

## Covid Update

We are so excited to return to camp this summer. Our goal is to have a great Northern Pines experience that is as normal as possible while keeping our conferees safe and healthy at the same time. Because of the unique multi-generation experience at Northern Pines, we are working especially hard to make sure we have done everything we can to make our 2021 conferences safe for everyone.

Our Covid committee is meeting regularly and working closely with Green Lake Conference Center, medical personnel, and the board to implement the necessary procedures to prioritize our staff and conferee's health and safety. We are closely monitoring COVID-19 developments and state and local health department protocols in dealing with the virus. As new guidelines continue to be released, we want to be able to adjust our policies to reduce disease transmission while maintaining a meaningful guest experience. Therefore, we will wait until late May or early June to post our final COVID protocols. This will allow us to have the most up-to-date information and regulations as possible to implement in our planning. It also allows us to continue to observe, meet, and talk with Green Lake Conference Center staff as they start hosting groups this spring.

One of the best things about Northern Pines is that for one week, conferees from all over the nation and from many different denominational experiences come together and focus on what unites us in Christ. That may never be more important than this summer. While we may hold different views about quarantines, masks, vaccines, etc., we will all need to find common ground in order to help us all come back and enjoy Northern Pines. In looking ahead there are three important things we want to emphasize now.

1. **We will be having Northern Pines conferences this summer.** We want it to be both the same premier, life-changing, multi-generational family camping experience we all have known and loved and we want to prioritize our conferee's health and safety at the same time.
2. **We want to encourage every adult who is attending to consider getting vaccinated.** While some may hold differing views about vaccines (or types of vaccines), we believe this will significantly increase your protection as well as others. We will NOT require vaccination to attend, but we do encourage it.
3. **The biblical admonition to "bear with one another in love" will need to be embraced by all** for our conferences to work. At the end of the day, we will all need to let go of some of our preferences to have a successful camp. Although we do not know exactly the local, county, and state restrictions will be by this summer, we do expect some mask and social distancing protocols. While we understand some may not be in agreement with some or all of these expectations, we also know we need them to come together for camp. If you do not feel comfortable with the protocols that will be put in place, we understand this might not be the summer for you to attend Northern Pines and will work closely with you to get you back in 2022.

Thank you for your patience in this process. Please keep our board in prayer over the next few months as we continue to work through this process. We promise we will keep you informed and will do our very best to make Northern Pines 2021 the best and safest Northern Pines to date! If you have specific questions, please contact Dean or Julie Jaderston at [djaderston@npines.org](mailto:djaderston@npines.org) or [jjaderston@npines.org](mailto:jjaderston@npines.org).