

Updated July 17, 2022 for second session

Dear Camp Gesher Families,

In this supplement you will find an outline of our 2022 COVID-19 protocols and approach.

As many of you know, there is a current uptick of cases in Ontario.

Unlike in 2021, there is currently no formal guidance from Public Health in place for the operation of overnight summer camps regarding COVID-19. The protocols outlined in this document have been created with thoughtful consideration and input from our Health and Safety Committee members, health team, and in conversation with many other Jewish overnight camps in Ontario and members of the Ontario Camps Association.

The concepts at the heart of our protocols include the following:

- The health, safety, and wellbeing of our camp community is our highest priority, while maximizing everyone's opportunity to spend as much time together at camp as possible.
- The risk of severe illness from current COVID-19 variants in young, otherwise healthy, vaccinated people is extremely low
- Many of our campers and staff have recovered from COVID-19 within the past 6 months
- Overnight camp by nature involves people from multiple households transitioning into one community within a group living environment

Please review the protocols outlined below and be in touch with us if you have any questions. You will need to sign the COVID-19 Supplement attestation found in your CampBrain account confirming that you have read and understood the contents of this document. As well as upload the signed COVID Contract.

We are implementing the following for Summer 2022, with complete details below:

- **Mandatory PCR test 24-48 hours before entering camp (for all campers and staff, as detailed below)**
- **Recommended PCR test 2 weeks before camp**
- **PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY:**
 - **AT THE BEGINNING OF FIRST SESSION, 3 CAMPERS HAD TO DELAY THEIR ENTRY TO CAMP BECAUSE THEY HAD A PREVIOUS COVID INFECTION.**
 - **PLEASE STRONGLY CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDED PCR TEST 2-WEEKS PRIOR TO CAMP.**
 - **IF YOUR CAMPER HAS HAD COVID IN THE LAST 3 MONTHS, OR YOU SUSPECT THEY MAY HAVE ASYMPTOMATIC COVID, OR HAVE HAD CLOSE CONTACT WITH COVID, THIS TEST, EVEN IF IT COMES BACK POSITIVE, WILL ALLOW A CAMPER TO ATTEND CAMP ON TIME.**
 - **IF YOUR CAMPER TESTS POSITIVE ON THE 2 WEEK PRIOR PCR TEST, THEY WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO DO THE PCR TEST THE DAY BEFORE CAMP, AND WILL BE PERMITTED TO ENTER CAMP ON TIME.**
- **Campers who test positive for COVID-19 will be sent home to isolate (see protocol details for returning to camp in the online supplement)**

B' Briut ("in good health"),
Shoshana Lipschultz

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VACCINATION POLICY

Camp Gesher continues to have a vaccine mandate in place for campers, staff, and visitors. A minimum of two doses is required and a booster is strongly recommended for anyone eligible to receive one.

1. PRIOR TO ARRIVAL AT CAMP

MINIMIZING EXPOSURE

We request that all campers and staff make every effort to minimize their exposure to COVID-19 in the weeks leading up to camp, and in particular the 7 days before arrival. We ask for your partnership in doing everything possible to reduce the risk of bringing COVID-19 into camp. Please remember to use all available tools such as masking, physical distancing, and gathering outdoors whenever possible.

TESTING

Why are we doing PCR testing?

With widespread vaccination and general population immunity from previous infection, plus generally milder virus variants, the COVID-19 situation has improved markedly in Ontario. Thankfully, life in Ontario has reached a more "normal" state, and for that we are all thrilled!

That said, community spread remains a concern, especially in this season of graduations, proms, award ceremonies and other indoor activities. Mask mandate removal means that exposure risk is still high, and COVID-19 remains one of the most contagious viruses ever documented. Further, while previous exposure and vaccination reduces likelihood of infection, it does not eliminate risk altogether. Re-infection with COVID-19 may occur as little as 30 days after a previous infection.

In light of the above information, the success of camp in the summer of 2022 may be highly dependent on the efforts we take to limit the entry of the virus into camp.

It is reasonable to expect that there will be cases of COVID-19 in camp. Nonetheless, minimizing any identifiable cases from entering camp is a crucial piece of our mitigation strategy.

