



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 and boosters 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 endorsed the following statement. This statement applies to all Ramah participants at the overnight camps, day camps, and Ramah Seminar.

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

The Committee's **preferred approach** is that all camps also require the bivalent booster for all eligible campers, staff, and staff children.

The Committee has **additionally deemed acceptable the alternative approach** of requiring the primary Covid vaccine and strongly recommending the bivalent booster for all eligible campers, staff, and staff children.

A camp may additionally choose to require the bivalent booster for essential staff members (e.g., director, senior leadership team, rashei edot, medical/nursing staff, kitchen staff, staff members over the age of 50, etc.).

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 and booster.

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 requirement and bivalent booster recommendation 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](#)