



National Ramah Commission Medical Committee

Covid-19 Vaccination Statement for Overnight Camps - Summer 2023

ונשמרתם מאד לנפשותיכם

Be particularly careful with your health and well-being

-Devarim 4:15

Maintaining the health, safety, and well-being of all the members of the Ramah communities is an essential Jewish value that guides all aspects of life at Ramah. We will continue to follow best medical and public health practices in order to achieve those goals. Covid vaccinations remain a vital component of that effort.

The Covid vaccine and bivalent booster are now among the routine childhood immunizations recommended by the AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics), the ACIP (Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices), and the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), and are included in the AAP/ACIP/CDC [2023 Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule](#).

The National Ramah Medical Committee has thus unanimously endorsed the following statement. This statement applies to all Ramah participants at the overnight camps, Ramah Seminar, and the residential staff and their children at the Ramah Nyack day camp.

The primary Covid vaccine series and bivalent booster are required for all Ramah staff and campers who are eligible, in accordance with the recommendations of the AAP, ACIP, and the CDC.

There are two important driving principles that guided the Committee towards making this statement.

1. First and foremost is our intention to limit serious Covid illness related outcomes (i.e. hospitalizations). The Covid vaccine/booster combination has been shown to decrease hospitalizations due to Covid. During the summer of 2022, all Ramah campers and staff participants were required to be vaccinated against Covid and those over twelve years of age were required to have received a booster. Of those 11,062 participants, we had 938 documented cases of Covid, but no serious Covid-related medical outcomes. Our goal is to continue this trend during the summer of 2023, and limit the serious Covid outcomes in our communities.
2. Additionally, the daily communal congregate living at summer camp, where groups of children and staff sleep in confined bunking quarters and eat in close proximity to one another, presents a unique set of circumstances and risks unlike any other. These circumstances require a degree of net community immunity that is different from the home or school setting. That immunity is partially provided by the Covid vaccine.

As noted above in the positive mitzvah from Devarim, we are being particularly careful with the health and well-being of our Ramah communities. The Covid vaccine and bivalent booster requirement will enable us to strive for that important Jewish value as we prepare for another inspirational, fun-filled, healthy, and safe summer at all of our Ramah camps and Israel programs.

CDC Resources

- [Stay Up to Date with Covid-19 Vaccines Including Boosters](#)
- [Covid-19 ACIP Vaccine Recommendations](#)
- [Covid-19 Interim Immunization Schedule](#)
- [2023 Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule \(web\)](#)
- [2023 Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule \(printable\)](#)
- [MMWR - ACIP Recommended Immunization Schedule for Children and Adolescents Aged 18 Years or Younger – United States, 2023](#)