

Mathcamp 2023 Covid-19 Plan

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Principles

Our goal in planning for Summer 2023 is to run Mathcamp with as few restrictions as possible while preventing any widespread outbreaks of Covid-19.

Historical Background

We chose *not* to run camp in person in 2020 and in 2021 because we couldn't ensure access to vaccines for all participants, and we didn't believe that we were in a position to operate camp safely in a way that would feel like a typical Mathcamp summer: namely, students having full access to freely choosing their classes and socializing with all members of the Mathcamp community (rather than have access only to a small pod at camp). In 2022, we successfully ran a dynamic, inclusive, and safe version of Mathcamp in a residential format, made possible by:

- Widely-available vaccines that provide significant protection against severe disease, bringing the risk of grave illness from Covid-19 at camp into the same order of magnitude as other risks routinely experienced at camp (such as driving).
- Widely-available rapid tests that provide a way to identify infectious individuals and therefore prevent them from transmitting the disease.
- A clear understanding of airborne Covid-19 transmission and sound strategies to prevent it. A combination of outdoor spaces, ventilation, high-quality masks, physical distancing, and vaccines have been successfully used to significantly limit transmission in workplaces and classrooms around the world.

We're building on this successful model as we look forward to summer 2023.

Operating Plans for 2023

In 2023, we are planning to keep the *framework* we designed in 2022 (namely, differentiating between internal and external contexts, and using a color-coded system for indicating level of precautions in place), but making some small adjustments which will allow us to **significantly relax some of the restrictions**. In particular, we will replace the mask mandate at Internal Yellow with daily morning testing, and shorten the isolation period for individuals with Covid.

In the document below, we describe our operating procedures for Summer 2023. (The details that depend on up-to-date information about the interaction of prevailing variants with population immunity levels, such as the isolation timelines, will be updated based on public health best practices at the time of camp.) Important features of our framework are:

- reducing the risk of introductions of Covid-19 into camp,
- a tiered system of baseline universal precautions sensitive to conditions at camp and in the community, and
- flexible options for individuals to increase individual safety.

These operating procedures have been developed via in-depth consultations with public health and medical professionals about Mathcamp's specific activities and circumstances. They will be updated throughout spring 2023 in coordination with Champlain's Covid-19 Compliance Program for summer programs, as well as state and federal guidelines, and will be carried out during the summer under the day-to-day supervision of a Camp Nurse.

Definition of the Color-coded system

We have established a three-tiered, color-coded system to inform Mathcamp decision-making and operations this summer. The color level at any given time is determined by a holistic review of a combination of factors, including close monitoring of local, regional, and national Covid-19 trends, as well as the number of cases on campus and within Mathcamp.

There are separate systems for **internal** interactions within camp (including within dormitories, classes, and social events) and **boundary** interactions between camp and the outside world (including campus dining halls, off-campus field trips, and visitors coming to camp).

Our goal is to make the educational and social experience of camp as normal as possible. To that end, we expect to operate at Yellow in week 1 for internal interactions, and to consider a transition to Green after week 1 if we are reasonably confident that there is no Covid-19 among Mathcamp participants. We expect to keep boundary interactions at Green throughout camp unless circumstances indicate a switch to Yellow or Red.

The levels correspond to estimates of the risk of Covid-19 exposure inside and outside of camp.

Internal Levels

- **Green:** We are reasonably confident that no non-isolated person at camp has Covid-19, due to a lack of symptoms, a period of negative screening tests, and a lack of high-risk exposures. This enables free interactions between all people at camp.
- **Yellow:** There is a nontrivial chance that a non-isolated person at camp has Covid-19 (e.g., during the first week before serial testing is complete; or after known exposure). Enhanced precautions may include: holding events outdoors, physical distancing, and masking. Individuals are empowered to reduce their own potential exposure at camp.
- **Red:** There is a high likelihood of Covid-19 transmission within camp. Enhanced precautions will be used in all indoor settings for all participants.

Boundary Levels

- **Green:** There is a low probability that a camper would contract Covid-19 from a person outside of camp due to a low level of cases on campus and in the surrounding area. This enables free interactions between people at camp and people outside of camp.

