



May 9, 2022

Dear Camp Newman Families,

We are so excited that camp is quickly approaching!!! We are busy planning all the details, including the many ways we will stay healthy and safe at camp this summer.

The health and wellbeing of your children and our Camp Newman community have always been and will remain our highest priorities. This summer, to the best of our ability, we aim to run as normal a summer as possible. As we've shared, the **requirement that all participants and staff in our camp communities are up to date with the COVID vaccine and boosters** is an essential public health component in our summer planning. The vaccine will support our dual goals—keeping your children healthy *and* preserving a more typical camp experience. “Up to date” means that every person on camp has both shots and a booster (or two, for some staff), IF they are eligible for them based on the CDC guidance.

Even with a fully vaccinated population there are no guarantees. While the vaccines and boosters do reduce the severity of disease, hospitalizations, and the transmission of illness, they cannot ensure that we will encounter no COVID at camp. Because of the uncertainty and imperfection of this task, **we are relying again on a multi-layered approach to mitigating COVID this summer**. The layers will look slightly different than they did last summer, as the COVID landscape has evolved significantly over the past year. **A vaccinated camp community is our strongest baseline layer of mitigation.**

We have two goals for summer 2022 in relation to COVID:

1. Prevent COVID from entering camp
2. Prepare to minimize spread if/when COVID enters camp

While these two goals may seem contradictory, they acknowledge the reality of the world we live in: we are planning and preparing for summer camp amid a rapidly evolving pandemic and equally complex cultural shifts in response to the pandemic. We are navigating this liminal space with as much care as possible.

While this email will share what we are planning right now, we know the landscape can change. Just as we have done for the past 2 years, we will continue to stay in transparent communication with you and we know you will continue to be our partners as we navigate this time. Our current plan, as well as any changes we might have to make, are and will remain in alignment with CDC guidance and responsive to the local and current COVID conditions both on and off camp. Below you will find adjusted versions of some mitigation layers we used last year, such as a pre-camp and arrival testing regimen, and a shift toward using masks as sparingly as possible and in response to any changing conditions.

COVID Behavior *Brit* (Agreement)

The 2022 COVID Behavior *Brit* (**available now** in your CampInTouch account) includes guidance on how to minimize your camper's COVID exposures in the week prior to coming to camp (for example, by masking in indoor public environments). It does *not* limit your camper's ability to attend school, travel or participate in other camps in the days preceding their 6PW session.



NEW Protocols for Positive COVID Cases at Camp

To protect the camp community from further spread, and to simultaneously ensure that any COVID+ community member receives appropriate care during their isolation period, we are requiring that all camp families plan for **retrieving their child or staff member from camp to isolate at home** (or elsewhere off campus) if they test positive for COVID at camp (we can discuss any specific challenges around this individually). Information about length of isolation period and the potential return to camp will be forthcoming and individualized by camp-specific variables, such as session length. We are grateful for your partnership in keeping our entire community safe.

Vaccinations

Per URJ policy, all members of our community are required to be “up to date” with Covid-19 vaccinations recommended by the CDC based on their age and sequence. Vaccinations and/or available booster doses must be administered at least two weeks prior to participate in all URJ programs and camps. This is to increase the effectiveness of the vaccine and to reduce the likelihood of coming to camp with presenting side effects. Documentation must be uploaded to CampMinder along with your other forms. **We ask that you upload your proof of vaccinations as soon as possible so that your camper can be verified as up to date.** Please contact us to let us know if your camper’s dose is scheduled between 2 and 4 weeks prior to arrival. CDC information regarding being “up to date” on Covid-19 vaccinations can be found here [CDC - Stay Up to Date with Your COVID-19 Vaccines](#).

Testing

We plan to administer Rapid Antigen tests on opening day (day 0), day 3 and day 6 just as we did last year for the entire camp community. We will also conduct routine testing for staff and faculty taking time off camp on days 9 and 12. We learned from last year that our staff’s ability to take time off outside of the camp environment is of utmost importance to their individual wellbeing, and thereby to the camper experience and the sustainability of Camp Newman. Just like our families, our staff and faculty will commit to a *brit* (community agreement) specifying the expected COVID precautions to take while outside of camp. We will constantly monitor the COVID cases and county numbers throughout the summer and shift this policy as needed.

NEW Masks

We know that by increasing some layers of COVID mitigation, we may decrease others. By requiring that our camp communities are fully up-to-date with COVID vaccinations, we are hopeful that we can create a camp environment that feels more typical to a pre-pandemic summer season, including a shift toward using masks as sparingly as possible and in response to any changing conditions. **Please send your child to camp with 1 high filtration mask (N95/94 or KN95/94) per day for the length of their camp session.** We plan to mask as little as possible. Campers will NOT mask around their bunkmates but may be asked to mask while using common indoor spaces (like community restrooms in the Dining Hall or Community Center), while getting food around campers from other sessions, or during indoor programming with non-bunkmates before the 6th day of testing. To keep mask use to a minimum, we will rely on as much outdoor programming as possible for the first six days of each session.

Thank you

We know that the best practices surrounding COVID are continually changing. Our protocols and guidelines will always be subject to change based on the latest guidelines from health experts, state and local protocols, and other health authorities. The URJ follows the guidance of the Centers for Disease



Control (CDC), the American Camping Association (ACA), and our URJ Medical Advisory Team. Additional information can be found in the attached [FAQs](#) . We will continue to communicate openly and frequently about these plans, and we are grateful for your partnership in this work.

We are counting down the days to welcoming your child(ren) to camp – to seeing their smiles, hearing their laughter, and watching them grow!

Thank you for being our partners in this work, we can't wait to welcome your campers home SO soon!

L'shalom,

Rabbi Allie and the Camp Newman Team