



# Immunization Policy

## Ramah Darom Vaccine Policy Statement for Campers, Retreat Attendees, Family Camp Attendees, Staff, Visitors and Guests

Among our most cherished Jewish values is the importance of preserving life and maintaining health. Reducing the risk of vaccine-preventable illnesses from entering any of our programs is the single most effective strategy we can take to protect the health and wellbeing of our community. This goal can only be accomplished through the appropriate vaccination of all those in residence at Ramah Darom. Despite the best precautions taken to reduce the spread of infectious diseases, a shared living and eating environment increases the risk of transmission. Appropriate vaccination of all individuals will help us protect all members of our community and specifically, the most vulnerable: those who are too young to be vaccinated, the elderly, and/or those who have compromised immune systems. While we respect that individual families may choose to defer vaccinations, we cannot and will not defer the safety of our community as a whole.

### Vaccination Requirements

We require that all individuals, families and staff planning to attend a program at Ramah Darom adhere to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices (ACIP) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) or the Canadian Pediatric Society (CPS) as outlined in US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention's (CDC) Recommended Immunization Schedules.

[CDC Recommended Immunization Schedule for Age 18 Years and Younger](#)

[CDC Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule for Age 19 Years and Older](#)

If you are not sure which vaccines you or your child(ren) have received, please ask your health care provider.

*Note: Not all states have the same requirements, but ALL CDC recommended immunizations are required at Ramah Darom.*

### Covid-19 Vaccination

**Beginning in 2022, all Ramah Darom campers, attendees, staff and visitors eligible to be vaccinated against COVID-19 are required to complete full vaccination at least two weeks prior to the start of the program they are attending.** This includes the Covid booster where indicated. This new policy applies to all Camp and Retreat programs at Ramah Darom, and is consistent with the approach endorsed by the National Ramah Commission Medical Committee.

### Vaccination Exceptions

There are exceptions to the Ramah Darom vaccination policy, but they are extremely rare. We recognize that individuals who have had a documented allergy or severe adverse reaction to a particular vaccine may not be able to complete the immunization schedule outlined by the AAP and the CDC. Additionally, individuals with medical conditions such as congenital immunodeficiency or HIV, cancer and who are receiving chemotherapy, transplant patients, and persons receiving immunosuppressive drugs and chronic steroids also may not be able to receive certain vaccines. In these extremely rare circumstances, current documentation from a Physician (MD or DO), or a Pediatric/Family Practice Advanced Practice Nurse (ARNP or PNP), describing the reason for exemption from immunization must be furnished to Ramah Darom. We are happy to discuss case by case management of these extremely rare circumstances of medical contraindication to partial or complete vaccination.

All requests for exemption will be reviewed by our Medical Chair, in consultation with the National Ramah medical committee.

### Rental Groups at Ramah Darom

While we highly encourage all groups renting our campus to adopt their own vaccination policy, the Ramah Darom vaccination policy does not apply to rental groups.