

Dear VBS Day School Families,

Throughout the pandemic, VBS Day School has been deeply committed to the Jewish value of *shmirat ha'briyut*, putting the health of our community above all else. We are all in this together, *hand in hand*. Every proactive step forward we take can help ensure the health of our community as a whole. We also continue to hear and understand from parents how much we all want to avoid continuous interruptions to on campus instruction.

With all of this in mind and in our hearts, last night our Day School Board of Trustees voted to require COVID-19 vaccinations for ALL parents and adult guests participating in official, in-person (indoor or outdoor) VBS Day School or VBS Parent Organization events, **whether on or off campus**. This includes on campus meetings, tours, celebrations, and classroom visits, along with off campus Parent Organization events, fundraisers, etc. Vaccinations will also be required for parents/guardians driving children outside of their immediate households to and from VBSDS sports games.

At this time, vaccinations will not be required for drop-off, pick-up or drive-in/drive-through events, during which adults are directed NOT to leave their cars. Masks are still required from the moment you drive into the school parking lots, until you exit, and preferably even as you get in your car on the way to school.

Medical exemptions to this new policy will be reviewed and considered, however, "sincerely held religious belief exemptions" will not be made. A negative PCR test CANNOT be used in lieu of proof of vaccination.

**This new protocol will be adopted by all VBS schools**, including the Early Childhood Center, Etz Chaim Learning Center and OurSpaceLA, **beginning Sunday, September 26**. More information about the vaccination card collection process will be shared soon.

Our school theme this year is *Hand in Hand, Come Together*. With this new policy in place, we will model for our children what it means to unite and prioritize the health and wellness of our community above all else. This is a critical moment in the pandemic. By implementing this change, we are protecting vulnerable members of our community from severe illness, mitigating the spread of these very contagious virus variants, and potentially minimizing lives lost. This is Jewish, this is essential, and this is a powerful value and action. Together, *hand in hand*, we can make a difference and create change.

If you have any questions about this new vaccination policy for all VBS schools, please reach out to Rabbi Schuldenfrei at [hos@vbsds.org](mailto:hos@vbsds.org).

Thank you for your commitment to our students and our VBS community.

In Partnership,

Matthew Benbassat  
*President, VBSDS Board of Trustees*

Rabbi Deborah Schuldenfrei  
*Head of School, VBSDS*

Matthew Weintraub  
*Executive Director, VBS*