

# Camp Kawartha



## Pre-Camp Health Checklist

We are excited to have your children spend time with us this summer! Our Summer Camp team is devoted to looking after the well-being of your children throughout their stay at Camp Kawartha. Our ultimate goal is a life-enhancing growth experience in a healthy and nurturing environment. As we prepare for the summer, we need your help to set the conditions for a wonderful camp experience. Here are the main ways to prepare for your child's healthcare experience at camp. Further healthcare details can be found on our website in the [Family Info Guide \(click here\)](#).

**Prior to coming to camp** – [Click here to login to your online registration account](#) and confirm that you have completed the following:

### Health Form

- Have you included your child's **Health Card Number** OR **Insurance Information** for out of province or international campers?
- Is your **Emergency Contact Information** up-to-date?
- Have you shared all health (physical, emotional, mental) related concerns?
- If you need to update or add any information, contact our healthcare team at [healthcare@campkawartha.ca](mailto:healthcare@campkawartha.ca)

### Camper Photo

If you haven't already, **be sure to include a current photo of your child**. For emergency purposes, a photo is very important for us to have on file. If you do not have a school photo, please upload a head shot that is clear with good lighting, no hats or sunglasses, and with a clean background.

### Anaphylactic Emergency Plan

If applicable, please fill out the allergy section of the health form in detail. If you indicate anaphylaxis on your health form, an *anaphylaxis emergency plan* automatically generates for our staff. Be sure to include a current photo of your child.

## Medications

If your child is bringing ANY medications to camp (including prescription, over-the-counter, and homeopathic medications), please refer to our:

[Camper Medication Form \(Click Here\)](#)

## **Mental Health**

We do not have any Mental Health Specialists on staff. Our healthcare staff come from a variety of backgrounds and may or may not have had direct experience in this area of medicine. It is very important that parents/guardians share the challenges your child is going through. Please thoroughly fill in your child's health form with any pertinent details.

### **What we can do for campers with Mental Health Challenges:**

- Support a camper with an ongoing mental health challenge.
- If the camper has a therapist at home, we can facilitate a virtual or phone appointment in our Health Centre.
- Allow a camper time to decompress in one of our Wellness Rooms in the Health Centre for a short period of time
- Stay in contact with parents/guardians about how their child is coping at camp.

### **What we cannot do for campers with Mental Health Challenges:**

- Provide mental health therapy.
- In the case of a new, critical mental health event that is impacting the camper's experience, we will be unable to allow your child to stay at camp. They will be supported in the Health Centre until parents/guardians arrive to take the camper home to seek out a professional medical assessment and treatment for their child.

## **Sun Safety**

Please send your child to camp with sun-protective clothing, a hat, sunscreen and a water bottle. Campers are encouraged to wear appropriate sun protection, apply/reapply sunscreen and hydrate frequently.

## **Allergies**

If your child has allergies, please ensure that full details are provided in their health form. We are a Nut Safe camp, meaning we avoid any nuts in all our meals and snacks. If the camper has an allergy to a product, insect or plant, we will make every effort within reason to keep the camper away from that allergen. Campers who have allergies that require medication, Epinephrine Auto Injector or Asthma Inhalers must visit the health centre on arrival day. Campers who have a life-threatening allergy should come to camp with two Epinephrine Auto Injectors (see Medication form above for more details). The camp also has extra Epi-Pens stationed in the dining hall, health centre and out-trip first aid kits. For any questions regarding food allergies, please email [kitchen@campkawartha.ca](mailto:kitchen@campkawartha.ca). You are also welcome to discuss specific dietary needs with the head cook on staff, by visiting the kitchen window on arrival day. **To ensure the safety of all individuals at Camp Kawartha, we prohibit nuts and foods containing nut sources at both our facilities.**

## **Infection Prevention and Control**

### **Communicable Disease Policy**

Infection prevention and control is a key component to maintaining a healthy camp. We trust that our approach places your child's health and safety as a major priority at Camp Kawartha.

#### **Screening**

- Prior to bringing your child to camp, please screen them for the following symptoms (new/unexpected or outside of their baseline health): *fever, cough, shortness of breath, decrease or loss of taste or smell, muscle aches or joint pain, extreme tiredness, sore throat, runny or stuffy/congested nose, headache, nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea, abdominal pain, pink eye, decreased or no appetite.*
  - The following self-assessment tool can be used as a guide:  
<https://www.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>
  - Do not bring your child to camp if you think they might be ill.
  - We understand that camp is a new experience that can bring on a nervous feeling, causing physical symptoms (ex. "tummy ache" or fatigue due to lack of sleep the night before). If your child has any symptoms that are outside of their normal, please give us a call so we can help you assess your child's health and determine the best course of action.
- As you arrive to camp (overnight camp only), a member of the summer camp staff will screen every camper for symptoms.
- A camper who is showing signs or symptoms of a communicable disease (on arrival or during their stay) will be assessed by the nurse, and parents will be contacted. Ill campers must return home until they are fever free for 24 hours, and have had 24 hours of improving symptoms (any symptoms from the list above). Campers must be 48 hours free of gastrointestinal symptoms before returning to camp.

#### **Handwashing**

- Handwashing signs are located in all washrooms at Camp Kawartha.
- Handwashing is encouraged before eating and after using the washroom.

