



# CAMP WELCH

# PARENT HANDBOOK

127 North Main Street,  
Assonet 508.644.5275

BOYS & GIRLS OF FALL RIVER AND CAMP WELCH COMPLIES WITH THE REGULATIONS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND IS LICENSED BY THE LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH. INFORMATION ON 105 CMR 430.000 CAN BE OBTAINED BY CALLING 617-983-6761.

## ATTENDANCE (DROP OFF & PICK UP)

Standard Camp Welch hours of operation are from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Campers may be dropped off directly at Camp between 8:30am and 9:00am. **Campers will not be dismissed between 4pm and 4:15pm. Campers can be picked up after 4:15pm and before 4:30pm. (This will allow buses to leave at 4:15pm.)**

## EARLY DISMISSAL

Caregivers requesting early dismissal must send a note to the camp office. Campers must be signed out at the Welcome Center before leaving camp. We recommend that early dismissals be scheduled between 12:30 and 3:30pm. Early pick-up time must be before 3:30pm.

## SESSION INFORMATION & REQUIRED FORMS

A single camp session is 2 weeks long. Camp Welch provides two session options: Full Sessions of two (2) week sessions of 5 days per week for \$550.00/session, or Partial Sessions of two (2) week sessions of 3 days per week for \$330.00/session. Partial Session registrants have the option of choosing either Monday/Wednesday/Friday or Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday. Requests for session changes or additions should be submitted two weeks prior to the start of the changing session for staff approval.

A discount of \$100 per session is given for siblings who reside in the same household and are attending the same Full Session.

Session Name:	Session Date
A: Superhero Training	June 29 <sup>th</sup> to July 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2026 (camp closed July 3 <sup>rd</sup> )
B: Rise to the Challenge	July 13 <sup>th</sup> to July 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2026
C: Imagine That!	July 27 <sup>th</sup> to August 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2026
D: Adventure Awaits	August 10 <sup>th</sup> to August 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2026

Before any campers can attend Camp Welch, we require their caregiver to submit the required documents listed in the **Signatures Required for Camp Welch Forms** email sent to all camper's primary contacts. **The deadlines for submitting the required documents for Camp Welch are due on the Monday before your camper's first registered session begins\*\*.** The deadlines are as follows:

- **Session A: Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026**
- **Session B: Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026**
- **Session C: Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026**
- **Session D: Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026**

**\*\*Failure to submit the required forms by the above deadlines will result in your child's session registration being cancelled without refund.**

## EXTENDED CARE

Extended care hours are available for an additional fee. Campers in the extended care program will need to be transported to camp by a caregiver and picked up by a caregiver at camp. AM extended care will run from 7:30am - 8:30am and there is **an additional \$50 fee per session, per child**. PM extended care will run from 4:30pm - 5:30pm and is also **an additional \$50 fee per session per child**.

Transportation is not available for extended care campers.

## PAYMENTS

**Payments for camp sessions are due on Friday prior to the start of the camp session. We require a debit or credit card to be stored on file for automatic billing.** Payment in FULL is required for the session that your child is registered to attend the program, regardless of the camper's attendance. **The session deposit fees paid at the time of registration will be deducted from your total camp fee.** Families with PACE vouchers must provide a copy of the voucher to reserve a space at camp. Failure to pay on time will result in suspension from the program and the club until all debts are paid.

## CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICIES

**ALL deposit fees are non-refundable and non-transferable. To cancel a camper's session registration, a written two-week notice is required.** Without proper notice, you are required to pay for the session even if your child does not attend camp. Refunds after the start of a camp session are only given IF the child has an illness or injury, with a note from the physician stating he/she is unable to participate in camp activities.

## TRANSPORTATION

**Transportation by bus is available for an additional fee of \$100 per session.** Camp will provide a bus monitor on each bus. Campers must be supervised by a caregiver while waiting to board the bus at their bus stop and a caregiver must be present to sign-out the child upon dismissal from the bus. Campers must arrive and return home on the same bus. Campers must also arrive and depart from camp by the same transportation method. Campers will be released **ONLY** to those on the authorized pick-up list, please always bring your ID. If an adult is not present to dismiss the child from the bus, your child will be brought back to Boys & Girls Club of Fall River for pick-up. Late fees will apply.

