



TRY – Tichon Ramah Yerushalayim



January 26, 2021

13 Shevat, 5781

Dear TRY Students and Families,

I want to wish you all a Tu Bi'Shvat Same'ach! The festival of trees reminds us of the new beginnings that are soon to transform the world, in spite of the wintry days still ahead of us. I am confident that there is no explanation needed for how this may relate to our current situation.

Below are some important updates:

### COVID-19 Tests Prior to Arrival

We previously requested that students be tested twice prior to arrival -- the first PCR test a week out and the 2nd test within 72 hours of the flight. With all of the uncertainty regarding our planned flights on February 7th, we have decided to waive the requirement of the first test (one week before departure).

Therefore, below are our *slightly* updated requirements for students prior to departure:

- **The State of Israel requires that all inbound travelers present a physical copy of their negative PCR COVID-19 tests upon arrival to Israel.** The test must be performed within 72 hours of the flight.
- Per TRY's protocols, all students must **shelter in place one week prior to their flights.** This means having no face-to-face interaction with individuals who live outside of your home throughout those seven days, aside from when receiving the aforementioned COVID test.
- Any student that comes in contact with a COVID-19 positive individual or tests positive for COVID-19 between now and the flight must immediately inform Elinor, and follow all of TRY's and the State of Israel's requirements prior to joining the program.

### Complications with the 72 hour testing requirement

Several families have communicated their concern that students may not receive results from their PCR test prior on time, as the turnaround time at labs can be 2-5 days. We are checking if families can safely get the test done on Thursday morning, February 4th, giving the labs some extra time to process results.

Additionally, one TRY parent sent an excellent recommendation for a website called [sameday-testing.com](https://www.sameday-testing.com), where one can schedule an appointment for a rapid PCR COVID test. The service is offered in a number of states (and Washington DC). These tests cost about \$200 but seem to ensure results within 24 hours of testing. If parents have other

ideas, please feel free to send them to me and I will share them with the group.

\*\*\*NEW INFORMATION\*\*\*

### **COVID-19 Test Upon Arrival in Israel**

Students need to register in advance to receive a COVID test upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport. This test will be considered your first test towards getting out of quarantine early, so it is critical that we have 100% compliance. Once you have finalized your new flights, go to [Check2Fly.co.il](https://www.check2fly.co.il) and create an account, then input your passport and flight info. Once you've done that, you should see the option to set an appointment for a COVID test. Upon arriving to the CHECK2FLY station at the airport in Israel, you will need to present your passport, boarding pass and the confirmation barcode you will receive from their site.

*There is a nominal fee for this service.*

**DO NOT FORGET TO PRINT THE FORM WITH THE BARCODE, IN ADDITION TO SAVING THE BARCODE ON YOUR PHONE.**

They will administer a COVID test on the spot at the airport, and upload the results to your account 14 hours later - at which point the group will already be on campus and getting settled into the dorms for quarantine.

It seems that notifications will be sent out to your personal phone numbers and email addresses, informing you that results are in. Therefore, we recommend using an email address that students/parents check regularly, and your new Israeli cell phone number (if relevant).

As soon as you receive a result, email a copy directly and immediately to [Elinor Kaufman](mailto:Elinor.Kaufman@try.org).

When asked for an address, write:  
Ramah Israel, Katznelson St. 8A, Jerusalem 91316.

- **For all students 16 years old and under, parents should write a letter granting their child permission to receive a COVID test.**

### **Beginning of TRY Programming**

As mentioned in my previous email, we will be holding a mandatory orientation session for all students on Thursday, January 28th at 9 PM Israel time (2 PM Eastern, 1 PM Central, 11 AM Pacific).

**PARENTS - please note that this session is designed only for the students to attend as we being the process of forming our special TRY *kehilla* (community). Thanks for your cooperation!**

[Click here](#) to register for the meeting with the student's *personal email address*. If students are unable to join the orientation for any reason, please email [Elinor Kaufman](mailto:Elinor.Kaufman@try.org) to let us know.

Finally, if you haven't yet done so, we are asking that every student [click here](#) to read through some short, thought provoking readings and videos in preparation for TRY. Follow the prompts and answer the questions, clicking submit at the end. We hope you enjoy this pre-"assignment" and use it as an chance to get excited about this incredible journey ahead of you!

With warm regards from Jerusalem,

Jonathan Madoff  
Director  
Tichon Ramah Yerushalayim  
[jonathan@ramah.co.il](mailto:jonathan@ramah.co.il)

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## Reminders:

### Complete your registration!

Please make sure all your registration forms are completed and you've submitted all the necessary documents and/or files (passport, medical form, etc.) For questions and assistance regarding registration please contact [Elinor](#).

### Have you gotten a flu shot yet?

If so, please fill out the [flu vaccination confirmation form](#) to let us know when. If not, go get vaccinated!

### Don't forget to schedule your COVID-19 test for 72 hours before TRY!

After receiving the results, please fill out the [COVID-19 tests confirmation form](#) to let us know.

### Get your TRY merch here!

Check out our [online store](#) for all your needs on TRY - clothing and apparel with the TRY logo, bedding, toiletries, and more. Order now and have some of it shipped directly to Israel! Don't worry, we updated them about the new start date.

### Did you arrange phone service in Israel?

If not, go check out the packages [Talk'nSave](#) is offering to TRY students. Don't worry, they know the new start date.

### Want to send a yummy treat to a student?

[Gili's Goodies](#) has been delivering delicious heart-warming gift baskets to our students for many years now, and in honor of our students coming to Israel this year despite the unique circumstances, they're offering TRY families 10% off any welcome baskets you order in January! (use promo code Ramah21 - no valid for any Purim related orders).

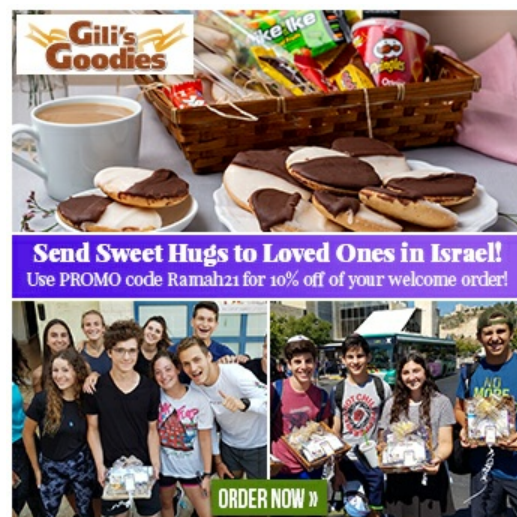


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[www.try.ramah.org.il](http://www.try.ramah.org.il)

Useful links



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**Think Israel. Think Ramah.**

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