inclusivity and envision a camp where all identities, differences and experiences are valued.

The safety of our campers is our top priority. Campers must be able to independently perceive and understand safety and emergency instructions/directions. Camp Directors reserve the right to dismiss a camper for undesirable behavior or behavior contradictory to the Camp Birch Hill Spirit - including behavior such as non-compliance with safety rules such as staying within camp boundaries, wearing appropriate footwear, using a helmet when required, equipment handling and hand washing. Fighting, bullying, stealing, offensive language or behavior, use of unapproved technology, use or possession of alcohol, tobacco, vapes or drugs, and use or possession of weapons of any sort are not tolerated and will result in immediate dismissal from camp. Gum and duct tape are not allowed at camp.