



Dear Parents,

We hope you are doing well, and holding up under these continued challenging circumstances. We are thinking about you all and hoping that you and your loved ones are healthy. For those who are dealing with illness, we are praying for a *refuah shleimah*, a complete healing, for each and every one of you.

As the days and weeks pass, we know campers and parents are eager for updates on the status of *Kayitz* (Summer) 2020. We have been in constant communication and coordination with the National Ramah Commission (our national Ramah camp network), our Medical Director, Dr. Cliff Nerwen, and other national organizations including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Camp Association as we figure out how to move forward. While we do not yet have much definitive information, and while we are aware that things are changing rapidly, here is what we do know:

1. Despite the myriad uncertainties, we continue to plan for the opening of Camp this summer.
2. We will have an update regarding our scheduled opening day and first session for you no later than Monday, June 1.
3. If we are able to open Camp this summer, we know the summer will not be a “typical” summer, if only because of the many ways our world and communities have changed over the past two months. **We will be following any guidelines set out for us by our medical committee, the CDC, as well as the Dutchess County and the New York State health departments.** This may mean modified programming, changes to our health policies and protocols, and possible staff restructuring. We are working on a range of contingencies, in order to be prepared to best protect the health and safety of our campers and staff, while of course also providing a fun and joy-filled summer experience.

As our camp is scheduled to open on June 30th -- later than many other camps, including some of the other Ramah camps -- we have the advantage of postponing any final decisions a bit longer. We know that the lack of a definitive plan at this stage is frustrating, but since the state of the coronavirus spread and its related public health implications continue to change on a nearly daily basis, the extent to which we can hold off on making these decisions gives us the best opportunity to open Camp this summer.

While we continue to figure out specifics, we want to give you a few updates that may address some questions you have:

1. We have a “COVID-19” task force in place that has been meeting regularly to assess the range of issues we are facing in planning for the summer.
2. If we are able to open Camp, but need to open later than June 30th (resulting in an overall shorter summer), we will adjust the schedule to create new first and second sessions, so that both first and second session campers have equal time in camp.
3. Until we know more, we will not be accepting session changes or extensions. **In addition, the final payment deadline has been extended to June 1st.**

We are continuing to plan for all possibilities, and we recognize that decisions may ultimately be taken out of our hands altogether. Regardless of external circumstances, we are moving forward with our priority, as always, of protecting the health and safety of all of our community members.

Thank you to the many parents and campers who have joined our Ramah Berkshires community for our online gatherings or activities over the past six weeks. We are so proud of the ways our community has creatively come together during this unprecedented time, and we look forward to continuing these types of gatherings until we are able to once again be together in person.

If you would like to set up a time to speak directly with Ethan to discuss anything related to your camper or this summer, you can schedule a phone call [HERE](#).

Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support of our year-round team and our leadership. We are continuously inspired by the generosity of spirit of our Ramah Berkshires *kehillah kedosha* (holy community).

Rabbi Ethan Linden, *Director*
Richie Friedman, *President*