#### **Immunizations**

- Immunization is a key component of maintaining a healthy camp.
- Camp Kawartha recommends that all campers and staff be up to date with their immunizations based on their age, according to [Ontario's Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule \(click for information\)](#).
- As our obligation to protect the health of your child and the broader camp community, it is important for us to know your child's vaccination status. Please provide up-to-date information on your child's health form.
- In the unlikely event that a case of any disease targeted by Ontario's Vaccination Program (ex. measles) is discovered at camp, unvaccinated children will be sent home for the recommended period of isolation (i.e. measles 21 days) without any fee adjustment.

## Masking

- Masking is optional and not required at Camp Kawartha. Your child will be responsible for their own masking should they prefer, or you prefer them to mask.
- In the case of a severe outbreak of any communicable disease, masking may be implemented by our healthcare team or Public Health.

## Head Lice

We have a tried and tested practice in screening for head lice on arrival day. Our preventative measures ensure an easy and straightforward process that allows campers to get on with the business of being happy campers from arrival to pick-up.

We understand that arrival day can be both an exciting and anxious moment for campers and parents. We also know that finding lice and/or nits can be emotionally challenging. We appreciate your support of our policies and procedures, which are grounded in maintaining a safe and equitable environment.

### A few days BEFORE coming to camp:

Please check your child's head for lice and/or nits. How and what to look for...

- Finding lice is tricky, and it gets missed – and misdiagnosed frequently. With sunlight, or a bright light, and a pair of magnifying glasses (if available), check the crown of the head and the hotspots. These are in the bangs, around the ears, and on the back (or nape) of the neck. Check the whole head, because frankly, lice could be anywhere.
- If you find something and you can flick it off, it's probably not a nit. Nits – or lice eggs – are cemented to the hair with the bug's special bond. If you can remove it, tape it on a white piece of paper and examine it.
- Lice eggs have colour; they're not white. They're teardrop shaped, brownish, and attached to one side of the hair shaft. They're tiny – but visible. Lice bugs – lice (or in the singular, louse) – are unmistakable. They're about the size of a sesame seed, and light to dark brown in colour.
- Check out [The Lice Squad \(click here\)](#) for everything you need to know about Lice and their products.

### Arrival Day and Lice (overnight campers only)

- As part of 1st day procedures, your child will be checked by staff in a semi-private location.
- Note that our staff are **not** lice experts and could miss a louse or a nit.
- **If lice or nits are found, campers MUST be treated in order to stay at camp.** This can be done privately at home, or we can proceed at camp with our non-toxic lice treatment. Parents/guardians must stay and assist with the first treatment. Each treatment takes 3-4 hours, and will be repeated every 4 days during your child's time at camp until they are nit free.

## Ticks and Lyme Disease

Over the past several years in Southern Ontario there is increasing prevalence of Ticks that carry Lyme Disease. All of our counsellors will be trained in Tick Checks, Identification and Removal. You can help us help your camper to **prevent** tick bites.

- Pack light-coloured long pants and long sleeve shirts to wear while on nature hikes on “The Range” to make it easier to visualize crawling ticks.
- Provide bug spray so your children can spray their shoes and ankles before walking in long grass.
- Talk to your child about doing tick checks after they have walked in long grass or are on trip. Please [click here](#) for tick prevention information.
- Day campers: Parents, please do a tick check in the evening.
- Overnight campers: Parents, please talk to your child about how their counsellors will help them check for ticks behind their knees, on their necks, behind their ears and in their hair. This will be done in the cabin or while out on trip with other campers present.
- **If a tick is found**, your child will be seen by the camp nurse or paramedic (if on trip, by a staff with Wilderness First Aid) who will remove the tick as per the [Centre for Disease Control protocol \(click here\)](#).
- The camp physician will be contacted if it is suspected that the tick is a Blacklegged tick attached for >24hrs. Parents will receive a phone call regarding tick removal, and be included in discussion of any next steps that may need to be taken.

## Bed Bugs

Over the last few years bed bugs are making a resurgence in Ontario, and Camp Kawartha is taking as many preventative measures as we can. We have a canine unit (aka, sniffer dogs) assess the entire site twice a year including immediately prior to the Summer Camp season. Additionally, our maintenance and housekeeping staff are trained on inspection, and do so during our mid-summer changeover. If bed bugs are found in a cabin, that cabin will be closed, heat treated and put back in service only when cleared by our pest control partner.

Here is how you can help us prevent bed bugs:

- If you have been travelling before coming to camp or live in an area where bed bugs have been a problem, please ensure proper prevention, detection, and treatment methods. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/pest-control-tips/bedbugs-how-do-i-get-ridthem.html>
- Before packing items (clothes, shoes, sleeping bag, pillow, etc), place them in a hot dryer for 30 minutes. *Freezing is not effective.*
- Be conscious to wash items that may have been in storage for a significant amount of time and not part of a regular wash cycle (ie. Sleeping bag, sheets or blankets that may have not been used for a long period of time), and dry in a dryer on high heat for 30 minutes.

Upon arriving home:

We encourage all families to wash all clothing and bedding in hot water, and dry on the highest heat for 30 minutes or more. It is also best to vacuum and inspect luggage and backpacks before bringing them inside your living space.

Visit our website [Health and Safety page](#) for more resources.

If you have any questions or a specific concern regarding your camper's health, please feel free to contact our healthcare team at [healthcare@campkawartha.ca](mailto:healthcare@campkawartha.ca). We will try to respond within 24-48 hours.

Thank you for your help and support. We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Yours in camp spirit,

**Andrea Lewis, RN**  
**Camp Kawartha Health Care Coordinator**  
[alewis@campkawartha.ca](mailto:alewis@campkawartha.ca)