

Hello CBF families,

We wanted to reach out and give you an update on our parent survey and on the updated summer camp guidelines per county.

****We will not be starting camp before May 26th. At this time, we believe that Mt. Juliet campus will start on May 26th, Knoxville (CAK and KCS) camps will start on or after June 1st, and Chattanooga (Ooltewah, Hixson, and East Brainerd) camps do not have a start date confirmed at this time. We are currently working with each partnering church/school and we will update you as soon as we have definite dates. We apologize for this inconvenience. We are sad to delay the fun as well.

****Over 99% of parents surveyed were excited for Big Fish to be open this summer and have a place for their kids to have a fun, safe summer. Most parents were obviously concerned about COVID 19 and our reaction to federal and local guidelines. Our camp RN is working hard on some guidelines and will send those out as soon as possible. Please reach out to us with any questions or concerns. We want to hear from you. We will continue to have the highest level of care and safety for our campers and staff.

These are some of the guidelines...

*****Drop off: No parents or visitors will be allowed to enter the building. This will decrease exposure to our campers and staff. Thermal temperatures will be taken / logged for staff and campers daily. Daily staff and camper exposure survey will be asked. This will help identify any potential health threats. Campers will be required to wash hands / hand sanitizer upon entering the building.

****Lunch and Snack: We will practice social distancing at lunch tables and at times do picnic style lunch and snack in the fresh air. We are considering asking for only disposable bags and items for lunch to limit exposure. We are also discussing eliminating or at least delaying snack and pizza days on the calendar.

****Face Covering: You are welcome to send campers face coverings, but not required at this time. Our Zoom meeting today with the Health Department and local summer camps brought up many downfalls and infection risks with campers and the use of face coverings. Mostly pertaining to them being kiddos and their improper use of face coverings. The Health Department representative thinks it might cause more harm with kids playing with them or stepping on them or they would get dirty or not washed properly at night. We will continue to monitor the information and make a decision closer to camp time.

****Bus, Swimming, Field Trips: We might be limited to some on campus field trips in our 1st phase of re-opening (zoo on campus, etc). Swimming, field trips, and bus transportation might be more in phase two of our reopening later in June or early July. We are still discussing and will make a decision closer to camp time. We may have to decide on a week to week basis.

****Sanitation: We will be increasing our cleaning and detailed sanitation this summer. We always have cleaning staff at each campus, but this year it is going to involve an increased budget, more staff, and more effort. We will follow the CDC guidelines on cleaning and using all CDC approved cleaners for COVID 19. All of our staff will be trained on cleaning and cleaning will be done throughout the day in each area and space that campers occupy .

****Staff: We always hire the best staff and this year our staff is once again top notch! We have started the training process and will continue to train throughout May and will continue to retrain during the camp season. We are looking for more staff. If you know anyone that would be a good fit, please tell them to apply online at campbigfish.org.

****Registration Fees/Tuition: Registration fees are non-refundable. We have used that money to purchase camp sweatshirts, camp bags, camp shirts, camp water bottles, camp insurance, field trip deposits, payroll, etc. There will not be a decrease in tuition if field trips or certain activities are cancelled. We will be spending more money this year on cleaning, sanitation, staffing for reduced ratios, and expanded on campus activities. Rest assured, tuition refund options will be made available pending operational camp weeks are confirmed.

****Social Well Being: Our goal this summer is for all campers and staff to have the best summer ever! We feel the kids have been through so much and we want to provide them a safe and fun environment to finally get to socialize with all of their friends and just be kids. We pray that all will grow in their faith and be so excited to come have fun at Big Fish this summer. We are praying for you all and ask for your prayers as this has been very hard on our small business and our staff.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

Jeremy and Molly Deitch