



Tel Yehudah
תל יהודה

The Road Map to Barryville

As of 3/7/21

Please note: This is an evolving document and will continue to change with the most updated version of our COVID-19 and New York State Department of Health guidelines and procedures as we lead up to summer. All information is subject to change.

INTRODUCTION

As permitted by New York's Governor Andrew Cuomo, we are planning to safely open and operate Camp Tel Yehudah in Summer 2021. The following information outlines how we are adapting our current policies and procedures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in camp. The practices and policies laid out here are subject to change. They are based on current best practices which will evolve as more information is known. Our approach in all areas of camp is based on COVID-19 best practices for summer camps published by the CDC and the American Camp Association. Our policies and guidelines are regularly reviewed by our COVID-19 task force as well as other experts. Our commitment is to ensure the physical and emotional health and safety of our campers and staff.

This document is NOT our final operations manual for Summer 2021. Rather it is a snapshot of our thinking based on what we know now and what science and best practices are telling us today. We are committed to being fully transparent with our community and will update this document as needed.

CORE ASSUMPTIONS

First, we begin with our core assumptions and recognize that if any of these things change before Summer 2021, our operating principles will likely need to change alongside these common understandings:

- 1. We believe we can operate safely.** Parents/guardians entrust us with that which is most precious to them in the entire world. This trust is a foundation of the partnership we have with all of our families. If at any time we (staff, COVID-19 task force or Board of Directors) feel we cannot deliver this most basic promise, to do our best to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, keeping everyone safe, we will not hesitate to act accordingly.
- 2. Vaccines will NOT be widely available for teens.** At this time, medical experts advise that there will likely be no vaccine specifically for teens (under 18) by Summer 2021. We are actively tracking vaccines for adults and exploring the possibility of all or most of our staff being vaccinated for Summer 2021.
- 3. COVID-19 will be present in our communities.** We must operate under the assumption that COVID-19 will still be present in the communities we serve and that COVID-19 could potentially be present in our camp community too. Our goal is to develop the proper protocols for pre-

camp screening, onsite testing, and pod-based programming to prevent large-scale spread, as well as an ability to handle any case should one appear. This is not a one-size fits all approach, but instead should be viewed as a multi-layered system to keep our entire community safe and healthy.

- 4. Testing will be readily available.** We are operating under the assumption that testing (both rapid and standard) will be readily accessible at camp and not cost prohibitive throughout the summer at our facility and locally.

COMMUNITY STRUCTURE

Based on recommendations from successful camps and communal settings that did operate during Summer 2020, we plan to operate mainly as a “**Bubble**” (closed system) with most of our community separated into smaller **Pods**. We intend to limit the ability of campers, staff, vendors, and guests to enter and leave camp in order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and the potential spread beyond a small pod should campers or staff contract COVID-19 while en route to camp or after arrival.

Each pod will be a *chug* (unit) which is usually made up of two to four bunks. Campers and staff should expect to be primarily with their pod during the session. The pods will do activities, pray and learn together, eat together, and share common indoor spaces only with their pod. If no COVID-19 cases arise after the initial time period recommended by the CDC (currently ten days) or cases are appropriately quarantined and the camp medical staff feel it is safe to do so, pods may gather together outside or participate in activities together while continuing to physically distance.

We also recognize most actions fall on a spectrum. For example, eating may only be done by pod, but sitting outside for a program may be possible with multiple pods. We plan to continually review our pod structure and make updates closer to the summer about which activities should be done by pod only and which activities can be done on this spectrum. When pods or individuals need to interact with people outside of their pod, they should expect to do so with at least two of the following, and all three when possible: **being outdoors, distancing, and/or mask wearing**.

THE 2/3RDS RULE: OUTSIDE, MASKED & DISTANCED

The most important protocol that we have adopted to mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19 at camp is to always observe at least two out of three conditions: Outside, Masked & Distanced (six feet apart). Being outdoors is the most important. We will do our best to plan as much programming outdoors as possible, including during mealtimes. For any cross-pod interactions, campers and staff will be expected to observe at least two of these three conditions. There will be times when doing all three is not possible. In that event, it is critically important that the other two conditions are observed. Our staff will be trained to implement these requirements with their campers.

MASKS

At this time, all campers and staff will be required to wear masks when inside buildings, except when eating or while inside their bunks. Some outdoor activities where physical distancing cannot be maintained will require mask wearing as well.

Anyone required to leave property for camp-related business or a camper visiting a healthcare clinic MUST wear a mask. As guidance about types of masks continues to evolve, we will send more information about how many masks to send to camp with your teen.

