

# DETAILS CONCERNING RETREAT OPERATION AT MERRIWOOD IN LIGHT OF COVID-19 FOR FALL 2021

Thank you for choosing Merriwood Christian Camp for your day or overnight retreat or event this year. Here are some additional details concerning operation, due to the pandemic.

**WAIVERS:** Group leaders will be given two forms that each attendee (student or adult) must sign. 1) medical waiver, 2) COVID-19 waiver. We recommend printing them front/back and making as many copies as you need. Please collect these before arrival at MCC and turn them in to MCC upon arrival. We will keep them in the first aid room during the duration of your event, and MCC will keep them on file once you leave.

**HEALTH SCREENING DOCUMENTATION:** MCC will provide group leaders with a general health screening chart - either a Day Screening Chart or Multi-day Screening Chart, whichever is applicable. Retreat leaders will be responsible for taking the temperature of each guest (adult or student) before departing their facility (or upon arrival at Merriwood if parents are dropping students off), as well as asking a general series of health screening questions. These will need to be recorded. The group leader will turn these in to MCC staff at departure.

For groups staying additional days, the health screening (temperature check and health screening questions) will take place once each additional day. MCC recommends mornings.

If any guest has COVID-19-like symptoms or is suspected to have COVID-19, the retreat host will be responsible to isolate that person (outside of buildings and away from other guests) until arrangements can be made for them to be picked up.

**SANITATION:** Retreat leaders should instruct attendees on proper hand-washing, with soap and water, for 20 seconds, and drying with a paper towel (or using hand sanitizer when hand washing is not available). Hands should be washed after toileting, after blowing nose, etc. Guests should cover a cough or sneeze with their elbow.

MCC will have sanitation stations set up throughout the facility at the following locations:

- Entryway to chapel/gym area (and around the gym where activity supplies are)
- Both entrances to the dining hall
- Hand washing sinks at entryway to cabins (or bathhouse if staying in the cabins by the pool)
- Sanitation stations at activity areas as applicable: lakefront near boats, gaga area, picnic area, archery, climbing wall, and other high-traffic areas.

**FOOD SERVICE:** MCC will follow whatever (changing) guidelines are in place at the time, concerning food preparation. This may mean that MCC staff are plating or boxing the meals for all guests. Or it may mean we that we serve family style but your adult leaders may dish out food, using gloves and serving utensil, to avoid multiple people touching the same serving utensils.

**WATER:** Our cafeteria has a “no touch” water fountain where guests could refill their bottles. (Guests are welcome to bring their own water bottles to refill during the day if they wish.) MCC will also have water coolers and disposable cone cups stationed around the camp.

**HOUSING:** MCC has always made it a priority to sleep campers and guests 6’ apart, from one head to the next head. We will continue to do so and will even have different ends of the bunks marked with “head” or “foot” to ensure heads are 6’ apart. In addition to this, if your group numbers allow, MCC will allow groups additional space per room if needed. (For example, instead of putting the maximum number of 12 in a room, you may wish to go down to 7-10/ room.) Discuss these options with Merriwood ahead of arrival please so we can prepare housing for you. *(MCC has 192 beds if we use all of our regular 12 cabins as well as 4 cabins by the pool, so we do have some room to work with for most of our groups that desire to reduce capacity/room.)* Please keep in mind that each cabin room still requires one adult chaperone/leader and plan accordingly.

**ACTIVITIES:** MCC will work with each group to determine what they feel are the safest and best MCC-staff-facilitated activities. If a group prefers not to do team building or large group games at this time (due to students usually being in closer contact for these activities) the group could choose from climbing wall, sling shots, and/or archery, which do allow for greater social distancing.

Please communicate with MCC to determine what activities will work for your group and to determine a working schedule to fit in the chosen activities that will work for MCC and your group.

**MEETING SPACES:** Our chapel area is still available if you so choose. However, if your group prefers an outdoor space for better ventilation for your gathering, please consider MCC’s outdoor amphitheater, which can seat 150 or so, has a stage area, a new paved firepit, etc. *(However, there is no sound equipment, flat screens, or media in the outside space Groups are welcome to bring their own portable sound system.)*

**COHORTS/SOCIAL DISTANCING/MASKS:**

- MCC recommends group leaders take into consideration the possibility of keeping students within smaller cohorts for the duration of their time on site. *(For instance, those sharing housing might also rotate activities together throughout the event, sit together in chapel – separated from other groups, etc.)*
- Students from one cabin should not be entering cabins that are not their own.
- Group leaders should attempt to help attendees social distance as much as possible, especially when indoors and/or not wearing a mask.
- **Retreat leaders should be aware of the current NC Governor orders concerning face coverings and do their best to encourage this when not able to social distance.** We recognize these mandates may change rapidly. **Please have each guest bring at least one face covering per day to camp with them.** Feel free to connect with Hannah at Merriwood concerning any questions you might have, about a week out from your arrival date, to discuss this in greater detail if necessary.

Please contact Hannah Baucom if you have any further questions concerning activities, guidelines, or protocol. Text/call: 336-909-5741 or email [office@campmerriwood.net](mailto:office@campmerriwood.net)

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