<b>BUS STOP:</b>	<b>DEPARTURE:</b>	<b>ARRIVAL:</b>	<b>LOCATION OF AREA:</b>
<b>Stop &amp; Shop</b> (333 Mariano Bishop Blvd)	8:10AM	4:50PM	<i>By the gas station pumps</i>
<b>Lafayette Park</b>	8:15AM	4:45PM	<i>By the parking lot at the baseball field (corner of Mason &amp; County Street)</i>
<b>Kennedy Park</b>	8:20AM	4:40PM	<i>Upper Kennedy in PARK Drive, at the Big Rocks about half-way up the upper park. Closer to Bradford Avenue side.</i>
<b>Newport Creamery</b>	8:25AM	4:35PM	<i>In the ice machine parking lot, to the left of Newport Creamery</i>

Please arrive before the scheduled departure time. The bus will not wait past these times at their stops.

\*\* The arrival times are currently estimates. The bus should arrive within 10 minutes of these times.

## TRANSPORTATION RULES

Campers must take the seat assigned to them. Campers may not change seats once seated and the bus is moving. The bus driver is in charge of the bus. Campers must follow the rules given by the counselors and bus driver at all times. Campers and Counselors must be seated at all times while the vehicle is in motion. All hands and objects must be kept inside the bus. There is no eating or drinking on the bus. Campers who fail to adhere to the transportation rules will be reported to the Camp administration and bus privileges could be suspended.

## PICK-UP AUTHORIZATION & POLICY

Pick-up authorization has been noted on the membership form and on the registration form. Children will only be released to the people named on the forms. If a child is to be picked up by someone other than an authorized person, the program must be notified **IN WRITING** or by emailing [reception@fallriverbgc.org](mailto:reception@fallriverbgc.org). Parents or designated persons picking up children are required to report to the proper area and sign out the child on the sign-out sheet, printing and signing their name, then writing the time the child has been picked up.

For your child's safety, we will not allow your child to leave the site without an authorized person. All people, including parents, picking up children MUST have picture identification available.

We will not release a child to anyone we suspect to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, including marijuana.

## LATE PICK-UP POLICY

Parents must make every effort to pick up their children before the end of the Camp Day, 4:30pm for campers and 5:30pm for PM extended care campers. Please consider weather and traffic conditions when making your pick-up arrangements. In consideration of your child and the staff, please call the camp if you know that you are going to be late.

- If the caregiver is not on time for picking up campers, you will be charged the \$50 PM extended care rate for your child. If you arrive after the close of PM care, a late fee will be assessed. *Late fees will be assessed based on the Camp's clock.*
- After a **Ten-minute** grace period, a \$1 fee will be charged for every minute the caregiver is late.
- Caregivers arriving after 5:30pm will be logged into the late pick-up book.
- PM extended care fees and late fees will automatically be added to the child's account.
- More than three late pick-ups will result in suspension or termination of your child's enrollment in the program.
- Exceptions will be made due to uncontrollable circumstances (i.e. car accident, death, illness). Staff on site, with the assistance of the Camp Director, will judge what constitutes an uncontrollable circumstance.
- If a caregiver does not arrive for pick up after 60 minutes and staff has not been able to speak with a caregiver and/or all other contacts have been exhausted, the Police Department will be notified.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER (RAINY DAYS/SEVERE WEATHER)

If the Camp Director or designee determines that, due to weather or another situation, it would be a threat to staff or children to hold the program, families would be notified of the cancellation. Notification of cancellation will be sent out via email and will also be posted on our website, [www.fallriverbgc.org](http://www.fallriverbgc.org) and Facebook Page, BGC Fall River.

### *Rainy Days:*

Camp is held rain or shine. Campers should be prepared for the weather and bring rain gear.

### *Severe Weather:*

If we have advance notice of severe weather approaching the area, campers will be moved to indoor areas and remain there until the storm passes. The indoor areas are the pavilion, camp center, dining hall, dining hall porch and a couple of cabins.

For the safety of our campers, and their caregivers, we do not permit campers to move about Camp during a storm, therefore, we ask that you wait to pick them up until the storm is over.

## SCHEDULED CLOSURE

Camp will be closed on July 3rd, 2026, in observance of Independence Day.

## VISITORS' POLICY

Only visitors with appointments will be allowed. All visitors must sign-in at the Welcome Center before being allowed to enter onto campgrounds. Unapproved visitors will be asked to leave.

## WHO SUPERVISES MY CHILD?

Your child will be supervised by trained staff members. All staff undergo mandatory trainings and orientation before they can work at Camp Welch; topics include team building, conflict resolution, mandated reporting, child abuse and neglect, and concussion training. All Lifeguards are certified through the American Red Cross in Lifeguarding, First Aid, CPR, and AED. All staff undergo a background record check, which includes a CORI and a SORI check.