PRE-CAMP REQUIREMENTS

In order to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 being brought into camp, campers and their families must remain vigilant and refrain from non-essential contact with people outside of their households and immediate family for the recommended time period before coming to camp

The CDC recommends a period of ten days of limited contact prior to camp. We ask that all household members do their best to take appropriate social distancing and preventative measures including, but not limited to:

- Wearing a mask that covers both your mouth & nose when around others.
- Avoiding close contact with people outside the household if possible.
- Utilizing curbside store/restaurant services only.
- Washing hands with soap and water frequently.
- Daily monitoring symptom screening.

Campers and staff should expect to have at least one negative molecular PCR COVID-19 test within 72 hours before arrival. *Please note: our testing policy is based on the information we know **today**. Our testing protocol is subject to change.*

All campers must have a negative PCR test in order to attend camp. It is imperative that a few days prior to the test and once taken, campers and families are overly cautious and practice social distancing until arrival at camp. YOU are our partners in risk mitigation.

We ask that campers or staff who receive a positive test at any point within two weeks of arrival contact us immediately. Individuals without a confirmed negative test should not board airplanes, ride buses or drive to camp.

In addition to the requirements above, staff will be required to arrive at least ten days prior to the arrival of the first campers (this might change depending on the CDC and New York State Department of Health guidelines). Staff will stay on camp property during this time for staff training and health screenings.

TRAVEL

Arrival to Camp: June 23rd: The following options exist for traveling to camp:

1. Camp would like as many families as possible to drive their children to camp for the 2021 summer. This will allow the mitigation strategies that each family is following before camp to stay intact.
2. If driving is a challenge for your family, Tel Yehudah will offer busing from Newark Liberty Airport (EWR). We are still planning bus schedules and options. Campers will be asked to be masked the entire ride to camp.
3. Campers who are flying should make arrangements to fly into Newark Liberty Airport (EWR) on the first day of camp (June 23rd) between 1 and 4 pm. Campers will be transported by bus to Tel Yehudah and will receive their rapid test. More information about the window for making reservations can be found here: <https://help.telyehudah.org/article/7-travel-by-plane>

Departure from Camp

At the end of each Bloc, families will have the option to:

- Pick up their children from camp; Parents/guardians must wear a face covering while on site at all times and unfortunately, will not be able to enter camp buildings.
- Have their child ride the bus to Newark Liberty Airport (EWR) to be picked up at 11 am.
- Make flight arrangements to depart from Newark Liberty Airport (EWR) between 1 and 4 pm. No flight should depart before 1 pm. More information can be found here:

<https://help.telyehudah.org/article/7-travel-by-plane>

MONITORING AND PREVENTION

Arrival Week and Ongoing Monitoring : Upon arrival, all campers will have a temperature check, rapid COVID-19 test, and symptom screening with a member of our health care team.

We will continue to test the entire camp throughout the session to ensure we have a safe and healthy community. We are researching ways to conduct testing onsite in an efficient manner, as well as developing relationships with the local health department to identify additional testing sites. All campers and staff will have common symptom and temperature checks regularly throughout the summer.

Preventing Spread at Camp

- All camper bunks will have individual first aid kits to avoid as many trips to the Health Center as possible.
- When possible, medical staff will examine campers for non-COVID-19 related needs in an outdoor setting.
- Any camper or staff presenting COVID-19-like symptoms or who tests positive during arrival week will be immediately isolated from the rest of the community and cared for by a dedicated health care professional, to monitor their health and well-being, until receiving a negative PCR COVID-19 test. Campers and staff who were in contact with this person should expect to quarantine, be monitored for symptoms, and tested again if necessary.

We recognize the idea of isolation or quarantine for any campers or staff might seem scary, annoying, frustrating, or "all of the above"; we promise that anyone required to isolate or quarantine will still have the opportunity to experience the magic of camp, just in a modified way. We will continue to communicate our plan for our facilities to accommodate isolation or quarantine so that campers have a clear picture of what this summer might look like before they arrive.

PROGRAM

Camp-wide Activities

- During the initial weeks of camp, it is likely that camp-wide activities will be limited.
- If deemed safe by our medical team, we may try to host Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat morning services outside as a full camp with appropriate physical distancing between each pod.
- After the initial ten days, or when deemed safe by our medical team, pods will be able to gather for shared activities, t'fillot or other camp wide programs, while following the 2/3rds rule.

Specialty Areas

- During the first ten days pods will travel together to the different specialty area offerings with a specific schedule so only one pod will be there at a time; there will be time between pods to allow for proper sanitation of equipment and supplies.
- If the staff member who is running the activity is not part of the pod attending, they will need to wear a face mask and stay socially distanced when possible.
- We will do our best to run all of the camp activities this summer, but must keep the health and safety of our community at the forefront of our program.

