



COVID Update - May 2021

Dear Ramah Parents,

We continue to plan for a very full and fun summer at the day camp. Please remember to SAVE THE DATE for our parent town hall on Monday, June 7th at 8:00 PM, at [THIS ZOOM LINK](#). More information to follow in future emails. We also hope to have a counselor Meet & Greet on Sunday, June 27th. More information to come on at as well. Please see our new/updated FAQs below. As always, you can refer to [our COVID Update & FAQ page](#) for a complete FAQ list. Have children at both camps? Please see Rabbi Gelb's Camp Ramah New England COVID Update for May.

Will my child be required to wear a mask at camp this summer?

Currently, Montgomery County is requiring children and staff members to wear masks at camp. We are obligated to follow all county guidelines, even if they are more stringent than the CDC.

What about the heat?

Your child's safety is our number one concern. We currently have a number of heat mitigation plans in place. These plans include:

- Daily water play or swim
- Installing a BRAND NEW misting tent
- Additional shade tents in camp
- Rotating small groups into indoor spaces for heat relief
- Taking many water breaks during the day

We need your partnership in keeping our kids cool this summer. PLEASE pack a full water bottle and sunscreen each day, and put sunscreen on your child before camp each morning. We have scheduled times during the day when campers will reapply sunscreen. We also highly recommend that every person wear a hat and sun-protective clothing.

How many campers will be in my child's kvutzah (group)?

The county has greatly eased restrictions around group size and has announced that group size will grow as the vaccination rates increase. That said, we still want to keep the smallest possible group size that our program can sustain. Each kvutzah will be between 10-20 campers (this depends on a number of factors including age and if they are in Sha'ar) and most groups will have 15. We may "capsule" (that's Hebrew for pod) two groups together outside to provide more flexibility and choice in our program. That decision will be made before our Parent Town Hall on June 7th. We would not exceed 30 campers in a capsule, which would still be well below the county maximum of 100.

Will there be daily symptom checks?

Yes, we plan to use an app called My MedBot. We will go over how to do the screening and use the app during our Parent Town Hall. For more information about the app, please visit: <https://mymedbot.com/>.

Will there be swimming?

We are actively working with our swim instructors, Joe Flaherty's Dolphins, and our pool Stratford Knolls to develop a plan for our campers to safely swim. We hope to have a definite answer for you by our June meeting. We know that it is frustrating to not yet have an answer.

What are you most excited about for camp?

Seeing our campers' smiling faces, of course! We are going to have a fun, safe and messy time.

Final Reminders:

Full payment for camp is due by Wednesday, May 19 unless your family has already arranged a payment plan with Ken in our Finance Office. **To make a payment**, please [login to your child's CampMinder account](#), select "Financial Management," and then look at the bottom right for an option to "Make a Payment." If you have not yet created a payment plan but are unable to pay in full, please [email Ken Milgram](#), Finance Associate. As a reference, our refund policy and cancellation fee schedule can be found [on our website](#).

Finally, please remember that no child will be admitted to camp until 1) payment has been received in full (or you are current with a payment plan approved by our finance office) and 2) all required forms have been received.

We hope you will be in touch if we can assist in any way. Please note our offices will be closed Monday & Tuesday in observance of Shavuot. We can't wait for June 28th!

Sincerely,

Rabbi Jill