

Lutheridge COVID-19 Operating Procedures

What to Expect for Overnight Guests

Updated December 2020

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, Lutheridge has made several changes to our standard operating procedures to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. This document describes the changes and what you should expect during your stay.

Overview of Changes

- Mask wearing is required inside all buildings and when in close proximity to others outdoors.
- Our maximum numbers at housing like Thornburg and Konjoy are reduced. The numbers are based upon the composition of the group.
- High contact activities, such as the Group Interaction Course or the Challenge Tower, will not be used at this time. Shared outdoor equipment, such as fishing poles or sports equipment, must be checked out and will be cleaned and sanitized before it is offered for use by another group. Some equipment will be assigned to a group for use during the duration of your stay to avoid cross contamination. Guests are welcome to bring their own equipment, such as fishing poles, and sports equipment, if they prefer.
- As a precautionary measure, shared books, puzzles, board games and playing cards will no longer be provided. We encourage guests to bring their own to use during their stay.
- Some public areas may be closed off or assigned to specific groups, such as conference rooms, guest lounges and restrooms, to promote social distancing.
- Staff led activities will be scheduled in advance to allow for greater social distancing and cleaning between groups.
- Parents will be asked to provide hands-on assistance with their child(ren) to help staff maintain social distancing. Lutheridge staff are currently not taking direct care for minors in our programs.
- Meals may be served by staff instead of buffet style, depending on current health guidelines. Some meals may be offered as “grab and go” so they can be enjoyed outdoors. Dining room seating will be assigned to maximize spacing between groups. Meals may be served at staggered times to reduce the total number of people in the dining area at any one time.
- You will see frequent cleaning and disinfecting of shared spaces and supplies.
- Guest rooms will be rotated to allow the room to “rest” for at least 7 days between guests. According to CDC guidelines, the virus will be eliminated in this timeframe.
- Lutheridge staff and volunteers who interact closely with guests will be wearing masks.
- Signage will be posted throughout the facility related to COVID-19.
- Based on the program you are registered for, there may be other guidelines which will be communicated to you by our registration office.

What to Expect: Before you Arrive

- We respectfully request guests who have knowingly been exposed to or lived with someone who had COVID-19 or experienced symptoms of COVID-19 during the 14 days prior to their scheduled arrival date to refrain from coming to Lutheridge. Contact our reservation office at

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828-209-6301 and we will issue a credit that can be used toward a future program or retreat. We ask this to protect the safety of our guests, staff and volunteers.

- We ask guests to bring their own face masks, hand sanitizer and reusable water bottle to use during their stay. This helps us manage costs associated with COVID-19 and allows us to keep our prices affordable.

What to Expect: Upon Arrival

- In addition to our standard check-in procedures, all guests will be required to sign a COVID-19 Liability Release and complete a Health Declaration form. These documents can be found on our website for review prior to your arrival. A touch-free temperature check may be done depending on the program you are participating in.
- Guests will be asked to identify the members of their “family group” or “congregation group”. Your “family group” is the group of people that you are comfortable being in close proximity to for activities and dining during your stay. A family group could be only one person, or many people, and they don’t have to be related to one another. However, everyone in the group must agree to and be comfortable with being in the family group together.

What to Expect: During your Stay

- Our goal is to make your stay as enjoyable, safe and stress-free as possible. Our staff and volunteers will be working hard to keep facilities clean and guests safe. We need your help by doing the following during your stay:
 - Wash hands frequently and practice good hygiene.
 - Keep at least six feet of distance between yourself and those outside your family group.
 - Pause and let others pass in the hallway.
 - Follow the mask requirements and ensure mask covers your mouth AND nose.
 - Use hand sanitizer after touching a shared surface.
 - Use the restroom in your guestroom instead of the shared public restroom.
 - Continue these precautions if you go off site at any time or avoid leaving the property during your stay.
 - Immediately inform staff if you start to feel ill.
 - Take advantage of the beautiful Lutheridge site! Enjoy a picnic by the lake, walk the prayer labyrinth, have a campfire, take a leisurely hike. We encourage guests to spread out and spend as much time outdoors as possible. Sunshine is good for the soul and bad for the Coronavirus.

While the world has undergone many significant changes over the past few months, what hasn’t changed is our mission to invite people to Lutheridge to enjoy the wonders of creation, build community with one another and strengthen their relationship with Christ. We look forward to welcoming you to Lutheridge and providing an enjoyable and safe stay.

Sincerely,



Lutheridge Interim Program Director

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