TRIPS

All campers will have opportunities for overnight camping trips on our 150 acres as well as rafting trips on the Delaware River, which we require no direct contact with anyone outside of our “bubble.”

Unfortunately, we will not be able to safely run our Hadracha trip to Washington DC, the New York City Yachad Expeditions, or the Alumim Buffalo trip this summer. However, we are still planning for longer outdoor trip experiences during Bloc 2 that include minimal to no contact with people outside our “bubble.” These include kayaking, biking and hiking. We are also exploring in-camp “trip” experiences for those campers who are interested in more arts and/or social activism-based opportunities. More information about these trips will be available in the spring.

We do know that our Day on the Hill trip to Washington DC is an important part of our Hadracha program. We are planning for virtual meetings with the organizations and legislators we would normally meet with in DC.

FACILITY

Sleeping and Bathroom Facilities

- Pods will consist of two to four bunks.
- Capacity in each bunk is being lowered this summer.
- Bathrooms will be cleaned twice daily.
- Hand washing will be required before and after meals and emphasized throughout the day. Additional hand washing stations will be available. Hand sanitizer will be provided by staff and at stations throughout camp.
- Extra portable bathrooms will be brought in if necessary, to ensure the proper separation of pods.

Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall): Meals and time spent in our two dining halls are a special aspect of the Tel Yehudah experience. This will be an area that will likely look noticeably different this summer. Meals will be served with recommended community mitigation strategies. This will include outside dining and possibly staggered meal times.

- We will be adding large tents in both sides of camp for outside dining.
- Additional hand washing stations will be installed outside of the entrance of these tents, as well as more sanitizing stations.
- We are researching more “grab ‘n go” options to increase the ease of eating outside, rethinking methods of food service like salad bars to eliminate sharing across pods, and considering other mitigation strategies.

Health Center Enhancements: In addition to our Health Center, there will be a separate isolation area for any campers or staff exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. If any staff member or camper is identified

as having a potential or confirmed case of COVID-19, they will be housed in the separate isolation area with a dedicated health care professional to monitor their health and well-being.

Cleaning, Handwashing & Sanitization Protocols: To minimize transfer of COVID-19 at Tel Yehudah, cleaning methods will be employed to reduce the risk of transmission. Protocols will include regularly scheduled cleaning of communal spaces, shared items, frequently touched surfaces and overall handwashing and sanitizing.

- A daily electrostatic spray will be used in programmatic areas of camp with EPA hospital-grade disinfectant.
- Hand-sanitizer stations will be placed in all buildings, cabins and high-traffic areas.
- Handwashing/sanitizing will be required prior to all meals and snacks.
- Our staff will be trained and clean all bathrooms, shared spaces, and highly touched services multiple times daily.
- Bathrooms will be sanitized frequently throughout the day in between deep-cleaning to ensure frequently touched surfaces remain clean.
- Additional signage will be posted throughout camp as a reminder of health protocols.

COMMUNICATION

We understand that communication is critical to the success of our families at Camp Tel Yehudah. It is important to us that we partner with our parents and families to ensure the social, emotional, and physical well-being of all campers.

- Parents/guardians will be kept informed throughout the session about COVID-19 testing, isolation and quarantine measures if required, as well as the usual communication throughout the summer (newsletter, photos, emails etc.).
- If a camper or staff tests positive for COVID-19 while in our care, all parents/guardians with campers and staff on site will be notified via email and text while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with current privacy laws and identify the specific measures we are taking to address the situation.
- Any parent with campers in close contact with a positive COVID-19 case will be notified directly regarding the status of your child's health and wellness.
- We will notify state and local health officials of any confirmed positive test as required.
- If a camper needs to be kept overnight in the Health Center for non-COVID-19 related reasons, we will notify parents/guardians
- We will continue to use email for other communication for the summer, including transportation.

By May 2021, we will have a full communication plan for Summer 2021. This information will be added to this preparedness plan.

Visitors: To ensure we keep the camp quarantine "bubble" safe and free from COVID-19, visitors, guests, and volunteers will not be permitted. No tours or visits will be permitted this summer. To also reduce interaction with outside drivers, we will be strictly limiting packages sent to camp by parents and guardians. More information about these limitations will be available in the spring.

CONCLUSION

Thank you for partnering with us to provide a safe, healthy camp experience for Summer 2021. **This plan is written to reflect what camp would look like if it were to run today.** We are regularly updating this document to reflect any changes made to policies and best practice recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We will be regularly sending updates and posting on our website. Check back frequently for our most current plans.