



April 12, 2021

Dear Camp Newman Family,

We are so proud that the URJ Camping system is 15 camps strong across North America. Our shared commitment to health and safety remains at the forefront of everything we do, and we are grateful to our camper families for their patience as we navigate the safe reopening of all of our camps this summer. As we move into spring, we are encouraged by the ongoing updates from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), as well as our remarkable team of doctors who are working with us to create universal medical protocols for this summer. [Meet our Medical Advisory Team!](#)

With cautious optimism, we want to share some of the protocols being established. Please know this continues to be a work in progress, guided by science and with health and safety always our first priority (these policies are subject to further restrictions should our county health department or the state of CA require changes).

Please read each section thoroughly as this email contains a plethora of important information about summer 2021! We will also be holding a Summer Town Hall on April 25 at 3-4pm PT. [Register Here.](#)

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1. INSURANCE DEADLINE APPROACHING

We want to remind you that we have a “cancel for any reason (including COVID-19 concerns)” insurance available for all families and we encourage everyone to purchase it to protect your investment in your child’s camp experience. Insurance must be purchased prior to the processing of your final payment: either April 16th or April 23. Please visit our [Dates and Rates](#) page and scroll down to the bottom for more information on our cancellation and refund policy.

2. PRE-CAMP ISOLATION EXPECTATIONS

As you are aware, CDC guidance continues to evolve and change, sometimes daily! Please remember the CDC guidance is generally designed for an individual and their family and not the communal setting of a residential summer camp. Thus, our guidance may at times be slightly more restrictive out of an abundance of caution in protecting the health and safety of our communities.

For the 10 days preceding your camp session you need to quarantine and remain in your family COVID “bubble” only. This means you and your camper need to...

- Avoid any indoor unmasked exposure outside immediate family, even to vaccinated people
- Participate only in school, daycare, or camps that follow CDC guidance including universal masking, hand hygiene, spacing, small group cohorting and contact tracing
 - If above school, daycare, or camp experiences are discretionary, families will avoid scheduling them the week before camp to minimize exposure risk
- Avoid all public gatherings of more than five people outside of your household
- Avoid indoor restaurants
- Avoid team sports
- Avoid hosting overnight guests in your home who are not routine visitors/family in your home
- Avoid staying overnight in someone else’s home who is not a frequent visitor/family in your home
- Avoid travel outside of your home region
- Avoid socializing outside of school and workplaces
- Avoid businesses and locations that do not follow COVID health/safety guidelines

This means that you and your camper need to...

- **At minimum, follow the most up-to-date CDC guidelines**
- Maintain six-foot separations from others in outdoor public spaces
- Wear masks outside of your home
- Practice diligent hand hygiene

As in every summer, together with our staff and campers (and by extension all of our camp families) we are creating a *Kehilla Kedosha*, a holy community. Please find a copy of our [Brit Kehillah Machaneh](#), our Camp Community Covenant, which all campers and families are asked to sign along with other camp forms, agreeing to contribute fully to creating a safe and healthy camp experience. This form can also be found in your CampInTouch account.

3.TRANSPORTATION

Due to COVID-19, we will not be offering buses to and from camp this summer (except for campers flying in and out of Oakland Airport). If you have any concerns about getting your child to and from camp, please reach out to us at 415.392.7080 or campnewman@urj.org. Further driving instructions, specific time slots for arrival, and protocols for drop-off and pick-up will all be shared in the coming months.

Arrival by Car

- It will be required that any camper(s) arriving by car show proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test within 72 hours of travel to camp.
- Campers who will be driven to camp will arrive within the prescribed timeframe and we request as few people in the car as possible, with a preference that those in the car be vaccinated, when possible.
- ***Only a parent/guardian may drop off a camper on arrival day but you may designate a trusted adult 18+ years old to pick up your child on departure day (you must let us know ahead of time on our transportation forms).***
- Upon arrival, the camper(s) will be administered a rapid COVID-19 test, and must remain in the car until the test comes back negative.
- Upon a negative test result, the camper will go through the check-in process, and will be acclimated into their pod. The parent or guardian will not be tested, and will be asked only to exit the car for a quick good-bye hug and kiss.
- Camp staff will ensure that all of your camper(s) belongings are transported to their camper cabin or housing pod.
- Every person in the car should be wearing a mask that covers their nose and mouth throughout this process.
- Time slots for arrival will range from 11:30am-4:00pm and we will allocate times based on distance from Santa Rosa (so those closest to camp will be given earlier time slots and those driving farther distances will be given time slots later in the afternoon to give ample time for travel). We are spacing out arrival times more than usual in order to administer the on-site rapid COVID-19 tests and time slots will be allocated in the coming months.