The staff to camper ratio is 1 staff per 5 children ages 5 and 6 years old, and 1 staff per 10 children ages 7 to 12. Your child will be assigned a group member at the beginning of the session. This is the group they will remain with throughout each day, travelling together to each assigned activity.

Groups are determined by the age of the child.

- **Ages 5 & 6 (Finches)**
- **Ages 7 & 8 (Cardinals)**
- **Ages 9 & 10 (Blue Jays)**
- **Ages 11 & 12 (Eagles)**

## WHAT TO BRING/WEAR

Backpack, swimsuit, towel, hat, appropriate footwear (no flip-flops at activities), **NUT FREE** snacks, and water bottle. Please have your child dress according to weather conditions. Inclement weather programming will be provided, but campers should bring rain gear. Please write camper's name on all personal items.

## WHAT NOT TO BRING

Cell phones (campers who need to call a caregiver can go to the office), hand-electronics/games, toys, sporting equipment, collectible cards (i.e. Pokémon Cards) and stuffed animals are prohibited. Camp Welch is not responsible for any non-permitted items that are damaged, lost or stolen. Additionally, weapons, nicotine, vapes, drugs and alcohol of any kind are also prohibited.

## ALERT BRACELETS

Campers with severe medical issues, severe food allergies and asthma will be given a bracelet that they **MUST** wear while they attend camp. This alert bracelet will allow ALL camp staff to identify your child in the event of an emergency and keep an "extra" eye on them at their activity. Alert Bracelets need to be kept on all day for the safety of your child. A new bracelet will need to be issued if they **DO NOT** have one in the morning.

## LOST & FOUND

Found items are held at the end of each day. If lost items are labeled, we call the child's name and return the item. The items are taken to the Welcome Center at the end of the camp day. Camp Welch is not responsible for any damaged, lost or stolen items.

## ACTIVITIES

A variety of activities are planned for your child throughout the day. While our staff to child ratio is 1 to 5 for Finches and 1 to 10 for the remaining age groups, we will move as a group from activity to activity. Your child should be able to participate in all camp areas at a minimum of once per week.

## SWIMMING POOL INFORMATION

The pool is monitored by American Red Cross certified lifeguards during the designated swim times. The pool is locked when not in use.

We have two swimming pools at Camp Welch. A small pool with a depth of 3ft, where the Finches (ages 5 & 6) and non-swimmers swim. The big pool has a minimum depth of 3ft, a maximum of 5ft. This is where all other campers swim. We use the **TEST.MARK.PROTECT** Method during swim times. **Test:** All campers 8 and older must take a swim test to determine which area of the big pool they are allowed to swim. Any camper under 8 will be marked as a non-swimmer and restricted to the 3ft pool (small pool). Anyone who does not pass or chooses not to take the test will be treated as a non-swimmer. Swimmers have no depth restrictions in the big pool and non-swimmers are restricted to chest deep water or less. The test consists of swimming the width and back using the freestyle stroke efficiently, one minute of treading water, jumping into water submerge and resurface and exiting the pool on their own. **Mark:** If the camper successfully completes the swim test, they are labeled as a swimmer. A swimmer has no depth restrictions in the big pool (5ft). The camper will be given a neon necklace to be worn while they are swimming. **Protect:** If the camper does not successfully complete the test, they will be restricted to chest deep water or less in the big pool. A safety float line separates the swimming areas of the pool, a shallow end 3ft and deep end 5ft. Only those campers wearing the neon necklace will be allowed in the deep end. The lifeguard on duty determines whether your child will be allowed on the deep side. The head lifeguard will give the FINAL approval.

While your child may be able to swim in your backyard pool, due to the volume of children who utilize the pool while it is open, your child needs to be a **STRONG** swimmer. Again, the head lifeguard will give the FINAL approval. Swimming lessons are offered daily at camp, weather permitting, at no additional charge.

If the pool is closed due to inclement weather or per state regulations, the camp will provide alternate programming.

## BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE

### *Prohibitions:*

- Corporal punishment, including spanking, is prohibited.
- No camper shall be subjected to cruel or severe punishment, humiliation, or verbal abuse.
- No camper shall be denied food, water, or shelter as a form of punishment.
- No child shall be punished for soiling, wetting or not using the toilet.
- No camper shall be subject to abuse, neglect, or cruel, unusual, severe or corporal punishment including any type of physical hitting inflicted in any manner upon the body.
- No camper shall have punishments which subject a child to verbal abuse, ridicule, or humiliation; denial of food, rest or bathroom facilities, punishment for soiling, wetting or not using the toilet, or punishment related to eating or not eating food.

