



**JCC Pod Squads
Health and Safety Guideline
FAQ's**

The Kaplen JCC on the Palisades is pleased to welcome you for exciting afternoons of socialization, enrichment, and fun! The health of our community is of utmost importance, therefore, safety measures are in place to comply with CDC and NJ safety guidelines and to best mitigate risk against Covid-19. Please read our guidelines below.

THE EXPERIENCE

How will Pod Squads work?

Children will be placed in pods of up to 10 with 2 supervisors per pod. Within these pods, they can socialize relatively freely (with precautions as outlined below). Each pod will have their own designated indoor and outdoor spaces and will be distanced from other pods. Our goal is to keep groups as static as possible so that we can minimize possible exposure.

Will my child be with other children their age?

Yes! Pod Squads will be grouped by grade, although some groups may combine grades.

May I request my child to be grouped with friends?

We understand the importance of friendships, particularly during this time! You may organize your own full JCC Pod Squad of 10 and we'll do the rest! Or, we can place your child for you. We will also do our best to honor friend requests with priority for mutual requests.

Will children have to wear masks?

Masks will be required at all times while indoors. When outdoors, if physical distancing is possible, masks can be taken off.

What are the drop-off and pick-up procedures?

Drop-off and pick-up will be via carpool lanes. Supervisors will greet kids outside and note that parents will not be able to enter the facility for everyone's safety. All parents and kids must wear a mask at all times during drop-off and pick-up. Parents may not leave their car except to buckle a child in at the end of the day. If you will not be dropping your child off at 1:00 pm or picking up at 6:00 pm, please let us know in advance.

Daily screening

All children will be screened daily, including a temperature check, and caregivers dropping the child off will be asked health questions. Children must be screened prior to getting out of the car.

Will children be sharing supplies?

Children will receive individual boxes with supplies for activities that require them so sharing will not be necessary. All supplies will be cleaned and sanitized between use. Sharing of personal items will be strictly prohibited.

What should my children bring/wear?

We recommend that children bring the following items labeled with their name: cloth mask, a reusable water bottle, and change of clothes in a backpack. Children should wear closed-toe shoes and comfortable clothes that can get dirty. Any clothes or special equipment for extracurricular activities should be brought too. All children should bring at least one mask each day. The JCC will provide a mask if your child's get dirty, broken, or lost.

Snacks

Children may bring non-perishable, nut-free snacks. We will provide snacks twice daily, but you may choose to supplement with healthy snack options. Please send your child with kosher-style food (no pork or shellfish, or mixing of milk and meats). Sharing of snacks will be strictly prohibited except for siblings within the same group.

Communication

You will receive photos and updates throughout the month of your child's Pod Squad! We also encourage you to follow our social media pages. Our staff will be available to answer any questions or work through any issues with you.

STAFF**What experience and qualifications do staff have?**

JCC Pod Squads are run by our experienced camp staff. All staff receive extensive training that includes basic principles of emergency first aid, blood borne pathogens, infection control, hand washing practices, personal protective equipment (PPE) and COVID-19 signs and symptoms, child safety, child development and mandated reporting. Many of our staff are camp counselors.

Will staff wear masks?

Staff will wear cloth masks indoors and when social distancing cannot be observed outdoors. Staff will be provided with cloth masks.

HEALTH PRECAUTIONS**Increased Hygiene Procedures**

Everyone will be required to sanitize their hands upon entering the building and before and after new activities such as eating, going to the playground, or after trips to the restroom. We will be encouraging proper hygiene and respiratory etiquette, avoiding touching your face, etc.

Safer Facility

The Kaplen JCC on the Palisades has taken a number of steps, outlined below, to help mitigate risk against the spread of Covid-19.

Increased Cleaning and Disinfecting:

2 additional cleaning staff per shift have been assigned to increase frequency of cleaning for high touch surfaces

- Cleaning protocols identified for every program and service area
- Signage on proper hygiene posted in all washrooms
- Electrostatic sprayer used nightly
- New non-toxic chemicals used for cleaning rated to kill COVID-19 in 1 minute

Facility modifications

- Converted sinks, toilets and urinals to touchless
- Installed arm pulls on doors where practical
- Installed magnetic door stops to prop open doors where practical
- Serviced HVAC system and replaced all air filters
- Additional hand sanitizers installed throughout the building
- Installed Plexiglas barriers at client service and security desks
- Signage posted to clarify expectations and traffic manage flow

Safety Signage

Decals and signs throughout the facility share clear and helpful reminders and control the flow of traffic and keep pods distanced.

