



TRY – Tichon Ramah Yerushalayim



January 4, 2021

Tevet 20, 5781

Dear TRY Families,

We are continuing with our preparations for the upcoming TRY semester and closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation here in Israel. You may have heard that Israel has already been able to vaccinate nearly 1.3 million of its citizens, including several TRY staff members! If the country can continue vaccinating at this rapid pace, the not-so-distant future is looking somewhat more bright here. On the other hand, Israel is now in the midst of its third lockdown. With our rising number of COVID cases, it seems likely that the lockdown rules will be made stricter in the coming days. We hope these expected restrictions will curb the spread of the coronavirus here in Israel and pave the way for your eventual arrival!

As I mentioned in my previous email, Israel is currently closed to tourist travel, even to those with valid visas. It seems likely that the "skies will open" to travel for our students in the coming weeks, however it is still possible that this will only happen after our intended start date (January 25, 2021). While incredibly challenging for TRY 2021 students, families and our leadership team, we will all need to remain patient as we await the Israeli government's upcoming announcement regarding (potentially) stricter guidelines. It is possible they will also release an expected end date to the lockdown. Once we have this information, we will be in touch with our contacts at the Ministry of Interior to discuss the possibility of delaying the start date (or moving forward as planned). With every new piece of information, we are wiser and better able to make a sound decision. **Starting on time, if feasible, is still our priority.**

If, due to restrictions, the start date for TRY is only pushed off for a couple of days or a week, we will NOT teach with distanced learning prior to your arrival but rather we'll make up for the missed academic time with changes to our schedule. We do not intend to expose our students to additional distanced learning if possible, considering all that you've been through this year. However, please know that should the lockdown persist, we will offer a combination of live online classes and asynchronous learning in order to keep you up to speed until you arrive in Israel. This would also include online orientations and office hours to meet with our senior staff. We do not believe this will be necessary but we'd like our families to be aware of all of the possibilities. We are blessed to be running a long program, so a delay of a week or two will not affect the program as a whole.

We will do **everything we can to bring you on TRY in a safe way** . As I've said over and over again, we believe that you deserve this experience and have every intention to make it happen for you.

As soon as we have more information, we will happily share it with you. Transparency, open and clear communication, and honesty are core values to our organization and we hope they are reflected in each and every interaction you have with our team. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns along the way, and know that as soon as we have relevant information regarding COVID or any other important topic, we will communicate that with our families.

In the meantime, our staff is looking forward to welcoming our *madrichim* (counselors) to staff training days, starting on January 12th! We also look forward to meeting you all during our January 10th webinar at 2:30 PM EST. If you've yet to do so, please [click here](#) to register for the call.

For now, let's all hope that the number of daily cases and hospitalizations drop, and that we can get a hold over this virus until the vaccine is able to do its work and it becomes more widely available.

With warm regards from Jerusalem,

Jonathan Madoff
Director
Tichon Ramah Yerushalayim
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A Note About the Group Flight

Some families have been asking in which rows our TRY students will be sitting on the group flight We were just informed that the teens who booked with us will be sitting in rows 45-48 on the way to Israel, and 51-54 on the way home. If you are flying out of Newark (but did not purchase tickets through Ramah) and have the ability to choose your seat, we recommend sitting as close to the other TRY students as possible.

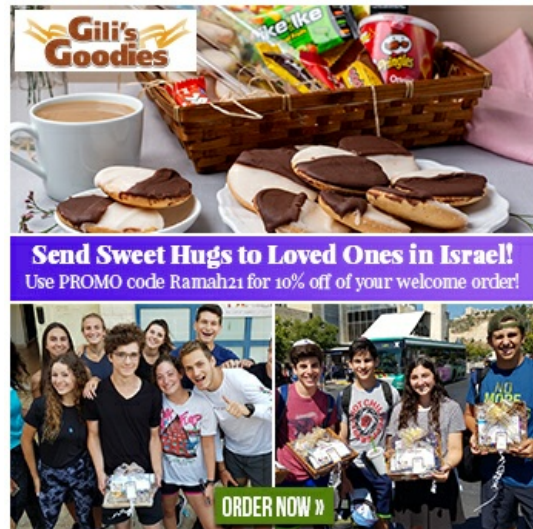
Important Reminders:

SAVE THE DATE for the [TRY Webinar](#)
Get updated info, Q&A with the staff, and more!
Sunday, January 10th at 2:30pm EST

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!

Did you arrange phone service in Israel?
If not, go check out the packages [Talk'nSave](#) is offering.

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).



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 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 two COVID-19 tests for the week before TRY!

The first test should be one week prior to departure, and the second 72-48 hours before the flight. After receiving each test please fill out the [COVID-19 tests confirmation form](#) to let us know the results.

www.try.ramah.org.il

Useful links



educational and religious supervision of [The Jewish Theological Seminary](#). Since 1962, Ramah Israel has provided substantive experiential education and meaningful Conservative Jewish living for North Americans in Israel in the spirit of the Ramah Camping Movement.

Think Israel. Think Ramah.

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