



June 2020

Hello Zoo Camp and Keeper-in-Training families,

We are reaching out again with exciting news and updates from The Zoo. Per Gov. Baker's re-opening announcement, The Zoo has been included in Phase 1 of re-opening Massachusetts and will be open for general admission as of 6/8/20. If you're interested in visiting The Zoo prior to our summer programs, please visit our website at www.forestparkzoo.org.

Just as The Zoo plans on adhering to the guidelines that Gov. Baker sets forth for re-opening our facility, we plan on following the protocols required by the state as well as the City of Springfield when it comes to our summer programs, which will be included in Phase 2 of the state's re-opening.

Listed below are additional details on protocols sent out in May 2020 as well as new protocols we have put in place in response to Gov. Baker's guidelines. All protocols meet or exceed recommendations set forth by Gov. Baker and the CDC.

- 1.) Each camper is highly encouraged to bring a bottle of hand sanitizer or a pack of wipes to be used in addition to frequent hand-washing breaks.
- 2.) Groups of participants will be limited to fewer than usual: Camp will have no more than 10 children per group and KITs will be limited to no more than 10 KITs during any given session, each with one or two adult counselors. Groups will not co-mingle at any point during the camp day to maintain social distancing requirements. During activities, campers will be seated or arranged in pre-determined seats, following appropriate social distancing guidelines. The groups will be the same day-to-day and we will keep campers together week to week (if possible). Siblings will be kept in the same group each session unless otherwise requested by parents/guardians (due to behavioral concerns, etc.). Staff will also stay with the same group day-to-day.
- 3.) Each camper is required to test their temperature prior to bring dropped off at The Zoo each day. Campers will also have their temperature tested with a touchless thermometer at drop-off. Any camper with a fever 99.0 or higher is asked to stay at home until at least 72 hours have passed without symptoms.
- 4.) We have updated our guidelines for campers and family members presenting symptoms and/or testing positive for Covid-19.
 - a. Infection Control and Care of mildly ill
 - i. Parents/Guardians will be requested not to bring child to camp if he/ she is ill or presenting any symptoms of Covid-19 (including fever, cough, and body aches).
 - ii. If child becomes ill while at camp, child will be separated from the rest of the group and made to feel comfortable. The child's parent/guardian will be contacted and asked to come retrieve child from camp. The child must remain home until at least 72 hours have passed without symptoms.

iii. If someone in the camper's house is presenting symptoms of or has tested positive for Covid-19, the child's parents will be asked not to bring the child to camp until the proper quarantine period is up (currently 14 days after exposure and 72 hours after family member is no longer presenting symptoms).

5.) Refunds: Per our standard Zoo Camp refund policy, refunds will only be granted with a doctor's note.

6.) Drop-off for all summer programs will be staggered at different times this year to limit the number of parents and participants in any given spot at one time. Participants will report directly to their drop-off location upon arrival.

7.) Everyone on-site (staff, campers, KITs, CITs, interns, volunteers, and the general public) is required to wear a face covering; we are not requiring a specific type of face covering but we are requiring everyone have one on unless there is a medical reason for not wearing a mask (i.e. asthma, etc.). Participants will not be required to wear masks during activities of high intensity, including hiking, where appropriate social distancing measures can be implemented, but will be required to wear them for all other activities. Frequent mask breaks will be taken for participants while employing appropriate social distancing guidelines.

Parents and guardians are required to wear face coverings at drop-off and pick-up.

8.) Participants for our summer programs will have access to sections of The Zoo, such as tents and grassy areas, that the general public will not. This will limit the potential risk for cross-contamination from the general public to our participants.

9.) Our sanitation and disinfecting protocols now include additional disinfecting of high contact surfaces including door knobs, handles, and railings throughout the day by staff, interns, and volunteers.

10.) All program equipment will be sanitized/disinfected before and after each use by any one participant or staff member.

11.) Our public access buildings will be closed to the public for the indefinite future. This includes the barn and discovery room.

12.) The Zoo be a "one-way" experience for the general public. Guests will start their Zoo journey at the main gate and then proceed through The Zoo in a large loop, ending at the exit side of the main gate.

13.) Regarding the size of groups for the general public inside, we will be following the guidelines set forth by Gov. Baker. Currently, this means groups of no more than 10 (unless groups are all in the same cohabitating family unit, in which case, larger groups may be admitted).

14.) All staff is medication administration certified. Caroline Cay Adams, Director of Education and Zoo Camp Director, is CPR/AED/first aid/Connecticut Childcare Certified. Savannah Marcotte, zoo educator and Zoo Camp Assistant Director, is CPR/AED certified.

The above is contingent on the guidelines issued by Gov. Baker and his team. If any changes are made, we will make sure to let all families know as soon as possible. All communications will be issued via email; please make sure that all emails listed in the registration packet is accurate, including parent, guardian, and emergency contacts.

All of the above guidelines and requirements will also apply to staff, volunteers, and interns at The Zoo. If you have any further questions, please feel free to reach out to me via email at education@forestparkzoo.com.

We look forward to seeing you and your camper for a ZOO-RIFIC summer at The Zoo!

Sincerely,

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