- **Yellow:** There is a moderate chance that an interaction with a person outside of camp may result in a camper contracting Covid-19. Enhanced precautions may be required, such as preferring outdoor interactions and masking when indoors.
- **Red:** There is a high likelihood of Covid-19 exposure in interactions with people outside of camp. Some activities will be prohibited.

The operating procedures for each of the color codes are detailed later in this document.

Additional Precautions for Individuals

We acknowledge that there will be differences in risk assessment and risk tolerance among our campers and staff. We seek to ensure that all essential activities will be accessible to everyone. To that end, the following options are available to each individuals regardless of the color level:

- **Classes:** Campers will have an option to mask themselves in classrooms and choose a socially-distanced seat.
- **Dining:** There will be to-go boxes available in the serverly for those who prefer to eat outdoors or in a Mathcamp-only space.
- **Dorms:** We will do our best to honor advance requests for single rooms for participants who prefer not to have a roommate, and will reserve extra single rooms in case we need to make changes to any rooming situations during the summer.
- **Social activities:** All individuals can choose which activities they want to participate in, and there will be activities held outdoors throughout the summer. All participants are encouraged to organize and post their own social events on the schedule board, for which they may select an outdoor setting and/or ask participants to wear masks.
- **Mandatory activities at camp:** When there are all-camp activities (e.g. orientation day, weekly assembly, closing ceremonies), individuals may choose a socially-distanced seat. (Note that all-camp gatherings will either take place outdoors or will require masks.) For other mandatory interactions (e.g. daily sign-in, weekly advisor meetings), campers will have the option to schedule their interactions outdoors or to mask themselves.

Rapid tests and masks will be available for all participants at the Mathcamp office, and the Camp Nurse will provide consistent support to students throughout camp.

In advance of camp, participants can indicate accessibility needs and requests at the time of registration, and we will work with students and families in advance of camp to coordinate with Mathcamp staff and our host campus to put appropriate accommodations in place.

First Line of Defense: Vaccine Mandate

All participants (students, staff, and overnight visitors) will be required to complete a full course of COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) vaccine using a [WHO-approved vaccine](#). We strongly encourage

those eligible to receive boosters to arrange for a booster in the 2-6 weeks prior to camp in order to maximize the benefits of the booster while in a congregate living setting.

We will honor documented medical and religious exemptions. Requests for medical exemptions must include a letter from a medical provider specifying the condition that prevents the administration of the vaccine; these requests will be reviewed by our consulting physician. Requests for religious exemptions will include a detailed form to address why receipt of the vaccine would conflict with sincerely-held religious beliefs; these requests will be evaluated on an individual basis by the camp administrators. In the event of an outbreak of Covid-19 at camp, unvaccinated students will be asked to leave campus (for their own safety as well as the safety of others) at their own expense.

We will be happy to discuss individual circumstances with admitted students and returning alums whose access to healthcare is limited, and will do our best to provide support to make it possible for every admitted student to attend camp safely.

Camp Operations

This is the main section of the document, describing in detail the operations for summer 2023.

Crossing the Boundary: Minimizing Introductions of Covid-19

The following precautions are intended to minimize the chance that a person arrives at camp with a Covid-19 infection and transmits it to other people at camp.

Precautions Before Camp

All participants will sign pre-camp agreements to take the following precautions before camp:

- Complete a full course of vaccination for Covid-19 using a [WHO-approved vaccine](#), including a booster if eligible, unless an exemption is approved in advance
- Avoid unmasked participation in large (100+ people) indoor events (such as big weddings or family reunions) in the 7 days leading to camp
- Travel to camp well-rested, well-fed, and hydrated
- Take a rapid test immediately before departing for their travel to camp
- Wear a high-quality mask (N95, KF94, or similar) while in transit to camp if using commercial transportation
- Delay arrival to camp if sick (with Covid or any other contagious illness)

Mathcamp will work with all participants in advance to make sure they have access to appropriate resources (e.g. to coordinate access to rapid tests and masks as needed).

Participants must also agree to the Mathcamp Code of Conduct, which includes language regarding: mutual respect regarding Covid-19 concern; supporting each other's safety; and

following the Covid-19 policies. In particular, all participants must agree to notify a staff member in case of symptoms so that the appropriate response precautions can be taken promptly.

