

Summer 2020

Dear Johnsonburg Camper Families:

I want to address the recent health concerns related to the coronavirus (COVID-19).

The safety and health of campers, retreat guests and staff is always the highest priority at Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center. We have a long history of taking great care to develop and maintain practices to provide participants with safe and high quality experiences. Johnsonburg's staff members are working hard to make sure that we continue to be very diligent in our cleaning practices and this includes planning for a variety of communicable diseases.

With the spread of COVID-19 within the United States, and particularly with the constant media coverage, we understand you may be concerned.

While the coronavirus currently poses no immediate implications for the summer camp season, as an accredited camp, we do have a communicable disease plan in place. We will continue to review and revise our plan in cooperation with the Warren County Department of Health as additional COVID-19 guidance is provided.

An important part of this situation is to not react in fear. As Christians, our first response should be toward one another. Create a plan for exposure. Check in on others. Consider others when you are making plans to be in public places. Care for your family, neighbors, and self.

We will also continue to keep you updated as new information becomes available. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact the Johnsonburg Office and we will be happy to speak with you. The office phone number is (908) 852-2349.

We believe all children need to be outside, unplugged, and having fun, faith-forming experiences at camp this summer. If you are considering registering for summer camp, please do so. We also understand families need to make their own best decisions. Should you decide you need to keep your child at home this summer, know that Johnsonburg offers a no-hassle, 100% refund of summer camp fees.

Of course, if you are cancelling and would like to make a full or partial donation, we are happy to send you a letter of acknowledgement of the donation to a 501 (c) 3.

As summer camp approaches, we will review and publish our policy related specifically to summer camp following the recommendations from the American Camp Association, the NJ Department of Health, and the Center for Disease Control.

We are looking forward to a successful, exciting, and fun-filled summer! In Peace,

Elise Bates Russell Executive Director



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## **BEST PRACTICE FOR OVERALL HEALTH:**

The CDC recommends these measures to reduce the spread of germs and avoid illness, including:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Say the Lord's prayer while washing. (After Lent you will have a new spiritual practice!) If soap and water are not available, use alcohol based hand sanitizers.
- Avoid touching eyes, mouth, and nose with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with individuals who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick. This is the simplest and best response you can make for others in your community. The CDC recommends that individuals remain home for a minimum of 24 hours after you no longer have a fever, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then immediately discard the tissue in the trash. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

## WHAT WE DON'T YET KNOW:

- We don't know if coronavirus will act like the flu or cold and slow down with warmer weather.
- We don't yet know how to prevent it (vaccination).
- We don't yet know why it isn't especially active in children.