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SUMMER 2023 APPROACH TO COVID-19 & RESPIRATORY ILLNESSES

As the world response to COVID-19 has continued to develop, so too are we evolving our approach to mitigating and responding to COVID-19 and respiratory illnesses for summer 2023. In doing so, we are balancing our responsibility to the health and safety of our camp communities and our commitment to providing exceptionally fun and impactful summer experiences.

VACCINATION REQUIREMENT & RECOMMENDATION

The National Ramah Commission Medical Committee and Camp Ramah in Wisconsin/Ramah Day Camp Medical Committee have a long-established history of robust vaccination requirements. These vaccination requirements have been developed and are regularly reviewed based on the latest recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

In support of our commitment to the health and safety of all members of our community, this includes vaccinations for COVID. The primary COVID vaccine series is required and the bivalent booster is strongly recommended for all Ramah staff and campers who are eligible, in accordance with the recommendations of the AAP, ACIP, and the CDC. This requirement is subject to exemption, as outlined below.

Any vaccine authorized for use in the U.S., currently, Pfizer and Moderna, or combinations thereof are acceptable.

In addition, based on communal rates of the flu virus we strongly recommend all staff and campers also receive a flu vaccine.

PRE-CAMP TESTING

To reduce the likelihood of virus at camp, all staff and campers will be required to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 at-home (antigen) test on the day of arrival to camp.

IN-CAMP CARE & TREATMENT

Our requirement of the COVID-19 vaccination series prior to camp will allow us to drastically decrease our in-camp mitigation efforts with lower incidence of COVID-19 and milder illness when it occurs.

We plan to treat COVID-19 and COVID-19-like symptoms the way we do any other respiratory virus: Individuals with fevers or vomiting, or feeling too unwell to participate in camp activities will be required to quarantine in the infirmary until they are cleared to return to their bunks and activities by one of our physicians. Limited testing will only occur if the clinical management of their symptoms will change based on the results of the test.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Are there exceptions to the Ramah vaccination policy?
Yes, there are exceptions to the Ramah vaccination policy. Please complete the [Ramah Vaccination Policy Exemption Form](#) and we will respond to your request.
- What if a staff member or camper had a COVID booster previously but not the bivalent booster?
The most recent bivalent booster is still recommended, once eligible, per AAP and CDC guidance.
- Why are the Ramah vaccination policies stricter than my school or workplace?
The communal living environment and close-quartered interactions of our camps present unique risks in relation to infectious diseases and COVID. Therefore we have adopted policies that promote communal health in these environments.

The Ramah Summer 2023 Approach to COVID-19 and Respiratory Illnesses remains subject to change based on the evolving health landscape.