**W H I T E L A K E C O V E N A N T E R C A M P**

 Covenanter Camp Road, White Lake, NY 12786

 May 15, 2019

Dear Parent / Guardian,

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has alerted all camps operating in Sullivan County of a current and ongoing outbreak of measles occurring in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, Rockland, Westchester and Orange Counties, in New York State.

NYSDOH (State and Local) have identified Sullivan County as being a danger zone for measles because of the orthodox Jewish summer population.  Although our camp has required vaccinations be up-to-date, in the past we have allowed families with religious scruples to be waived from the requirement.

“However, after receiving counsel from the Presbytery Commissioners over the issue of religious exemption, the Camp Director, along with the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors has determined that we must require immunizations for everyone (child and adult) who attends camp at White Lake this summer.  There shall be no exemptions”

**NYSDOH recommends two doses of measles vaccine for all attendees and staff who:**

* **Were born on or after January 1, 1957;**
* **Have had fewer than two doses of MMR; and**
* **Have no history of measles.**

Therefore, all campers 18 years of age and under (whether staying with their family or in a cabin under a counselor’s care) must submit a completed Health Form which shall include a copy of their immunization records. The health form, as always, must be signed by a health care provider. The health form must be received by the Camp Director by no later than Monday, July 15, 2019. No exceptions. Forms may be mailed to: 230 Springfield Road, Aldan, Pa.19018 or scanned and emailed to: agizmos2@aol.com.

**ALL ADULTS attending WLCC in 2019 must provide written documentation of adequate vaccination or immunity, unless you were born before 1957.**

We are inspected by the NYSDOH during camp and must have all completed health forms and documentation for each camper (child & adult) for inspection purposes.

The NYSDOH strongly recommends that upon arrival at camp, **each camper be screened by our medical staff** for any signs of illness, and for recent measles exposure. Parent or guardian will be asked if the camper has had any close family members or other contacts with measles or with fever and cough or rash symptoms in the preceding 21 days. More information about measles can be obtained at the NYSDOH measles website at <http://www.health.ny.gov/measles>

Thank you for your partnership and efforts to keep White Lake Covenanter Camp free of measles and other vaccine preventable diseases, and to provide a safe and healthy summer camp season for all campers and staff.

Sincerely,

Robert Allmond

Director, WLCC