### *Camp Rules:*

- We keep our hands and feet to ourselves. No physical contact is allowed. Report any incident to the nearest counselor.
- We do not throw anything except appropriate sporting equipment during activities, sticks and stones must stay on the ground.
- No swearing, no inappropriate conversations or language.
- No cell phones are allowed at Camp.
- No bringing home of any insects, animals, or aquatic life from camp.
- We show respect for others.
- We stay within the designated Camp boundaries and never wander off alone or leave Camp property.
- We listen to each other and follow directions.
- We are on time for lunch, line up, and assemblies.
- We help to keep camp clean and use the designated trash barrels.
- We play safely and fairly.

### *Anti-Bullying:*

Children are entitled to a fun and pleasant Camp experience; therefore, Camp Welch cannot serve children who display chronic disruptive behavior. Such behavior is defined as physical or verbal bullying that may involve but is not limited to behavior that:

- Requires constant attention from the staff. (1:1 support)

- Inflicts physical or emotional harm on other children.
- Abuses the staff.
- Ignores or disobeys the rules that guide behavior during the day at Camp.
- Threatens the health, safety, or well-being of any person or animal, or the routine and structure of the camp day operation.

Any disciplinary actions are recorded on disciplinary forms noting the infraction, consequences for the action, a parent signature, and staff signature. A copy of the disciplinary form is given to the caregiver and can be found in your parent portal.

If a child cannot adjust to the Camp setting and behave appropriately, then the child may be suspended from Camp. All reasonable efforts will be made to help children adjust to Camp and have an enjoyable experience.

The suspension of a child from camp is a severe disciplinary measure. It is reserved for instances of repeated offenses, obvious disregard for Camp rules and policies, or cause serious safety concerns. Therefore, when reasonable efforts to provide positive remedies are ineffective, suspension remains the right of Camp Leadership and will be instituted in accordance with appropriate due process. If a suspension is in order, tuition obligations will not be forgiven. There are no refunds for campers who are suspended or terminated for inappropriate behavior.

Termination will take place when the Camp Leadership and Camp Director feels the program does not meet the child's needs, when the safety and health of the child at the program cannot be assured, or when any of the following situations should arise:

- The child repeatedly threatens the health, safety, or well-being of any person or animal, or the routine and structure of the camp day. This includes eloping and running from the staff and/or the premises.
- Failure of the family to meet its financial obligations to camp.
- When late pick-ups become excessive. (4 or more times in the camp season)
- Failure to comply with the policies and procedures of Camp Welch.
- When a parent or authorized person verbally or physically threatens to cause harm to an employee, a child, or other individuals of the program.
- When a parent or authorized person uses verbally abusive language at Camp Welch or at any bus routes.

## MANDATED REPORTERS

All staff are mandated by Massachusetts State law to report all incidents of suspected child abuse or neglect to the Department of Child and Family Services. They are also trained in the appropriate actions to take when abuse/neglect is suspected. The Department of Child and Family Services will be notified immediately.

- *Abuse*- is the non-accidental commission of any act by caretaker which causes or creates a substantial risk of harm or threat of harm to a child's well-being.
- *Neglect*- is a failure by a caretaker, either deliberately, or through negligence, to take those actions necessary to provide a child with minimally adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, supervision, or other essential care.
- *Reasonable Cause*- is a basis for judgment that rests on specific facts, either directly observed or obtained from reliable sources, and that supports a belief that a particular event probably took place or a particular condition probably exists.
- *Reasonable Condition*- is a serious physical or emotional injury resulting from abuse or neglect, or the commission of any act by a caretaker with a child which constitutes a sexual offense under the criminal laws of the Commonwealth.

## HEALTH POLICY (ILLNESS / INJURY / MEDICATION / ALLERGIES)

Camp Welch is equipped to care for children who need First Aid and are in good health. Children should not attend Camp if they exhibit any of the following symptoms:

- Temperature of 100° or more (in 24-hour period)
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- An unexplained rash
- A contagious disease (ex. Chicken pox, measles, etc)
- Conjunctivitis

If a child is prescribed antibiotics, the first dose may not, per state regulations, be taken at Camp. The child must be on that medication for at least 24 hours before returning to Camp.

If your child has a communicable disease, please notify the Camp office as soon as possible.

