



STAFF COVID VACCINE INFO

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Dear Staff,

There are lots of things we are planning and prepping for in order to make camp safe for everyone this summer. We've already started editing our working document of different policies that we'll be exploring and implementing over the next couple of weeks and in the lead up to camp. We've had countless discussions with entities like the Yavapai County Health Department, fellow summer camps that have programs similar to FPC, camper parents, testing companies, etc. One of our FPC board members, Chris May, is a physician in the Phoenix area and also has been involved in the development in our COVID plans. So lots of different avenues for input have been explored as we endeavour to make camp safe while still staying true to our mission.

A hot topic that has come up in the first part of 2021 is vaccinations.

Let us first state our position and perspective on vaccinations. Our decision is based on the guidance of the local health authorities, the American Camp Association, and directives from the nation/worlds authoritative scientific bodies whose mission it is to care for the public health, and we feel that COVID vaccines are an effective and safe way to return to life. A vaccinated staff member will not only be protected against illness and loss of work, but may very well be protecting others, as the science is starting to point to the idea that vaccinated adults do not spread the virus. Admittedly, this is not a fully confirmed notion, so for the time being we must treat even vaccinated adults who take on any of the virus as a risk to others.

We realize that everyone has autonomy for their own body and has their own choices to make about their health. We would never want to presume that "we know best", however, we do pride ourselves on our dedication to researching all aspects of ANY policy or procedure we implement at FPC; our #1 priority is the safety of our campers and staff. We feel that strongly suggesting and encouraging our staff to be vaccinated will significantly enhance our multi-layered COVID plan and add a reassuring layer of protection; not only for each staff member but for our entire camp community. At the end of the day, the decision of what to do with your body is of course, ultimately yours.

That said, we do want to make sure all staff that can't, or won't, be vaccinated, are fully aware of the extra restrictions and precautions that may be in place. See below some guidelines that non-vaccinated staff may have to follow given the infection and R0 rates at the time:

- **Masks**: Non-vaccinated staff will likely wear masks a vast majority of the time; inside, outside, with your co-hort and your cabin, with the exceptions of sleeping and showering. There will be some instances where vaccinated staff also have to wear masks, but it will be far less frequent.
- **Controlled and distanced contact with campers**: while there will be certain staff for whom this is already a reality, there may be some staff who may be restricted in how they run their activity; non-vaccinated staff may need assistance from a vaccinated staff member when social distancing is not an option.
- **Meals**: another policy may be that non-vaccinated staff will have to eat meals away from others where ventilation and distancing can not be properly maintained.
- **Staff free-time**: non-vaccinated staff may have some restrictions on time off. It is hard to say exactly how this will play out, but it could be, at a minimum, being masked and distanced on free-time in camp to, to having separate free-time areas where they are not around vaccinated staff, to, in the extreme, not being able to leave camp on evenings or days off.
- **Testing**: non-vaccinated staff may need to be tested weekly, particularly if they are leaving camp on time off. Check-ins with medical and program staff for wellness and symptoms may also be a common occurrence.

In many cases, getting the vaccine will simplify your life. So, if you've been hired or even if you are in the application process, we strongly urge you to begin the vaccination process. From the time you get your first shot (in a two shot vaccination), you will not be considered "fully" vaccinated for about 6 weeks.

You should be able to go online to a local or statewide health department website and they will direct you. Starting Wednesday, March 24th, Arizona residents aged 16 and up will be able to register for the vaccine. However, you should still try to get an appointment as a childcare worker, whether you're an Arizona resident or not. Friendly Pines Camp will send you a letter attesting to the fact that you will be employed here at FPC; please just email us and we'll customize it for you. Sometimes you will end up going on a waitlist and will be notified when spots are open for you to schedule an appointment. Because of this we urge you to **START NOW!** Unless you can get the Johnson and Johnson single shot, you will need to get your first shot in mid-April to be ready by the time the campers arrive. Don't be picky. Take whatever shot you can get. They are all effective. We realize that we will have some staff on grounds who are mid-way through the process or haven't even started the process by the start date of work. We will work things out with you.

Once you are vaccinated, please upload a copy of your vaccine record card to your staff application (login here: <https://friendlypines.campbrainstaff.com>).

Again, let us repeat. Getting a vaccination is not a requirement. We, however, encourage it *enthusiastically*. For the unvaccinated staff who don't live with children, life at camp will be easier than for unvaccinated staff who do live and closely interact with children. Be aware that the NIH reports that immunity after having COVID lasts about 8 months. Surely, time will clarify if it is longer, but that is what we know right now. So if you had COVID in September or October, you may no longer be immune going into the summer.

Let us know how we can be helpful. We appreciate all your hard preparation for a safe and fun summer.

Cordially,

Megan May	Kevin Nissen	Adam Esposito	Christopher May, MD
Co-Director	Co-Director	Program Director	FPC President

Below are some tips and resources for getting vaccinated and general COVID info:

- Sign up for a vaccine slot ASAP!
 - Some staff will be arriving as early as May 17...you should try to plan for your second dose to be done before your arrival.
 - Vaccines may not be available for you in Yavapai County, where camp is located; particularly if you are not getting the Moderna vaccine (our county's current vaccine brand)
- Sign up for appointments online
 - Maricopa County vaccine info: <https://www.maricopa.gov/5659/COVID-19-Vaccine-Locations>
 - Pima County vaccine info: www.pima.gov/covid19vaccineregistration
 - For all other states/counties, just do a quick internet for your county or state's vaccine info. Use terms like "registration" "appointments", etc.
- Arizona is in the 1B stage of vaccination (as of 3/23/21); you should be eligible for the vaccine as a "Teacher / Educator / Child Care Worker" individual
 - We have created a letter showing proof of your employment and eligibility that we can customize and send to you to use. Please email info@friendlypines.com if you would like us to send you this letter.
- Arizona will be opening eligibility and appointments to all adults aged 16+ starting Wednesday, March 24, 2021. You should still be able to use the child care worker status if your area is not accepting all adults for appointments.
- Arizona Department of Health Services: <https://www.azdhs.gov/>
- American Camp Association COVID homepage: <https://www.acacamps.org/resource-library/coronavirus-information-camps>