Arrival by Plane

We encourage all families to drive campers TO camp this summer to mitigate exposure to COVID-19. However, we will accept campers by air travel based on the following guidelines:

- It will be required that any camper(s) arriving by plane show proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test within 72 hours of travel to camp.
- Campers who will fly to camp must take a rapid antigen test within 24 hours of their departure time (preferably the morning of) and receive a negative result in order to fly.
- Campers will be tested again on the first day of surveillance testing at camp (the first full day of camp).
- Once the campers arrive at the airport, camp staff will meet them and we will bus flying campers only to camp with ONLY 40% capacity on buses and windows will remain down during the ride. Appropriate social distancing must be maintained throughout. Each person will be wearing a mask that covers their nose and mouth throughout this process.
- **Arrival TO camp:** Please book your child's flight to land at Oakland (OAK) airport between 10am-1pm ONLY.
- **Departure FROM camp:** Please book your child's flight to depart from Oakland (OAK) airport between 2-4pm ONLY.

4. PACKING UPDATE

A full packing list will be provided, along with the full Parent Manual in the coming days. In the meantime, please note the following:

- **Masks:** In preparation for the summer, please be prepared to send disposable masks for your camper(s). In order to ensure the highest level of protection, we ask that campers come prepared with disposable masks, rather than cloth masks. As of right now, our medical team asks that you send 3-6 disposable masks per day for your camper. We are exploring methods to recycle these masks to reduce waste on camp.
- **Water Bottles:** We also ask that you make sure your child has 2 dishwasher-safe water bottles for the summer. Here are [some examples](#) of the type of water bottles to bring this summer. We will be washing everyone's water bottles frequently to help keep everyone healthy.
- **Luggage Specifications:** In order to keep our bunks as uncluttered as possible and retain high levels of cleanliness, we will require that all campers pack in SOFT-SIDED DUFFLE BAGS ONLY – this means no wheels at all. Any soft-sided luggage is acceptable but you may not pack in trunks or bags with wheels. We are unable to store these items and will need campers, especially those living in tents, to fold up their luggage and store them under their beds. Army surplus duffle bags are fine, and we have a few soft-sided bags available on our [e-store](#) as well (these specific models are not required, just examples and resources).

5. IN-CAMP TESTING

The URJ Camps' medical protocols around COVID-19 for this summer are being developed by our Medical Advisory Board, a team deeply committed to and connected with our camping movement.

Testing for COVID-19 will be a key element of how we safely open and operate URJ camps this summer. We will be using the following approaches, together, for maximal protection of our campers and staff.

- **Pre-Camp** – All campers will be required to undergo PCR testing 3 days before camp, and the results must be available and negative before arrival.
 - Because PCR tests can remain positive for many weeks after recovery from COVID-19 infection, optional testing may also be performed 12-14 days before camp.
 - If this test is positive, the remaining days before camp will satisfy the time requirement before arrival, and repeat testing is unnecessary.
 - If this test is negative, repeat testing is still required 3 days before arrival.

- **Arrival** – All campers will be tested at camp using Point-Of-Care (POC) antigen tests. These have the very significant advantage over PCR in providing instant results, whereas PCR can take days to learn that somebody tested positive.
- **Ongoing Surveillance** – All campers will be tested every 3 days on a rotating basis while at camp using POC tests. Instant results are critical to help camp isolate and quarantine any cases that might arise. Although PCR tests are somewhat more sensitive, the delayed results render them less effective at promptly identifying and responding to cases. Repeated testing with POC is considered a safer strategy overall, and one that we have adopted.

6. VACCINATIONS

All year-around and seasonal adult camp staff, visitors, and contractors on camp property, are [REQUIRED to complete the COVID-19 vaccination series](#) prior to entering camp and to provide proof of vaccination, in order to avoid posing a direct threat to the health and safety of our camp community members.

All of these protocols are being developed to ensure the safest summer possible for our campers, staff, and faculty. We are so looking forward to bringing our camp communities back together to celebrate in joyful Judaism. We believe that following these protocols will help ensure the safest complete summer experience possible. Thank you in advance for your partnership in making the magic of camp happen this summer.

Please save the date for our Town Hall Meeting where we will review these and any additional updates on April 25th at 3pm PT. [Register here](#).

We will continue to be in touch with updates on a regular basis, and appreciate your flexibility as these guidelines may evolve as more information becomes available to us.

As always, please reach out to us with any questions. We can't wait to see your camper SO SOON!!!

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Allie Fischman (she/her)
Camp Director

Rachel Slaton (she/her)
Associate Camp Director

Ari Vared (he/him)
Executive Director