



## URJ Camps Update to Families and Stakeholders

*This information is subject to change.*

We remain committed to sustaining our seventy-year history of holding the health and safety of all our participants (campers, staff, faculty, and visitors) in the highest regard, and this commitment remains paramount in our planning and operations. The Jewish values of *pikuach nefesh*, the protection of human life, and *al tifrosh min ha tzibbur*, not separating oneself from the community, inspire us to rise to the challenges created by the presence of COVID-19. This has been a scary time for all of us. Nevertheless, we believe that we can mitigate and adapt for the majority of the risks of exposure and transmission of the virus if we appropriately prepare before and during our camp sessions.

Our COVID-19 protocols follow guidelines established by the American Camp Association (ACA), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and our local and state health departments. We have assembled a world-class team of doctors, including pediatricians, epidemiologists, intensivists, and infectious disease specialists to advise us on decisions we make as a camp-wide system. These doctors are deeply committed to and connected with our URJ camps across North America, and want us to succeed in reopening all of our camps this summer. There will certainly be modifications to how camp runs this summer, and we are confident we can run a safe and healthy program in partnership with our camp families. We are committed to sharing honest and ongoing communication. As we get additional clarity on policies and procedures as the summer gets closer, we will continue to communicate updated information to you.



**We do believe we can operate camp safely.** With guidance from a medical team deeply connected and committed to our camping system and informed by robust resources from the American Camp Association, we do believe we will be able to operate safely for the summer of 2021. We are currently developing a set of best practices to share this spring that will help us lower the risk of presence or spread of COVID-19 within our camps. We will continue to be in regular communication with our local and state/provincial health departments as the summer draws closer.

### **The mitigation of COVID-19 in our camp communities is going to take a lot of work from all of us.**

Preparing to come to camp is going to be different this year. In partnership with our medical team, we are continuing to develop best practices around pre-camp quarantine, pre-camp testing, travel to camp, on-site screening and rapid testing, pods, compliance expectations in all activity areas of camp, as well as protocols for testing throughout the camp sessions and implementation of infection control protocols should a confirmed case happen during the session.



**Vaccines will be widely available for camp staff and faculty.** Our medical team feels confident that the majority of our age-eligible camp staff and faculty will have access to a COVID-19 vaccination prior to the start of camp. We believe this will significantly mitigate the spread of the virus in our camp communities and we will be expecting the vaccine for all age-eligible members of our camp community.

### **Our Covenant of the Camp Community - Brit Kehilah Machaneh, is our shared commitment to ensuring the safest summer possible.**

We have included a *Brit* (covenant) which is different from a contract. A contract is a transactional document where one party acknowledges receipt or responsibility from another party. In Jewish tradition, we develop a *Brit*, or covenant, which outlines shared responsibility between parties. By committing to this *Brit*, our camp, our campers, and our camp families agree to a shared responsibility to health and safety before, during, and after camp.



**Pre-Camp Expectations.** We are continuing to develop a policy for pre-camp preparedness, which will include specific guidelines for pre-camp isolation, pre-camp testing, travel to camp, onsite screening and testing, and integration into the camp community on day one. Much of this is already outlined in our Covenant of the Camp Community - *Brit Kehilah Machaneh*. Our finalized guidelines will be available later this spring as we have more clear direction from the American Camp Association (ACA), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and our team of medical experts.

**Comitment to Keeping Camp Healthy.** Several new protocols will be implemented this summer in partnership with our skilled medical, program, and facilities teams. Campers will receive daily health screenings and there will be intermittent testing done throughout the session. Hand washing, the use of hand sanitizer, physical distancing, and wearing masks outside the pod are expectations of every member of the camp community. Living spaces and program areas will be cleaned daily. Community spaces, like the dining hall and large gathering spaces, will be disinfected on a regular basis daily following each use.



**Our camping system remains committed to the highest levels of health and safety always. We will continue to be in touch with our camp families on a regular basis with more specific information and policies closer to the summer.**

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## Covenant of the Camp Community - Brit Kehilah Machaneh

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Throughout Jewish history, a covenant has exemplified the shared responsibility between people or parties. Biblically, there are the covenants made between God and Abraham (brit milah), God and Noah (the symbol of the rainbow after the flood), and Moses and the Jewish people (receiving the Ten Commandments at Sinai) are just a few examples. Our Brit Kehilah Machaneh elevates the importance of arayut and areivut, individual and collective responsibility, between the camp, our campers, and our camp families in order to mitigate as much risk as possible regarding the spread of COVID-19 within the camp community.

### **Our camps will ensure that:**

- The camp's grounds and buildings are sanitized and set up in a way that mitigates risk in camper living spaces and activity areas
- Summer staff are trained around all expectations of compliance to mitigate the risk of a COVID-19 spread in camp, and isolate in preparation for camper arrival
- Camp medical staff are equipped with the supports they need to ensure a healthy and safe community, including rapid testing on the day of arrival, daily health screenings, and intermittent testing throughout the camp session
- URJ Camps medical advisory team will be available before camps open and throughout the summer season to consult on infection control protocols in the event there is a positive COVID-19 test in the camp community
- Camp will function as a closed community – there will be no visitors allowed, strict limitations and protocols for vendors essential to the safe operations of camp will be implemented, and staff will be required to take time off in camp; the camp commits to providing appropriate supports for staff time off throughout the summer
- Campers will spend much of their time in pods for activities, meals, and sleeping

### **Our camp families will ensure that the following best practices are followed for your camper(s) in the two weeks leading up to camp, including:**

- Remaining at home or within your school pod
- Wearing a mask that covers both the nose and mouth when outside of the home
- Maintaining physical distancing
- Prolific hand washing and sanitizing
- Avoiding any large gatherings and parties
- Following prescribed travel and transportation parameters shared prior to the camp session, which will include specific details around travel to camp by plane, bus, train, and on-site drop off
- Immediately informing the camp if anyone in your school pod or household tests positive for COVID-19 within the two weeks prior to camp starting
- Immediately informing the camp if your camper tests positive for COVID-19 following their return home.

Additionally, camper families commit to being available during the summer in the event their child tests positive for COVID-19 and needs to leave the camp community. Camp is committed to honest and ongoing communication with camper families should there be a COVID-19 related incident in camp.

Together, we will ensure a safe and wonderful summer for our camp community!

Camper Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Camper Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Camper Director Signature: J. D. Mallindine  
Jayme Dale Mallindine, Camp Director

**This form will be available in your CampInTouch account online.**

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