

YOUNG ISRAEL OF JAMAICA ESTATES
SARA DOMB YOUTH CENTER

COVID-19 GUIDELINES

There is no fun without safety.

FOLLOW THE RULES, ENJOY THE GROUPS.

It should go without saying that the safety of our children and their families is the highest priority at the Young Israel of Jamaica Estates. Our goal is always to bring joy to children, ease to parents, and keep the shul and Judaism at the forefront of every child's life.

However, in order to accomplish these vital visions, it is essential that we provide our participants with the highest level of comfort, safety, and security.

Upon careful consideration, balancing the need for enjoyment and normalcy with the safety with the aforementioned priorities, we have made the calculated decision to begin to return to in-person programming at the Sara Domb Youth Center in accordance with the state, federal, and rabbinical laws and guidelines, and under the strict guidance of the YIJE health committee physicians.

"CHANGE IS THE ONLY WAY FORWARD."

We have carefully monitored and continue to monitor the case rate in our region, ongoing COVID-19 studies, current recommendations, and any new developments regarding the health and safety of our participants.

As these are subject to change, our guidelines are subject to change as well.

This document outlines the YIJE youth department COVID-19 policies as of 9/1/2020.

MASKS WORN AT ALL TIMES

All youth leaders, parents, and children are required to wear masks, over mouth and nose at all times.

SIGN UP & ATTENDANCE

There will be an online signup for youth groups and events to enable the youth department to best prepare for the number of children in attendance. Attendance will be taken to keep track of which children are in which room for contact tracing purposes.

STAY IN GROUPS

All children in the shul building must be in a youth group and stay with that group, to ensure that all COVID-19 guidelines are followed, and all individuals are accounted for at all times, allowing for contact tracing should it be necessary. Parents are expected to help to enforce this policy with their own children. **Children and parents must be prepared and understand this policy prior to attending programming.**

NO CONTACT GAMES

Contact and all contact games have been eliminated from youth groups/events, and replaced with new innovative games that avoid physical touch.

SNACK TIME SAFETY

Please do not bring any food or drink from home. Pre-packaged or individually portioned snacks will be served. Snack time will generally be held outside on our rooftop deck, and all children will be separated into designated areas, at least 6 feet apart.

SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES

Individuals must remain at least **6 feet apart** if a mask is to be removed for any extenuating circumstance, such as to consume our pre-prepared snacks. In general, children will be kept apart as much as possible, and masked at all times, short of such an extenuating circumstance.

MAXIMUM OCCUPANCY

Occupancy in our youth rooms is limited. We will adjust group sizes, divide groups up among more rooms, and utilize larger or outdoor spaces as needed.

KEEP THE HALLS CLEAR

To enable people to comfortably walk through the halls without coming into contact or close proximity with others, we ask that adults and children refrain from loitering in the halls.

WINDOWS REMAIN OPEN

As studies have proven that air flow has a significant impact on reducing the spread of COVID-19, we will keep windows open at all times, with the rare exceptions of extreme inclement weather.

ENJOY OUTSIDE TIME

As outdoor spaces have been proven to be optimal for health purposes, will make the most of our outdoor space, as we will make an effort to give each group a period of outside time each week, weather permitting.

HAND SANITIZING

Leaders and children alike must sanitize their hands upon entering each youth room. All hands will be sanitized periodically throughout groups, and both before and after food is consumed.

ROOM SANITIZING

As an additional precaution, the youth rooms and all spaces in which children play will be sanitized before, after, and in between programming.

STAY HOME IF SICK

Any youth leader, child, parent, or shul member who exhibits any abnormal symptoms or feel sick in any way is not permitted to attend youth groups or youth events, and should consult a physician for guidance. Such symptoms include, but are not limited to, cough, congestion, shortness of breath, headache, fever, and inability to taste or smell.

STAY HOME IF EXPOSED

Any youth leader, child, parent, or shul member who has come into contact with, or been within 6 feet of a confirmed COVID-19 case without a mask is not permitted to attend youth groups or youth events for 14 days from initial exposure. This also applies to anyone returning to New York from a **high risk area** identified by New York State, or anyone who returns to New York **on an airplane from anywhere in the world.**

A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

The last few months have presented impossible obstacles and amazing opportunities. Together, we have stood strong, maintained our connections from a distance, paraded through the streets of Jamaica Estates, and won the greatest battle of all– intershul online color war.

The challenges we face are by no means over, but as the situation continues to unfold, we've been blessed with the ability to reopen our doors to children on the strict condition that all follow the above guidelines.

Our hope is that you join us to the extent your comfortability allows and we may all continue to stay together in whichever ways we can. Please adhere to the current policies at all times, and help us to enforce them. Maintain faith in our capabilities, in each other, and in Hashem. Return to shul, return to fun, and above all– stay safe.

*Zach Herskowitz
Youth Director*