The child can return to Camp when:

- Their temperature is consistently below 100° for 24 hours without medication.
- An infection has been diagnosed, and your child has been on antibiotics for 24 hours.
- It has been 24 hours since the last vomiting or diarrhea episode.
- Nasal or eye discharge has subsided.
- Their rash has subsided, or a physician has determined it is not contagious.
- Ringworms have been treated and covered.
- The child has a doctor's note to return to the program.

If your child becomes ill while at Camp, caregivers will be contacted to make the necessary arrangements to pick up their child.

- **Injuries:**

The Health Care Supervisor will treat routine scrapes and cuts. A minor injury report form will be filled out and given to the caregiver at pick up. In all cases of serious illness or accident, the Camp Health Care Supervisor will contact the caregiver. In the event they cannot be reached the signed authorization on the child's health form will allow the Camp to secure the proper treatment.

- **Medication Policy:**

All medications that must be administered during Camp hours require written permission from the caregiver and prescription medications require written orders from the child's licensed physician or dentist.

All medications are kept in the First Aid Office and must be in the **original prescription bottle, clearly labeled with the camper's name, date, frequency and dose.**

Campers will only be allowed to carry and administer their own medications (such as an inhaler or EpiPen) with written permission from their primary care provider (physician, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant) and caregiver.

- In the unlikely event of a widespread medical or other problem at Camp, written notifications will be sent home with your camper within 24 hours.

- **Allergies:**

Must be documented on the child's medical form.

Those associated with food products will be posted in the kitchen and the First Aid Office.

If severe, it is the parent's responsibility to provide a well-balanced, nutritious meal for the child.

**We are a nut-free environment.** Please **DO NOT** send your child with snacks or foods that contain any nuts. The child will not be allowed to eat any snack containing any form of nuts.

## MEALS AND SNACKS

Children will be served a fully well-balanced meal in the dining hall at their designated mealtimes. No child shall be subject to denial of food, or punishment related to eating or not eating food. Menus are available and posted at the Camp Welch office, emailed through our membership software and on our website. We do not have any means to heat up lunches, please do not send your child with a lunch that requires it to be heated. We encourage campers to eat lunch, if your child consistently refuses to eat lunch, you will be asked to provide one for them.

Small snacks and drinks are available to purchase during the day. We do not allow the campers to carry money; we instead give them canteen cards with the amount of money they have available to spend. Canteen cards can be purchased at camp in the welcome center. Campers are responsible for holding on to their own canteen card. Lost cards will not be replaced.

## SUN EXPOSURE

Campers are encouraged to wear wide brimmed hats and/or sunglasses and wear sunscreen. We recommend all campers and staff apply sunscreen with an SPF of at least 30 on all exposed skin, even on cloudy days before being dropped off at camp. Campers at activities in the sun will be asked to rest in the shade periodically and take group water breaks to prevent over exposure to heat and sun. Campers can at any time go to the First Aid station and ask for sunscreen to be reapplied. If your camper is wearing a sweatshirt and sweatpants on a hot day, they will be asked to remove them.

## BUG SPRAY

We recommend all campers and staff apply bug spray with DEET according to the recommendations on the product label. Campers can at any time go to the First Aid station and ask for bug spray to be reapplied. Bug spray is reapplied as needed and may be applied on them by camp staff.

## TICK INFORMATION

At Camp Welch, we work to limit the risks of your child being exposed to ticks. We have trained staff who will help to teach campers to be aware of ticks. We will conduct tick checks during the day but strongly encourage caregivers to do a tick check when at home. For more information about ticks please visit: [www.tickencounter.org](http://www.tickencounter.org)

## Meningococcal Disease and Camp Attendees: Commonly Asked Questions

### What is meningococcal disease?

Meningococcal disease is caused by infection with bacteria called *Neisseria meningitidis*. These bacteria can infect the tissue (the “meninges”) surrounding the brain and spinal cord and cause meningitis, or they may infect the blood or other organs of the body. Symptoms of meningococcal disease may appear suddenly. Fever, severe and constant headaches, stiff neck or neck pain, nausea and vomiting, and rash can all be signs of meningococcal disease. Changes in behavior, such as confusion, sleepiness, and trouble waking up, can also be important symptoms. In the US, about 350-550 people get meningococcal disease yearly, and 10-15% die despite receiving antibiotic treatment. Of those who survive, about 10-20% may lose limbs, become hard of hearing or deaf, have problems with their nervous system, including long-term neurologic problems, or have seizures or strokes. Less common presentations include pneumonia and arthritis.

