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## EKC COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement Letter

Good morning from Camp –

From the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the health and safety of our entire EKC community has remained our highest priority. We have taken every measure within reason to create a safe and stable environment, free of COVID-19, at Camp. Our work is inspired by the Jewish value of *pikuach nefesh* (saving of a life) and our longstanding tradition that the preservation of human life takes precedence over other practices. All along, we have believed and followed the science and the ongoing guidance from our panel of medical experts and national and local health authorities.

With planning for Summer 2022 well underway, and our desire to minimize the impact of COVID-19 at EKC to the greatest extent possible, we must remain vigilant in implementing a multilayered mitigation strategy that protects our community. While many of our strategies will depend on the state of pandemic over the next several months, we do have a safe and effective tool at our disposal now, COVID-19 vaccines.

For Summer 2022, and in line with the JCC of Greater Pittsburgh's recent announcement about extending its COVID vaccine policy to include members and program participants ages 5 years and up, **we will be requiring all campers and staff members to show proof of being fully vaccinated to join us at Camp.** Given our success this past summer and with the fluid situation surrounding the pandemic, many families have been asking about our COVID-related plans for next summer. The JCC's policy update, which was unanimously approved by its Board of Directors, reflects a material component of our evolving plan.

Not everyone will likely agree with our decision, but it has become increasingly clear that our community's health is better served when everyone becomes vaccinated and that a large number of unvaccinated people worldwide allows for the pandemic to continue and the virus to mutate. Our commitment to community frames everything we do. This decision is supported by the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Public Health Association.

We could not be more excited to continue the planning process for what is sure to be another remarkable summer at EKC. It is through a vibrant partnership with our extended EKC community that we will be able to deliver on our brand of Jewish overnight camping – *Connections, Values, Growth and Fun!*

Thank you all and take good care,

Aaron

