



TRY – Tichon Ramah Yerushalayim



January 21, 2021

8 Shevat, 5781

Dear TRY Students and Families,

I can only imagine how you are doing during these stressful (but also exciting) times, and am looking forward to welcoming you to Israel.

As you may have heard, Israel has decided to extend its lockdown by an additional ten days. **The lockdown is now scheduled to end on January 31st at midnight.** When we were considering the delayed start date, we took into account the possibility that the lockdown may be extended. We do not know if the current flight restrictions will end on January 31st along with the lockdown, nor can we predict if the government will extend the lockdown further. However, we remain guardedly optimistic that students will still be able to arrive on February 8th as planned. I'll continue to keep you updated on our progress. It seems that the most meaningful next update on this topic will only happen after January 31st.

COVID-19 Test Prior to Arrival

The Israeli government announced a requirement that all returning citizens present a negative COVID test upon entering the country. The test must be performed up to 72 hours before their flights. Passengers are **ONLY ALLOWED** to submit the results of a PCR test (not a rapid response test).

It is very likely that all incoming visitors, including our students, will be required to follow the same rules and present these results at Ben Gurion airport upon arrival. If you have yet to do so, we suggest that families start looking into their options and schedule students' tests for Friday, February 5th in the morning.

As you know, this rule mirrors TRY's previously stated requirement that students obtain a negative COVID test between 48 and 72 hours prior to your flights.

Vaccine update in Israel

Currently around 2.3 million Israelis have received the first dose of the vaccine, and more than 700,000 have received the second (I'm excited to get my 2nd dose on Monday!). In fact, nearly the entire Ramah Israel staff will have received two doses of the vaccine when the program begins.

Visas

If the lockdown is lifted as planned and the skies are opened on February 1st, we believe we will be able to finalize all the visas in time. If you have yet to submit your visa application, please remember to do so via email asap (email info@ramah.co.il).

Flight Changes

Now that we have extended the end date of the program by two weeks to June 13th,

please make sure you are making all the necessary changes to your flights (international and domestic). Once you've done so, please make sure to update that information in your online registration account and notify [Elinor](#).

Extra Luggage on Flights

Some families who are booked on the group flight have asked if they can pay for an extra bag in advance. Unfortunately this is not an option we can pre-book, but you can pay the fee at the airport. According to the United Airlines website this costs \$100. The fee may differ for other airlines. We recommend families check the websites of their respective airlines to find out the exact cost.

Pre-arrival Required *Peulot* (activities) for TRY 2021 Students

Our senior staff have already welcomed our *madrachim* (counselors) to the team and begun staff preparations. While we wish you were here with us already, we are very excited to begin getting to know you (and vice versa) throughout the week of January 31st. We can't wait to see you!

Meet your Madrichim

Sunday, January 31st - 2pm EST (11am PST)

- Get to know your madrichim, have some laughs together, and spend time with other TRY students.
- <https://ramah.zoom.us/j/97766017981>

Tu Bishvat themed tour with Israel Core Course (ICC) teachers

Tuesday, February 2nd - 2pm EST (11am PST)

- Learn some fun things you never knew about Tu B'Shevat while getting to know the incomparable ICC teachers: Miriam, Betsalel & Jeff.
- <https://ramah.zoom.us/j/97526826400>

TRY Q&A with Jonathan & Hillary

Thursday, Feb. 4th - 2 pm EST (11am PST)

- Come prepared with all those big & little questions you still have about the upcoming semester.
- <https://ramah.zoom.us/j/93639095079>

But are you really ready for TRY 2021?

TRY is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to study *your* history in the places it happened, connect deeply with *your* roots, and start thinking about *your* role as a link in the chain of the Jewish people. To best maximize the TRY experience, we are asking that every student [click here](#) for a pre-TRY exercise. You'll be asked to read through some short, thought provoking readings and videos, follow the prompts and answer the questions. Don't forget to click submit at the end! We hope you enjoy this pre-"assignment" and use it as a chance to get excited about this incredible journey ahead of you!

Academics - AP/Block Courses & Hebrew Placement

As Aliza mentioned in her [email](#), most AP classes and some Block classes will be meeting prior to February 8th in order to ensure they complete their material. Those courses will begin on January 31st and will meet according to each teacher's availability, via Zoom. Please [click here](#) to let us know if you will attend, and which class(es) you are taking. If you are concerned about a class or have any questions, please email [Aliza](#) and she will look into it. Students who sign up will be contacted by Aliza and their teacher with times and links for your classes.

If you have yet to complete the Hebrew placement test please do so on our [registration page](#).

Phones, and towels, and bedding, oh my!

We have notified Pack For Camp and Talk'n Save of our updated dates.

1. If you ordered anything from the [TRY online store](#) through Pack For Camp, it will arrive in time for the new February 8th start date.

2. Phone services from [Talk'n'Save](#) will begin and end on the new start and end dates of the program as well.

Please continue to be in touch if you have any additional questions!

With warm regards from Jerusalem,

Jonathan Madoff
Director
Tichon Ramah Yerushalayim
jonathan@ramah.co.il

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 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.

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'n'Save](#) 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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Useful links



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Think Israel. Think Ramah.

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