

## **IMMUNIZATION POLICY 2024**

Vaccines have saved the lives of more children than any other medical intervention in the past 50 years. The vaccination of all members of the camp community ranks as a key component in maintaining a safe environment and in decreasing the risk of transmission of contagious illness. The determination of mandatory immunization requirements is consistent with Ontario guidelines and based on current clinical guidelines for the best protection of the population against vaccine-preventable diseases. Mandatory immunization for school-aged children is legislated by the Ontario government (Immunizations of Schools Pupil Act).

These changes are being made to improve the health and safety of campers. The changes will help protect children and staff from vaccine-preventable diseases and reduce the risk of disease outbreaks. These changes also align the immunization requirements for camp with Ontario's publicly funded immunization schedule, which is based on current clinical guidelines for the best protection of the population against vaccine-preventable diseases.

### **Policy**

Camp Northland requires that any member of the camp community in residence (camper or staff) receive up to date, age appropriate immunizations. The list of required immunizations is based on the most recent requirements mandated by the Province of Ontario for school aged children.

It is the responsibility of each resident at camp [and their families if under 18], to meet the immunization requirement. Disclosure on the health form or other records of failure to immunize does not exempt from this requirement except in accordance with the exemption policies as outlined below. If a camper or staff file is reviewed and identified by the Health Care staff that a camper or staff member has not been adequately immunized, the child or staff member may be sent home immediately or required to be picked up by the parent(s) at the camp's sole discretion. Staff and parents of campers will self-report the status of their immunizations on the Health Information Form submitted annually.

Requests for exemptions and reasonable accommodations related to a medical condition/disability or religious/creed under the Human Rights Code will be considered. However, this duty to accommodate will be balanced against the camp's obligations to protect the health and safety of staff and campers. Without exception, and at the sole discretion of Camp Northland and its medical advisors, the camper or staff may be excluded from camp if there is an outbreak or immediate risk of outbreak of a

designated disease in the camp where the required immunizations have not been received. Any cost for excluding the camper or staff will be paid for by the parents and a refund for the days missed will not be provided.

Please note that this may be limited by other third party programs, event rules, intercamp policies or other unforeseen limitations.

## LICE POLICY

### **Lice – No Nit Policy:**

As always, the goal for this summer is to have a safe, happy and healthy camp season where campers and staff can enjoy all camp activities without interruption.

In an effort to keep our camp as lice free as possible, Camp Northland – B'nai Brith will adhere to a "No Nit Policy" which involves staff and campers coming to camp free and clear of head lice.

As a courtesy to fellow campers and staff, we are insisting that everyone who will be attending camp this summer to be checked 5-7 days prior to the start of camp and then again the day before departure. Any evidence of nits (lice eggs), nymphs (tiny immature lice bugs) and adults (mature lice bugs) must be thoroughly removed. You can do this yourself (using on-line [resources](#) or you can book [a professional lice inspection](#) at a convenient location for you and with any number of [other providers](#) across the [GTA](#).

Our staff will be conducting camp wide head lice screenings at the start of camp. If your child is found to have any evidence of head lice, then the protocol is that they will be professionally treated on site by a qualified member of our staff team. A standard charge of \$200.00 per child treated will be billed directly to each family to help offset the cost of this service. This charge will be applied to all incoming campers and staff at the first practical opportunity for the camp to do so, as the infestation would have preceded camp.

Please note that part of the treatment process involves extensive combing and depending on the severity of the case, this could be anywhere from 3-6 sessions in the Health Centre. Not only does this disrupt the medical program, but more importantly, it takes time away from your child being able to enjoy camp as it is meant to be. Campers or staff with lice/nits will also experience periods of isolation from regular activities and/or be required to wear a head covering as determined by camp staff.

If you are planning on booking a professional screening with a professional service, of

which many are available, it is recommended that you call in advance as their clinics are by appointment. Direct numbers can be found on the above linked websites but feel welcome to find a suitable service close to your home.

Let's all do our part to keep our camp lice free. Although head lice is not a public health hazard, it is a nuisance and is very easily spread in contained environments/close quarters. Thank you for your co-operation.