

**URJ SUMMER CAMP 2022**  
**COVID Policy – Updated June 19, 2022**

**VACCINE AND BOOSTER MANDATE:**

All URJ program participants and staff must be fully up-to-date with their vaccinations, including those for COVID, including (when eligible) a booster. You are "up to date" with your COVID vaccines when you have followed the current CDC recommendations, which you can find on the [CDC website](#). The required vaccination schedule will be different depending on your age, your health status, and when you began your vaccination series. Please refer to our [Pre-Camp COVID Vaccine Timeline Guide](#) for important arrival-dependent pre-camp vaccination dates.

Camp is all about having fun, making connections, immersing in joyful Judaism, and becoming your best self. All of this can only happen when individual safety and public health remain at the center of every aspect of camp. Reducing the risk of vaccine-preventable illnesses from entering camp is the single most effective strategy to protect public health. This goal can be accomplished only through the appropriate vaccination of all members of our camp and programs. Please refer to the URJ [2022 Vaccination Statement](#) for more details.

***WHAT IF MY CHILD BECOMES ELIGIBLE FOR THE NEXT DOSE IN THE COVID VACCINATION SERIES IN THE 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO THEIR CAMP SESSION OR DURING CAMP?***

The URJ Vaccination Statement requires that all participants and staff are up to date as of 2 weeks prior to their program or camp session. If your child becomes eligible for the next dose in their vaccination series during the 2 weeks prior to their session or *during* the session, they are still considered up to date without that additional dose. The two-week time frame is in place to minimize potential vaccine-induced symptoms and any added stress in the immediate pre-camp period. Additionally, if you are up to date by 2 weeks prior to your session, there will be no requirement to obtain subsequent doses during a camp session. Please reach out to Amy Kagan ([AKagan@URJ.org](mailto:AKagan@URJ.org)), Associate Director, with any individual questions about this situation.

***WHAT IF MY CHILD CANNOT RECEIVE ALL OR PART OF THE COVID VACCINATION SERIES DUE TO A MEDICAL CONDITION?***

This is one of the rare circumstances that may be an exemption from the vaccine requirement. In this case, current documentation from a licensed Physician (MD or DO), or a Pediatric/Family Practice Advanced Practice Nurse (ARNP or PNP) who is not related to the individual, describing the reason for exemption from immunization must be submitted. URJ Leadership and medical advisors will review and decide on each request on a case-by-case basis.

You can submit your vaccination exemption requests using [this form](#).

After completing the form, The URJ Integrated Wellness Director will communicate directly with you to gather the appropriate documentation and follow-up information needed to process each request. We rely on the expertise and guidance of our URJ Medical Advisory Team in this process.

***IS THE URJ MEDICAL ADVISORY TEAM REQUIRING 5-11 YEAR OLDS TO BE BOOSTED BEFORE SUMMER PROGRAMS?***

At this time, it isn't operationally feasible to require this booster dose for 2022 URJ summer camp, as we are merely weeks away from the start of the summer camp season. Based on the recent amendment from FDA, we do strongly endorse and recommend the booster dose of COVID vaccination for children ages 5-11, at least 5 months after completion of the primary series, as per CDC guidance.

### **WHAT IF MY CHILD HAD A RECENT COVID INFECTION – DO THEY STILL NEED TO GET THE BOOSTER?**

CDC recently made a nuanced update about the timing of COVID vaccination doses following a recent COVID infection. This does not change our vaccination policy, but does introduce a 3 month grace period to the vaccination sequence between infection and subsequent dose. As the CDC states, “people who recently had COVID-19 may consider delaying their next booster by 3 months from when their symptoms started or, if they had no symptoms, when they first received a positive test.”

### **PRE-CAMP COVID BRIT (BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES):**

We’re asking campers to agree to a COVID behavior *Brit*, though it will be less stringent than last year based on current conditions. The 2022 COVID *Brit* will include 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 will *not* limit your camper’s ability to attend school, travel or participate in other camps in the days preceding their camp session. **You can find this *Brit* in your [Campintouch](#) account. You must sign and upload this *Brit* prior to your child’s arrival to camp this summer.**

### **MASKING AT CAMP:**

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. These masks are to be used only if elevated mitigation becomes necessary due to changing conditions. Camps will also have a supply of masks for this purpose. If your campers’ masks are not used at camp, they will bring them home at the end of the session. Outside of having to elevate our mitigation in camp, masks will be optional – so if your camper plans to wear a mask when it is not required, please send more masks than outlined above to accommodate their individual preferences.

If we need to employ using masks, we will use the most effective masks available to us, to get the most benefit out of this important layer of COVID mitigation. As shown on the infographic below, high filtration masks are well evidenced to be superior in mitigating against COVID spread in comparison with other mask types.



### **COHORTING (PODDING) AT CAMP:**

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 less stringent focus on cohorting in camp, while remaining agile and ready to pivot with any changing conditions.

### **SURVEILLANCE TESTING AT CAMP:**

Similar to last summer, there will be a COVID testing regimen at the start of each camp session. We plan to complete this arrival testing regimen by the end of the first week of each session. There will be ongoing surveillance testing for the adults and staff on camp, who are allowed to take time off outside of campus (pending COVID conditions).

Our camper testing regimen will take place on Days 0 (Opening Day), 1, 2, 3, and 6 of each session.

Additionally, we will test any community member exhibiting symptoms of COVID infection. Our testing regimens will be responsive to any changing COVID conditions.