Any individual with a confirmed or highly suspected case of COVID-19 will be sent home from camp. This potential outcome comes with both a financial cost to parents/guardians and Camp Gesher and social-emotional cost to campers/staff. Therefore, it is in all of our collective interest to take reasonable steps to minimize the entry of COVID-19 into camp through testing and protocols leading up to camp. The best way to do this, despite its limitations and challenges, is with PCR testing.

The tests are not intrusive, and much more similar in style to a rapid antigen test. They are best described as a "nose picker", not a "brain tickler".

What if I have had COVID-19 in the last 180 days and my pre-camp PCR test result is positive due to my prior COVID infection? Do I need to delay my camp arrival if I continue testing positive?

Due to the difficulty in differentiating between a re-infection (infectious) vs a remote infection (cleared infection), we will be asking individuals who test positive immediately prior to camp to self-isolate and delay their arrival at camp, as per Public Health recommendations. Medical evidence has demonstrated that people

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can be re-infected with COVID-19 within periods as short as 30 days. For this reason, we are encouraging individuals to consider taking an optional PCR test 2 weeks prior to camp, which has the potential to result in two favourable outcomes:

1) If you test negative on the optional PCR test 2 weeks prior to camp: You will still need to take the mandatory test the day before departure but can feel more confident that you are not still testing positive from a prior infection.

2) If you test positive on the optional PCR test 2 weeks prior to camp: You may need to re-isolate as per the guidance of your local public health unit if it is felt to be a re-infection. In this scenario, a positive test result will allow you to follow appropriate protocols and then come to camp without requiring the need for a second PCR test, so long as you are asymptomatic on the day of departure.

The 2 week PCR testing is voluntary, and highly recommended. We are working directly with a lab and pharmacy to keep this cost as low as possible.

How will testing work? Below you will find the information.

High recommended PCR test 2 weeks prior to camp:

We highly recommend a 2 week prior to Camp PCR test. This test will be done at the Shoppers Drug Mart pharmacy at Keele and Wilson (1084 Wilson Avenue) using the calendly below. Please note that 3 campers had to delay their entry to camp due to a positive PCR from prior COVID.

Please use the Calendly link below to book your appointment:

[Please use the calendly to reserve your two week prior PCR Test at the pharmacy](#)

Information about PCR testing fees is provided below. Fees for the PCR test can be paid in cash on arrival, or by e-transfer directly to the pharmacy. The etransfer address is: jaymeshkhetia@gmail.com

Mandatory PCR test 24-48 hours prior to camp:

There will be a mandatory PCR test on Saturday, July 30 with our Toronto Baggage drop. Baggage must be dropped at the Borochoy Centre 272 Codsell from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM.

We will also collect medications and kupah at this time in order to make the Sunday drop off as seamless as possible.

The recommended kupah payment is \$50 cash. For Madatz and Bogrim the recommended amount is \$100, as it will also include custom group sweatshirts.

For anyone who is Shomer Shabbat and cannot accomplish these tasks on July 30 due to the observance of Shabbat: Please arrange to go directly to the pharmacy for a PCR test on Friday, July 29. You can bring your bags, kupah payment, and medications to the Borochoy Centre at the bus departure on Sunday, July 31 at 1:00 PM. You must make an appointment for your July 29 PCR test. The pharmacy hours that day are 11am-7pm.

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PCR Testing Fees:

For GTA families that choose our preferred lab and pharmacy both for the 2 week prior and at the Toronto Baggage drop:

For families that choose to use our pharmacy and preferred rates, the fee for each PCR test will be \$50 payable directly to the pharmacy. Camp Gesher has partnered with a lab to reduce costs, and we are sharing the expense with our families. In addition, families choosing this option will not have to provide documentation for boarding the bus, as Camp Gesher will receive documentation directly from the lab.

Fees for the PCR test can be paid in cash or via e-transfer directly to the pharmacy. The etransfer address is: jaymeshkhetia@gmail.com

For GTA Families choosing their own pharmacy:

For families that choose not to use our agreed-upon pharmacy, the costs will be paid directly to the pharmacy of your choosing, and you will be required to bring hard copy proof of a negative PCR prior to boarding the bus. The PCR test must be completed 24-48 hours before boarding the bus.

For non-GTA families:

You will need to complete a PCR at a pharmacy of your choosing and bring a hard copy of your result to the Ottawa bus, or directly to camp if you are driving. The PCR test must be completed 24-48 hours before boarding the bus.

