



Hello youth leaders, parents and campers,

It has been a couple of weeks since my last communication with you so I wanted to send an update. Unfortunately, the pandemic situation in our nation has not improved but rather gotten worse so far and the experts are saying that it is going to continue to do so for a while. You are most likely aware that the "stay home" directive has now been extended until at least the end of April.

Admittedly, it is beginning to look less likely that we will be able to hold our camps this summer - but I feel it is still just a little too early to decide. I am setting May 15 as our decision date. If it becomes clear before then that it is going to be either safe or not I will inform you of the decision right away - but at the latest, we will decide by May 15.

In the meantime, I ask that you take the step of faith to go ahead and register your sons and daughters for camp with the comfort of knowing that we are monitoring the situation, that full refunds will be given if we cancel camps, and that you yourself can also cancel a registration at any time with no penalty.

I am aware that a complication has arisen for those of you who have already been working on your child's registration. Some doctors and clinics are not performing physicals right now so that they can concentrate on treating the people who are ill. If that is the case for you and you are in the Ft. Collins area we have a doctor who is willing to do camp physicals at her office if you contact me and I pass your name along to her. If you are not in that area and are having trouble getting the physical page completed please just send us all of the rest of the registration and we will work with you on turning in the physical at a later date.

I know we are all already praying for this pandemic to subside soon, please join me in also praying that we will be able to have our camps because I believe that the ways that God touches young hearts and souls there, coupled with the fun the kids have, will be very healing for them emotionally and spiritually.

Though I already shared this with you in the last email, I want to include it again in case any of you did not see it. Here is the communication La Foret has sent out regarding what they are doing to make camp safe:

*There is no higher priority to our La Foret staff and volunteer counselors than the physical, emotional, and spiritual safety of the youth and children in our camps and retreats. To address the COVID-19 situation with the appropriate level of caution, especially as it relates to youth and children camps, we are utilizing resources from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), the American Camp Association (ACA), and the Outdoor Ministry Association of the United Church of Christ (OMA-UCC). According to the most recent information from the CDC, for most people, the immediate risk of being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low. The risks associated with infection are also much lower for youth under 19 years of age.*

*We want you to feel confident that your child will be safe in every way at La Foret. As a result, we have enhanced some of our cleaning procedures and*

*health and safety measures. While at camp, we will be enforcing our normal policy of washing hands upon entering the dining hall for all meals. Hands must be washed before sitting down at a table. Directors and counselors will be instructed to put a stronger emphasis on camper's hand washing at other times during the day as well, such as every time they enter their cabins. Our housekeeping and food service staff will be increasing the normal sanitizing of mattresses, bathrooms and all surfaces of regular hand/skin contact in cabins and common spaces.*

*As usual, all campers will be health checked by a licensed nurse upon arrival at La Foret, and parents or drivers are asked to wait until the full check in process is complete before they leave. Our registered nurse may choose to measure campers temperatures as an increased safety measure at check in, so any camper with a fever can be quarantined and sent home. Campers feeling or exhibiting any signs of illness while at camp should let their counselor or director know immediately so they can be seen by the nurse.*

*It is also always our policy that if a child has had a fever within the last 24 hours, or vomiting/diarrhea in the last 48 hours, they are not permitted to stay at camp. In an abundance of caution, we are asking that anyone with any symptoms please stay home, since camp is by nature an environment of close contact. Unlike our usual cancellation policy of no refunds within two weeks of the event, we will grant a full refund to anyone not attending due to symptoms of illness.*

*Rest assured, we are monitoring this developing situation closely, and following expert advice. We will continue to react with appropriate caution, rather than fear. Please feel free to contact Brad Carroll at La Foret with any further questions: 719-495-2743 or [brad@lafort.org](mailto:brad@lafort.org)*

Thank you for again taking the time to read through a long email from me. Thank you for all the ways each of you are praying and taking steps to keep your family and neighbors safe. And thank you in advance for registering your

child/youth for camp. We appreciate and take very seriously the trust you place in us.

May God bless you and keep you safe,

Rev. Shelly Garrison, CRMR Associate Minister to Youth

Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes, CRMR Executive Regional Minister



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