

URJ short-term, year-round immersive programs COVID Protocols and FAQs

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We are excited to be planning for in-person URJ immersive events again in 2022/2023! The health and wellbeing of our participants has always been and will remain our top priority. Together, we can take the necessary actions to balance our needs for connection and community with the evolving reality of the COVID pandemic.

As we consider every aspect of our program and operation, we have created the following FAQs to answer some of the questions you may have. We will continue to update this information as needed. This information is based on what we know today. We are deeply committed to open, ongoing, and honest communication with our stakeholders, congregations, and event attendees.

Based on your current planning, what COVID mitigation protocols will be in place?

- **Vaccines REQUIRED:** We will require ALL participants, staff, and adults to have completed the full COVID vaccination schedule that they are age-eligible for (CDC defines this as being “up to date”).
- **Pre-travel Rapid Antigen (RA) testing:** We will require ALL participants, staff, and adults to self-administer a rapid antigen COVID test prior to travelling to the program or event. You may only attend if your RA test is negative for COVID.
- **Mask-wearing** throughout the event is optional, unless protocols are escalated due to high local transmission rates or specific requirements from the event host (i.e. a synagogue).

We know that the best practices surrounding COVID are continually changing. We will evaluate our policies and practices as the COVID landscape evolves. Our protocols and guidelines will always be subject to change based on the latest guidelines from health experts, state and local protocols, and other health authorities.

Will vaccines be required to attend?

Yes. We ask that ALL participants, staff, and adults have completed the full COVID vaccination schedule that they are age-eligible for (CDC defines this as being “up to date”).

Will masking be required?

Mask-wearing throughout the event is optional, unless protocols are escalated due to high local transmission rates or specific requirements from the event host (i.e. a synagogue).

Will COVID testing be required?

We will require ALL participants, staff, and adults to self-administer a rapid antigen COVID test prior to travelling to the program or event. You may only attend if your RA test is negative for COVID.

What if I test positive for COVID during the program?

While COVID testing will not be a routine part of the program, if someone becomes symptomatic during the event and program leaders determine a COVID test is appropriate, a rapid antigen COVID test will be conducted. If you test positive, you will be expected to return home as soon as possible for isolation.

How do you decide what guidelines are needed for these events?

An experienced team of URJ staff is overseeing the development of COVID guidance for URJ programs. They work with our URJ Medical Advisory Team who have expertise and specialization in public health and infectious diseases. These teams are working closely with the program staff to develop guidelines and protocols appropriate for these events.

Are there any other pre-event COVID precautions we should be aware of?

For 7 days prior to the event, please exercise caution by mitigating your exposures by masking indoors and in crowded spaces. A *Short-Term Overnight Programs COVID Brit* will be shared with participants prior to the event. Consider this an expression of our Jewish value of *Pikuach Nefesh*, the protection and preservation of human life.

If you are traveling by plane to the event, please use caution when travelling through airports - always wear a high filtration mask (N95/KN95/KN94-level) and maintain diligent hand hygiene.

What if I have a known close contact exposure right before the event?

If you have a known close contact exposure in the 7 days prior to the event, please do not attend.

What if I have a COVID infection right before the event?

If you have COVID in the days or weeks preceding the event, you will need to test negative on a self-administered rapid antigen test prior to traveling to the event. Please reach out to the event manager if you have questions.