### How common is meningococcal disease?

Meningococcal disease is becoming much less common. Over the past 20 years, the overall incidence of meningococcal disease in the US has declined ten-fold. Twenty years ago in Massachusetts, there were 80-100 cases of meningococcal disease per year. In contrast, for the past decade, the average is approximately 12 cases per year. Declining rates of meningococcal disease may be due in part to the introduction of meningococcal vaccines (initially recommended routinely in 2005 for adolescents aged 11-12 years, unvaccinated college freshmen living in residence halls) as well as other factors such as the decline in cigarette smoking, which may impact susceptibility to this disease.

### How is meningococcal disease spread?

These bacteria are passed from person to person through saliva (spit). You must be in close contact with an infected person’s saliva for the bacteria to spread. Close contact includes activities such as kissing, sharing water bottles, sharing eating/drinking utensils, sharing cigarettes, or being within 3-6 feet of someone who is infected and coughing and sneezing.

### Who is most at risk for getting meningococcal disease?

People who travel to certain parts of the world where the disease is very common, microbiologists, people with HIV infection, and those exposed to meningococcal disease during an outbreak are at risk for meningococcal disease. Children and adults with damaged or removed spleens or persistent complement component deficiency (an inherited immune disorder) are at risk. Adolescents and people who live in specific settings, such as college freshmen living in dormitories and military recruits, are at greater risk of disease from some of the serotypes.

### Are camp attendees at increased risk for meningococcal disease?

Children attending day or residential camps are not considered to be at an increased risk for meningococcal disease because of their participation.

### Is there a vaccine against meningococcal disease?

Yes, there are multiple meningococcal vaccines. Quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (Menveo and MenQuadfi) protects against 4 serotypes (A, C, W, and Y) of meningococcal disease. The meningococcal serogroup B vaccine (Bexsero and Trumenba) protects against serogroup B meningococcal disease for people aged 10 and older. Pentavalent meningococcal vaccine protects against

serogroups A, B, C, W, and Y. It may be administered to persons aged  $\geq 10$  years when both a quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine and meningococcal B vaccine are indicated at the same visit.

### Should my child or adolescent receive the meningococcal vaccine?

Different meningococcal vaccines are recommended for a range of age and risk groups. Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY) is routinely recommended at age 11-12 years with a booster at age 16 and is required for school entry for grades 7 and 11. In addition, these vaccines may be recommended for additional children with certain high-risk health conditions, such as those described above.

Meningococcal serogroup B vaccine (Bexsero and Trumenba) is recommended for people with certain relatively rare high-risk health conditions (examples: persons with a damaged spleen or whose spleen has been removed, those with persistent complement component deficiency (an inherited disorder), and people who may have been exposed during an outbreak). Adolescents and young adults (16 through 23 years of age) who do not have high-risk conditions may be vaccinated with a serogroup B meningococcal vaccine, preferably at 16 through 18 years of age, to provide short-term protection for most strains of serogroup B meningococcal disease. Parents of adolescents and children at higher risk of infection because of certain medical conditions or other circumstances should discuss vaccination with their child's healthcare provider.

### How can I protect my child or adolescent from getting meningococcal disease?

The best protection against meningococcal disease and many other infectious diseases is thorough and frequent handwashing, respiratory hygiene, and cough etiquette. Individuals should:

- 1) wash their hands often, especially after using the toilet and before eating or preparing food (hands should be washed with soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand gel or rub may be used if hands are not visibly dirty).
- 2) cover their nose and mouth with tissue when coughing or sneezing and discard the tissue in a trash can; or if they don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into their upper sleeve.
- 3) not share food, drinks, or eating utensils with other people, especially if they are ill.
- 4) contact their healthcare provider immediately if they have symptoms of meningococcal disease.

If your child is exposed to someone with meningococcal disease, antibiotics may be recommended to keep your child from getting sick.

You can obtain more information about meningococcal disease or vaccination from your healthcare provider, your local Board of Health (listed in the phone book under government), or the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Divisions of Epidemiology and Immunization at (617) 983-6800 or on the MDPH website at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/school-immunizations>.

For additional information on *Invasive Meningococcal Disease (IMD)*, please visit the CDC's website: [Meningococcal Disease Surveillance and Trends | Meningococcal | CDC](#).





# CAMP WELCH

## **Parent Handbook Acknowledgment**

This is to acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Camp Welch Parent Handbook, which includes the policies and procedures of the program. I understand it is my responsibility to read and become familiar with the contents of this handbook. By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received the handbook and agree to the program's policies and procedures.

Child's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: (x) \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_