The Rapid Antigen test will be employed this summer for the following reasons:

- RA testing offers quick and accessible results, whereas PCR testing can have a longer time delay between testing and results
- RA testing is reflective of active, transmissible infection, whereas PCR testing is *more* sensitive, often garnering positive results in the absence of transmissible infection. For example, some recent resolved infections will continue to test positive by PCR test for weeks to months post-infection. With so many recent infections, this would be operationally problematic.

### **POSITIVE COVID TEST PROTOCOLS:**

To protect our 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 family member(s) 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. We are requiring families to retrieve their family members to isolate off campus, because housing and caring for COVID+ community members is operationally incompatible with our camps' capacities (facilities and staff). We chose not to limit enrollment this summer, to allow as many campers as possible to have a Harlam experience, thus limiting our ability to provide space for campers to be isolated and receive treatment.

Our on-site medical leaders will use risk assessment and clinical discretion to determine if any additional testing is required beyond one Rapid Antigen test to demonstrate COVID positivity. This depends on multiple factors, all focused on a detailed understanding of the unique pre-test suspicion in each case. If, after picking up a camper/staff for off-campus isolation due to a COVID+ test at camp, parents want to pursue further testing to confirm/disprove the COVID case, we will require 2 negative PCR tests, separated by 24 hours prior to discussing the validity of the original RA test results on a case-by-case basis.

COVID+ community members can return when they test negative for COVID by rapid antigen test on 2 consecutive days. They can begin testing daily after 5 days of isolation and can return to camp once 2 consecutive days produce negative RA test results. Testing to re-enter the camp community begins on day 6 from either the first day of symptoms or the initial COVID+ rapid test, whichever occurred earlier. The COVID Leader at each camp will discuss this isolation plan individually with each affected family. Information about the potential return to camp will be individualized based on variables such as session length.

Additionally, we will follow leveled protocols for COVID decision-making, and agility based on changing conditions both on and off campus.

***WHY DO WE EVEN HAVE TO ISOLATE CONFIRMED COVID CASES IF THE ENTIRE CAMP COMMUNITY IS UP TO DATE WITH COVID VACCINATIONS?***

As long as the CDC continues to treat COVID as a pandemic to contain, including isolation of positive cases, we will follow that guidance. In addition to following the guidance of the CDC and our Medical Advisory Team, we are leaning on our organizational values: taking care of ourselves, our camp communities, and the broader community. We are requiring families to retrieve their campers and staff to isolate off campus, in large part because taking care of COVID+ community members (especially in the unlikely case of widespread infection) is operationally incompatible with our camps' capacities (facilities and staff). Knowing that a small percentage of our community will be unable to leave campus for isolation (international community members primarily), we are planning for this possibility.

***WHAT IS THE PLAN IF COVID CONDITIONS CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY DURING THE CAMP SEASON?***

If the COVID conditions *outside* of camp change during the summer season (for example, a new COVID variant or surge takes place during the camp season), we will follow our protocols for elevating our mitigation efforts. These changes in mitigation levels will be determined by the URJ team of staff and medical advisors and the guidance of the CDC and AAP for best practices. For campers, we do not anticipate any programmatic changes unless we encounter COVID *inside* camp.

***WHAT IF MY CAMPER TESTS POSITIVE AND MISSES A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE CAMP SEASON?***

Under ordinary circumstances, we are unable to provide refunds/credits for campers missing partial days of the summer. URJ camps/immersive staff work year-round to plan for a joyful, meaningful, and safe summer season and fees cover expenses for staff, programming, facilities, operations, and more. However, we acknowledge the challenges COVID poses to summer 2022. In recognition of this, and as a thank you for your partnership, trust, and commitment, we will provide \$50.00/day for up to 7 days as a credit for future programs in the event your child misses a portion of the summer due to them testing positive for COVID while at camp.

***WHAT HAPPENS TO THE REST OF A BUNK IF A CAMPER OR STAFF MEMBER TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID?***

When either a staff member or camper in a bunk tests positive for COVID and leaves camp, the rest of the bunk will begin elevated COVID protocols. They will participate in daily rapid antigen testing. They will be permitted to participate in general camp activities while wearing masks or socially distant from other campers. They will eat meals outdoors as a group. After day 7 of this elevated protocol, the group can return to normal programming if the entire group has recorded negative rapid antigen tests on days 6 and 7. If an additional individual tests positive at any point during this time of elevated mitigation measure, the rest of the bunk will restart their count towards day 7 to exit protocols.

**SUMMER VISITORS:**

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 welcoming visitors to camp in a limited way. What we do know for sure, is that if conditions allow us to safely welcome visitors to our camps this summer, we will use the available layers of mitigation around these visits as appropriate and based on current COVID conditions (rapid tests on arrival, staying outside, physical distancing, and more). Full Season campers will once again be able

to spend time with family onsite during our Visiting Day, where risk mitigation protocols will once again be in place.

**STAFF TIME-OFF:**

Last summer, no staff came or went from campus during the entire summer season. In this way, we were able to keep COVID out of camp, using a stringent and layered mitigation approach. While that was appropriate last year and played a significant role in our success in keeping COVID out of camp, it was incredibly hard on our camp staff. This year, staff will be allowed to leave campus for time off. We will put multiple layers of mitigation around this practice to minimize the risk of COVID entering camp. Our protocols will utilize the [CDC Community Risk Level Tool](#) to guide staff on how to safely spend time off camp, and we will be ready and agile to make adjustments to this plan based on changing COVID conditions.

**TRIPS:**

We will be taking only trips that meaningfully contribute to the camp experience AND present exceedingly low COVID risk – each age group will have a Teva (nature)/Outdoor Education travel experience. We will use added layers of mitigation when appropriate. We will not be doing our visits to amusement parks or cities this summer.