International students

We anticipate that international students will be able to participate in camp as usual (as was also the case in 2022). In case of new restrictions and travel bans being introduced, we will refund tuition for any students who are not able to come to the United States.

Note that we are unable to offer geopolitical vaccine exemptions for students coming from countries where WHO-approved vaccines are not accessible, or where vaccinations for individuals under 18 have not yet been approved.

Arrivals to Camp

Upon arrival at camp: Registration will take place outside, in front of the dormitory. Before entering the dorms, all participants will take a rapid test and complete a symptom screening. This also applies to any travel companions who wish to enter the dorm (e.g. to help move in).

During the first seven days: All participants will continue to be tested each morning throughout their first week. Camp operations will begin at Yellow for internal interactions.

In the event that a participant cannot travel to camp on their planned arrival date for Covid-19 related reasons (e.g. if they test positive just before camp), they may arrive at camp late and will follow the same arrival and seven-day procedures starting from their delayed arrival date.

Mid-Camp Travel

In order to reduce the possibility of introducing Covid-19 to camp, Mathcamp students and staff will not be permitted to come to camp within 7 days of attending an international olympiad (e.g. the IMO, ILO, etc); this effectively means that participants must choose between attending Mathcamp and representing their country in olympiad competitions this summer.

Other mid-camp travel (of up to a week away from camp) may be considered on a case-by-case basis, and requires prior arrangement before registration; we reserve the right to say 'no.'

Visitors

All overnight visitors to Mathcamp (e.g. guest speakers) will use the same precautions before coming to camp and upon arrival as described above. If the code level is elevated to Internal Red and/or External Red, visitors may be prohibited.

Precautionary Measures during Camp: Testing and Masks

The following precautions are intended to provide consistent protection to minimize the chance of transmission of Covid-19 among camp participants.

Testing

Mandatory testing: During the first week of camp, daily testing with a rapid antigen test will be mandatory for everyone; in particular, testing will take place in the morning before attending classes. In later weeks:

- Any participant who presents with symptoms will be tested.
- In the event of Covid-19 cases at camp, close contacts of an infected individual (e.g. roommate, friends spending significant time together) will also be tested.
- At Internal Yellow, we may conduct tests of the whole camp population (e.g. as part of evening sign-in procedures) as needed for monitoring.
- At Internal Red, we will conduct daily all-camp testing.

Optional testing: Rapid tests will be widely available for anyone who wants to get tested at any time. Most testing at camp will use rapid antigen tests, as rapid antigen testing offers two advantages over PCR: timeliness and better correlation with infectiousness. PCR will be used before travel if required by airline or entering country, and may also be used in case of discordance between symptoms and rapid test results.

In addition: Mathcamp will coordinate with Champlain's Covid-19 Compliance Program, which may include participation in a Champlain-approved testing program and use of a testing management software. These implementation details will be set up in Spring 2023.

Masks

Mathcamp requires the use of highly effective masks (N95, KN95, KF94, etc) during travel to camp using commercial transportation (in airports / stations; on airplanes / trains / buses) and when mask mandates are in place at camp, and will provide such masks to people at camp.

Masks will be required at all color levels during any mandatory, all-camp gatherings that take place indoors, such as orientation, weekly assembly, and closing assembly.

Daily Life: Internal Interactions during Camp

In the first week of camp, we expect to operate at Yellow level for internal interactions (as participants may have been exposed to Covid in transit to camp). After the first week, if we are reasonably confident that there is no Covid-19 at camp (based on negative tests, absence of symptoms, and a lack of new high-risk exposures), we will operate at the Green level for internal interactions. Conversely, in case of transmission at camp creating the potential for an outbreak, we will switch to Red.

At Green, interactions between members of the Mathcamp community will not be limited, and campers and staff will be able to interact with everyone without any restrictions, e.g. on the size of gatherings (unless Champlain or Vermont protocols state otherwise). Masks will only be

required at large mandatory activities (such as all-camp assembly) taking place indoors, and in any other contexts in which they are required by campus or state policies.

At Yellow, there is a nontrivial chance that a non-isolated person at camp may have Covid-19, and we want everyone to be able to participate in all official activities without worrying about their potential exposure to Covid-19. Therefore, we will conduct daily testing. Masks will be encouraged, but not mandatory (apart from large mandatory activities such as assemblies). We will also encourage socialization outdoors.