BEHAVIOR

Anti-Bullying Policy

In order to provide a place where all children can feel safe and happy, both physically and emotionally, we take a proactive approach to bullying by adopting an Anti-Bullying Policy. Bullying is when one or more people exclude, tease, taunt, gossip, hit, kick or put down another person with the intent to hurt that person. It happens when another person or group of people want to have power over another. Using guidelines set forth by the American Camping Association (ACA), our Anti-Bullying Policy is an initiative that is aimed at taking appropriate steps toward managing this behavior. Our staff is trained to prevent bullying and raise awareness by using different techniques and tools that will help us avoid such behavior. Using these tools, they will also be able to identify bullying behavior, take appropriate steps to intervene and then role model and discuss with their pods that bullying behavior will not be tolerated.

Behavior Management Policy

We believe in using positive behavior management techniques to encourage cooperation, limit-setting, self-regulation, and self-esteem building through the use of positive reinforcement, redirection, and setting clear expectations. Harsh language and loud voices will never be used while redirecting or discussing a situation with a child, and physical punishment of any kind is strictly prohibited. We aim to improve behavior with love, gentleness, praise, and encouragement. Supervisors will help to model consideration, patience, and helpfulness for all of the children in the group, and work to develop trust between not only the supervisor and the child but also the supervisor and the parents. While most behavior concerns are dealt with by supervisors, the directors and supervisors are frequently involved to provide additional guidance and support for the child.

Removal

We want you to know we will do everything in our power to work with your family in order to prevent removing children from their pods. We want to make sure each child is set up for success and is able to adapt and transition appropriately.

Parental Actions for Removal

- Failures to complete required forms, provide copy of child's immunization records, or make payment.
- Habitual tardiness in picking up your child
- Physical or verbal abuse to staff
- Noncompliance with policies

Child's Actions for Removal

- Inability to adjust after a reasonable amount of time
- Uncontrollable tantrums/angry outbursts
- Ongoing physical or verbal abuse to staff/children
- Child is a danger to him/herself or others

MEDICAL, INFECTION CONTROL, PPE AND SICK POLICY

Sick Policy

Children must stay home when ill. Illnesses and symptoms will be reported to the director or healthcare personnel. If children begin feeling sick during Pod-Squad hours, we have a designated room where they can wait while we contact you. Please make sure that an approved parent or caretaker is available each day to pick up your child in case of sickness. If sickness is not a symptom related to COVID-19, the child may return after they have been symptom and fever-free for 72 hours.

Sick Policy Related to Covid-19

If the sickness is a Covid-19 symptom, fever of 100.4 or excessive coughing or difficulty breathing, child must be fever-free for 3 days without fever reducing medicines, and stay home for 7 days since symptom start. If the child has a negative Covid-19 test then they may return after 72 hours of being symptom-free. Parents will be notified to observe your child and to let us know if they display any symptoms.

If there is a positive case of COVID-19 within any group, all members of that group are considered close contacts and must self quarantine for 14 days from the date of last exposure. Children and staff may return when:

- If symptomatic - 3 days with no fever, and symptoms improved, and 10 days since symptoms first appeared; Or 2 negative tests 24 hours apart
- Asymptomatic – 10 days have passed symptom free since positive test All positive or assumed cases must be reported to NJDOH. They will provide additional guidance about potential program closures.

Any child or staff member with a confirmed case at home must stay home for 10 days after exposure based on the time it takes to develop illness.

We will be able to offer refunds under the following circumstances:

- If your child or group is isolated due to Covid-19 and cannot attend, you will be refunded for the 10 days of quarantine until you are able to return.
- If Pod-Squads is forced to close altogether, we will provide a partial refund. Please understand that the JCC is incurring costs to offer this program, which are necessary to ensure that we can offer a successful experience.

Does my child need to submit a medical form?

Yes! All children must have a completed medical form with immunizations within the last year on file in their Campsite online profile. Children will not be allowed to begin in their pods until these files have been received and reviewed by our medical team. For this reason, we strongly recommend uploading your health records at least one week prior to your start date.

Policy Statement on Immunizations

The Kaplen JCC on the Palisades Immunization Policy for all children from childhood through young adulthood (21) requires that all (children from childhood through young adulthood) MUST be up to date with their immunizations as per guidelines of the New Jersey Minimum Immunization Requirements for Child Care/Preschool Attendance and the New Jersey Department of Health regarding camp programs. With the safety and welfare of all of our program participants by implementing this policy we are able to take the proper precautions to ensure that all of our children, teens and young adults are properly protected from childhood diseases.

Religious exemptions will NOT be permitted by our programs for the required childhood immunizations which include:

- Varicella (Chickenpox)
- DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis)
- Hib (Haemophilus, Influenzae type B)
- Flu Vaccine (yearly)
- MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
- IPV (Polio)

What if my child needs to take medication during Pod Squad hours?

All medication should be given in original packaging with clear instructions to the nurse, who will dispense medication as necessary.

Questions?

Contact Aaron Atlas Director, Youth and Camping Engagement, at aatlas@jccotp.org or 201.408.1484.