

December 11, 2020

Dear Youth Leaders,

I have some difficult, but probably not unexpected news this morning regarding WinterBlast 2021.

The PA Department of Health issued new requirements and COVID mitigation efforts on November 17th and 23rd that change our ability to host WinterBlast weekends. In addition, the temporary guidelines issued yesterday point to the trend of tighter restrictions over the next few months, instead of looser. You can read the November 23rd order [here](#). The most difficult new expectations include:

- 10% overall capacity for conference facilities even when using multiple spaces.
- More stringent requirements for face coverings (100% of the time, even while in cabins).
- Quarantine expectations for groups traveling from out of state

Because this decision has such huge implications for all of us, we waited to make a decision until our Board of Directors was able to gather on Zoom, discuss, pray and clarify our new direction. They met last night and have made the following decision:

- All January WinterBlast events are cancelled.
- A decision on February and March weekends will be made by January 15<sup>th</sup>.
- We will work with January leaders to adjust their reservation to a later weekend if they prefer.
- We are also hopeful that as restrictions lift, individual youth group retreats will become possible in the spring. We would love to book an exclusive retreat weekend for your group to reconnect during March, April or May.

I included all WinterBlast leaders on this email - those that are currently registered and those that have cancelled - just to keep you informed. We understand that February - March weekend leaders may choose to make a final decision at this point and we will continue to offer a flexible cancellation and refund policy. We welcome your feedback! If your situation has changed and you have decided not to run registration for your students - please reach out to let us know. We will not be offended and it will help us to plan.

It's been very difficult for us to reach this decision, knowing the spiritual impact of the WinterBlast season. But, God IS providing wisdom, direction and financial provision for ministry to continue. We are so grateful and filled with courage as we experience God's faithfulness. We're praying the same for your ministry!

Blessings,

The Entire Camp Orchard Hill Team