At Red, masks will be required in all public, shared indoor spaces: in particular, wearing masks will be mandatory in classrooms, lounges, and the Mathcamp offices. We will encourage socialization outdoors. In private indoor spaces (e.g. dorm rooms or hall bathrooms), wearing masks will not be required; roommates will form a 'household bubble.' Large gatherings (e.g. assemblies) will take place with extra precautions, such as holding them outside or with a combination of masks and social distancing. Physical distancing requirements may be instituted in the dining hall.

At all color levels, we ask each participant to respect the Covid-19-related concerns of others whose risk tolerance and perception may be different than one's own.

Maintaining the Boundary: Minimizing External Exposures

The following precautions are intended to minimize the chance that a person at camp contracts Covid-19 from a person outside of camp.

Mathcamp's facilities on the Champlain campus (dorm, classrooms, social spaces) will be primarily dedicated spaces for Mathcamp-only use. Nonetheless, there will be some interfacing with people outside of camp: e.g., other campus groups sharing access to the dining hall, and interactions with campus staff (custodial, security, administrative). There is also the possibility of off-campus interactions (such as on field trips) and visitors (such as parents) coming to camp.

At a Green level for boundary interactions, there are no restrictions on interactions with people outside of camp in small groups. However, we *recommend* masking during indoor interactions. At Yellow and Red levels for boundary interactions, wearing masks will be *mandatory* when interacting indoors with people outside of camp (e.g. while in the serving area in the dining hall, or when having conversations with campus staff).

Day visitors to camp may choose to take a rapid test on arrival; testing negative will allow them to be a 'person at camp' for the day (or until they have any outside-of-camp interactions). This will facilitate families visiting students and interacting unmasked indoors (e.g. in private cars).

At External Yellow and Red, if a person at camp has an interaction that is indoors, unmasked, and with a person outside of camp who has not taken a rapid test, then this is considered

"departing from camp." We will then initiate the full arrival procedure (including the seven-day period of increased caution) upon that participant's return.

Dining Hall at Champlain College

At the Green level for boundary interactions, Mathcamp will have shared access to the campus dining hall. Masks will be optional in the server, and we will use the shared indoor dining area. Participants will always have the option of outdoor dining.

At the Yellow level for boundary interactions, we will implement additional measures (such as a designated Mathcamp-only room for indoor dining) to limit contact with people outside of camp, and require masks in the server. Participants will also have the option of taking their meals outdoors, or getting a to-go box and eating their meals in Mathcamp-only spaces.

At the Red level for boundary interactions, we will increase the level of caution by restricting Mathcamp's overlap with other campus groups in the dining hall (for example, by scheduling a designated time for Mathcamp participants to have exclusive access to the dining hall, or by arranging boxed meals to be delivered to the dorm).

Gym at Champlain College

At Green and Yellow levels for boundary interactions, Mathcamp participants will be permitted to use the gym at their discretion, unmasked. At the Red level for boundary interactions, it will be prohibited to be unmasked in a space shared with people outside of camp. Mathcamp will make an effort to secure designated times for our exclusive use of the gym.

Going off-campus in Burlington

At all levels of safety, campers will be allowed to check out to go off campus as in a usual year. At a Green level for boundary interactions, there are no restrictions on off-campus interactions in small groups. At the Yellow level for boundary interactions, Mathcamp participants can be in off-campus indoor spaces only while wearing N95 (or equivalent) masks for the entire time indoors, including in taxi or ride-share transportation. (See below for further notes on off-campus dining.) At the Red level for boundary interactions, participants may not have any indoor interactions off campus with the exception of staff doing tasks required for camp operations, in which case they will wear N95 (or equivalent) masks for the entire time indoors. For grocery shopping, campers may order online for pickup, and Mathcamp staff will facilitate transportation as needed. (No indoor interactions off-campus means no taxi/ride-share.)

Religious services

Participation in religious services will be permitted at all levels of safety. At Yellow and Red levels for boundary interactions, wearing masks inside will be mandatory; at the Red level for boundary interactions, outdoor services will be strongly preferred. Mathcamp staff will facilitate transportation to/from religious services at all color levels.