We are aware that a camper who tests negative, even on the mandatory PCR test, could still possibly bring a case of COVID-19 into camp. No method is 100% full proof, but the PCR test remains the most accurate test on the market.

2. AT CAMP

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

We will continue to implement measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses as follows:

- Hand washing will be encouraged and required on a consistent basis throughout the day
- Hand sanitizer will be widely available and accessible
- Programming will be held outdoors as much as possible

SYMPTOMATIC TESTING AND PROTOCOLS

We are relying on our camp community to self-identify when symptomatic (and counsellors to identify symptomatic campers). Our goal is to keep campers at camp and engaged in activities while ensuring public health and safety.

Camp Gesher will only conduct COVID-19 testing if:

- A camper or staff member (or their guardian) requests one;
- A camper or staff member has a fever **and** at least one additional symptom associated with COVID-19 (i.e., cough, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, etc.); or
- The on-site nurse/medical staff recommends one

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Our COVID-19 policy is shifting to reduce testing procedures where if a camper or staff member has one or more COVID-19 symptoms **without a fever**, a test will not be required. Similarly, we will discontinue testing close contacts of positive cases unless a test is requested by the individual (or the individual's guardians), is recommended by the nurse/medical staff on-site, or the individual exhibits symptoms consistent with the criteria listed above.

The current policy governing campers and staff members who are tested and found to be positive for COVID-19 will continue to be enforced. In these cases, the affected individual will still be required to leave camp within 7 hours of their positive test to begin their isolation period at home. Unfortunately at this time we currently do not have the space or staff resources to have campers quarantine at camp unless they live internationally or out of province.

Beginning July 17, 2022, the isolation period at home will be for a minimum of 5 days plus 24 hours after symptoms improve (or 48 hours should there be gastrointestinal symptoms present) as per the current Ontario isolation guidelines. All COVID-positive campers and staff members may return to camp either after producing a negative Rapid Antigen Test following the initial five isolation days, or after 10 days of quarantine (with no testing), whichever is sooner. Campers and staff returning to camp will be asked to mask between days 6 and 10 except for while eating or sleeping.

This COVID-19 policy change is being made with strong consideration of your child's emotional wellbeing, to minimise disruption to their summer at camp, and to limit the overall impact on our campers and staff. In light of this new policy, we will also be ending the Shadow Camp protocol that was previously being used earlier this summer. This means that *kvutzot* (age groups) will not enter into an isolation period after a positive case is identified in their *kvutza*.

As a general rule, we will be using Rapid Antigen Testing to guide decision making.

POSITIVE CASES

***** With the new variant circulating in Ontario, we are constantly updating our protocols.**

Campers/Staff who test positive for COVID-19 will be isolated until they can be picked up from camp to recover at home (as soon as possible and within 7 hours).*

They will be allowed to return to camp after:

6-10 day return criteria:

- Minimum 5 day isolation
- Symptoms resolve/improve
- A negative rapid test (starting on day 6). You must send tests to shoshi@campgesher.com

10 day return criteria:

- 10 day isolation
- Symptoms improved/resolved

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- ** Upon early return to camp, masking with a high quality, well-fitting mask will be required indoors other than sleeping.
- ** Isolation period expires after 10 days, and camper/staff can return to camp on day 11 without a negative test
- ** International/out of province campers/staff will be allowed to remain at camp to isolate.

REFUNDS

Unfortunately, by this point in the year our costs are largely fixed and do not change in the event that a camper comes late to camp or is sent home to isolate.

OFFSITE TRIPS, PROGRAMS, STAFF DAYS OFF

We will be resuming some offsite trips, programs, and staff days off this year. Our protocols for these trips will be stricter than current provincial guidelines, including wearing masks whenever indoors.

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VISITORS

We will have a small number of sanctioned visitors to camp this summer to support programming and operational needs. All visitors must be fully vaccinated, rapid test within 12 hours of arrival, spend the bulk of their time outdoors (including meals), and wear a mask whenever indoors or interacting outdoors with campers/staff. Unfortunately, there will NOT be a visitors' day for camper families this summer; however, we look forward to welcoming our families and alumni community to camp in summer 2023 for our 60th anniversary reunion! We will provide more details on our 60th anniversary reunion activities after this summer.

Thank you for reading through our 2022 COVID-19 Supplement.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in following the protocols outlined above to enable us to have a safe and successful summer at camp!

Please remember to sign and upload your COVID attestation and COVID community contract.