

We are pleased to share with you that our first few days at camp have gone very well. Children are playing sports, making craft projects, swimming, and enjoying the company of friends new and old. The return to normalcy, of sorts, has been refreshing and inspiring.

Additionally, the COVID protocols we put in place are being followed with great consistency. AM temperature checks are being administered, staff are wearing masks, cleaning protocols are being followed, and groups are social distancing from one another.

As noted in our *Camp Safety and Operations* manual, our COVID response plan was meant to be flexible to allow for adapting and refining our response as more information emerged.

With this in mind, we have decided to change our current “rainy day” plan to greater reduce the risk of transmission of COVID. Specifically, we will no longer be using the JCC Bernikow building as a site for “rainy days.”

Our decision is based, in large part, on the fact that the scientific community is showing increasing concern about the greater risk of transmission in indoor spaces, especially when you have large numbers of people (even when social distancing guidelines are followed). As seen in a recent New York Times article:

Mounting evidence suggests that in crowded indoor settings...tiny droplets expelled when an infected person breathes, talks or sings can linger and infect others when inhaled. Children under 12 — who may do all of those things with force — are thought to have only a low risk of getting sick themselves, but they may still spread the virus...

We are also mindful of the fact that New York City scaled back its phase 3 reopening to prohibit indoor dining and that there is currently a rise in COVID cases nationally.

As a result, **our new “rainy day” plan is as follows:**

1. “Rain days” will take place at the campground. During periods of rain, children will remain under shelters, socially distanced from other groups. They will participate in regular camp activities such as arts and crafts, theatre, woodworking, drama, Lego robotics, science exploration, and nature.
2. If the forecast calls for severe weather in which we feel it is unsafe for the children to be on the campground, we will cancel camp for the day. You will be notified by 6:00 a.m. of this decision.
3. We recommend sending your child in with rain gear on “rain days” to make them more comfortable during the camp day. Rain gear may include: sweatshirts, ponchos, rain jackets, and closed rain shoes. We do not recommend umbrellas as they are hazardous and easily misplaced.

In making this decision we were guided by the safety and well-being of our campers and staff.

Thank you for your understanding.