



January 25, 2021

9 Shvat, 5781

Dear TRY Students (and families),

I know that many of you are concerned about the recent decision of the Israeli government to [close Israel's borders](#) until January 31. Although we cannot state with complete certainty that you will be able to arrive on February 8, we remain hopeful. And even if there is another slight delay, we are happy to announce that **TRY 2021 will begin online on January 31!** All of us in Jerusalem are excited and optimistic and cannot wait for us to begin this incredible journey together.

A few important announcements:

דבר ראשון

TRY 2021 is happening!

You will not miss a semester of school due to any further delays. The TRY team is committed to providing our students with a full semester of general studies classes, the Israel Core Course (ICC), Hebrew Language instruction, and social programming with our talented *madrachim*. While we cannot say with certainty when Israel will open its borders, we are confident that after beginning TRY online, you will soon begin your amazing experience here in Jerusalem.

דבר שני

Online classes for our entire student body will start the week of January 31.

Note that this is a slight change from my last email.

We believe that starting virtually will enable us to maximize your experience in Israel. By getting our academic program underway now, it will allow us more time to travel the country and enjoy our time together in person.

We will be holding a mandatory orientation session for all students this Thursday, January 28 at 9:00 PM Israel time (2:00 PM ET, 1:00 PM CT and 11:00 AM PT).

[Click here](#) to register for the meeting.

Students, please use **your personal email addresses when registering for the orientation**, and use the same email when you log on.

During the orientation, [Aliza Zeff](#), our Director of Teaching and Learning, will introduce our online learning platforms and plan for distance learning. [Hillary Menkowitz](#), our

Student Life Coordinator, and I will run sessions answering your questions, giving you an opportunity to share how you've been coping, and start the process of getting to know each other (and us).

If students are unable to join the orientation for any reason, please email [Elinor Kaufman](mailto:Elinor.Kaufman) to let us know.

דבר שלישי

When the Israeli government makes the decision to "open the skies," we will do everything in our power to get you here as quickly as possible.

A word about flights

Families should not change flights until after we make an announcement. If the airport is still closed on February 7, the airlines will be much more flexible in changing your tickets.

A word about COVID testing requirements

In a previous email I informed you that students will need to obtain a negative PCR test within 48-72 hours prior to boarding. This is a requirement of the State of Israel, in addition to being one of TRY's protocols. Students will need to present a paper copy of this test result to Israeli officials upon arrival to Israel.

Several families have expressed concern about getting their child's results back between Friday, February 5, and the Sunday flight on February 7. We encourage families to please check with their local testing sites, utilize personal connections to speed up results (if relevant), and even look into private rapid PCR testing sites.

It seems that the biggest concern is that many labs are not running tests over the weekend. Should we have to postpone again, we will keep this in mind as we choose a new date.

Please continue to share your questions with our team and we will do our best to get back to you quickly.

Warm regards,
Jonathan
jonathan@ramah.co.il

www.try.ramah.org.il

Useful links



Tichon Ramah Yerushalayim is a program of [Ramah Israel](#), a division of the [National Ramah Commission](#), which operates under the 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.

STAY CONNECTED