

## COVID Approach Summer 2023

Our approach in maintaining a healthy and safe community in Summer 2023 represents a significant shift from the COVID mitigation and response we employed last year, and one that we believe strikes an appropriate balance between caution and compassion.

### COVID VACCINATION

The URJ's Vaccination Statement requires that those who are in residence at camp or traveling on a URJ program must complete the age-appropriate vaccine schedules or the relevant catch-up schedule recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the Canadian Pediatric Society, and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). This includes vaccinations for COVID.

**The primary COVID vaccination series (2 doses) and bivalent booster (1 dose) are required for all staff and participants who are eligible, in accordance with the recommendations of the AAP and the CDC.**

### PRE-CAMP and -PROGRAM MITIGATION

There will be updated pre-arrival behavior recommendations for the week preceding your arrival to reduce potential virus exposures, as well as a pre-arrival COVID testing requirement.

### IN-CAMP and -PROGRAM MITIGATION

By entering into the summer with a COVID vaccinated community, we start from a place of health and wellbeing, positioning us to move through the summer with lower incidents of COVID and milder illness if it occurs. By requiring this COVID vaccination series prior to camp, we can drastically decrease our in-camp and in-program mitigation.

**We will not employ surveillance testing or masking as part of this summer's standard COVID mitigation strategies. We will continue to employ healthy habits for healthy communities, including hand hygiene and maintaining a clean environment.**

## ILLNESS and COVID RESPONSE

We will use our well-established health and wellness procedures for any community member experiencing *any* illness in our camps or programs. We will test community members with symptoms suspicious of COVID. **Our ability to house and care for COVID+ individuals will be the same as our ability to house and care for individuals with other illnesses.** This practice has always been dependent on the individual's symptom severity and length of illness as well as each camp or program's operational and facilities capacity.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Are there are exceptions to the URJ vaccination policy?

*Yes, there are exceptions to the URJ vaccination policy, and they are rare. Please complete the [URJ Vaccination Policy Exemption Form \(Immersives\)](#) and URJ or Program Leaders will respond to your request.*

What if a staff member or participant recently had a COVID infection?

*Per CDC guidelines, if you recently had a COVID infection, you may consider delaying your next vaccine dose (whether a primary dose or booster) by 3 months from when your symptoms started or, if you had no symptoms, when you first received a positive test. [Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines Including Boosters | CDC](#)*

What if a staff member or participant had a COVID booster previously but not the bivalent booster?

*Whether and when one had a prior monovalent booster is unrelated to the continued need for the bivalent booster, once eligible.*

Why are the URJ vaccination policies stricter than my school or workplace?

*The communal living environments of our camps and programs present unique risks in relation to infectious disease, and COVID. As a result, the necessary health and wellness policies differ from those created for home, work, or school environments.*

*All COVID mitigation and response is subject to change based on current conditions in- and outside of our URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) camps and programs.*