Eating out

At the Green boundary level, indoor dining off-campus is permitted. At the Yellow levels for boundary interactions, eating *outdoors* off-campus will be permitted (but not indoor dining). We encourage picnics! We advise caution at restaurants: if non-Mathcamp people are also eating outdoors, maintain an appropriate space perimeter. At the Red level for boundary interactions, only takeout or delivery from restaurants will be permitted. Both indoor and outdoor eating at off-campus restaurants will be prohibited. (You can always take your take-out to a park and have a picnic! Or bring your food back to campus.)

Field trips

Field trips are a significant part of the social life at Mathcamp! They will operate at all color levels, with appropriate precautions.

At the Green level for boundary interactions, field trips will be run similarly to a normal year, but with mild extra caution, e.g. an emphasis on limiting interactions with non-Mathcamp people.

At Yellow and Red levels for boundary interactions, we will choose field trips which limit potential exposures to Covid-19. We will focus on outdoor activities (e.g. hiking, berry picking, etc.) for off-campus trips, with indoor on-campus alternatives. Bus drivers will be tested with a rapid antigen test before each trip. Interactions with other non-Mathcamp people during the trips will be limited.

Response Plan

This section describes the policies and procedures in the event of a Covid-19 case at camp.

Isolation and Recovery

Individuals who test positive for Covid-19 will be isolated in a private room in the isolation housing dorm (across the quad from our regular dorms).

When an individual tests positive, the staff supervising the test will notify that participant, have them put on an N95 or equivalent mask, and explain the next steps. They will begin by packing up their belongings in order to move temporarily to the isolation housing, and staff will help them get set up in their new space. They will be assigned a point person on staff who serves as their default point of contact throughout their illness, and will set up a communication system right away for staying in touch. Food will be provided by Mathcamp staff for the duration of isolation (e.g. with a grocery trip on the first day to set up breakfast, lunch, and snack supplies to be kept in the kitchenette in the isolation dorm, as well as access to take-out meals for dinner).

Mathcamp staff will monitor the isolated individual's symptoms and maintain contact with isolated campers' families. Mathcamp will also make a particular effort to develop activities and materials to enable isolated individuals to stay engaged academically and socially at camp during their isolation period.

In accordance with current best practices:

- The duration of the isolation period will be at least 5 days (where the day of the first positive test is considered Day 1).
- The end of the isolation period will be the end of day 7 or upon two consecutive days with negative test results, whichever happens first after the conclusion of the 5-day minimum.
- The isolation will be followed by 5 additional days of masking with an N95 mask or equivalent, and housing in a designated 'transitional' space in the dorm (where rooms and bathrooms are not shared with other members of the dorm community).

Breaking the chain of transmission

The first strategy for breaking the chain of transmission is isolation of known cases. The second strategy is enhanced precautions and monitoring for close contacts who may have been exposed to the virus. The third strategy is enhanced precautions for the entire camp, as encoded in the color level, which may be raised in response to a number of cases or suspected transmission events at camp.

Internal communication: Keeping campers, staff, and visitors informed

Efficient, centralized, consistent communication within our community will be key to staying safe. Mathcamp students and staff will have a central source for up-to-date information, and clear reporting procedures for participants experiencing symptoms as well as systems for contact

tracing and notification. We will have a Covid dashboard in the Main Lounge, informing about the current color code and number of people in isolation. We will also share the same information via Slack, so that students have access to up-to-date information digitally.

External communication: Keeping families informed

Mathcamp will promptly notify parents or guardians of students who test positive for Covid-19, and update them frequently on their students' status.

At the end of the summer: Departures from Camp

For participants who need or want to test for Covid-19 before going home, we will have rapid tests available at camp. For those who need a PCR test, we will arrange for an off-campus test.

In the event that a participant tests positive and cannot travel home, they will be able to stay on campus in an isolation dorm room for up to one week. Designated staff members will also stay on campus to check on students and deliver meals and medications as needed. Our Camp Nurse will also continue to be on call to consult. We will facilitate participants' transportation to a rescheduled departure flight.

Departure procedures for international students will be the same as for domestic students. In the event of border closures and flight cancellations, we will help students rearrange their travel plans, extend their stay on campus for up to one week, and/or facilitate transportation to a rescheduled departure flight.