



IMPORTANT IMMUNIZATIONS POLICY UPDATE FOR STUDENTS AND CAMPERS OF TEMPLE ISAIAH PRESCHOOL AND RELIGIOUS SCHOOL AND CAMP ISAIAH AND CAMP ISAIAH KATAN

Recent cases of measles in Los Angeles County and warning by the LA County Health Department regarding the potential spread of the contagious virus and its dangerous nature has prompted us to reevaluate our vaccination policy. Our intention is not to stigmatize any person, but to ensure that we are creating a safe environment for our community. We join with many other synagogues, schools and camps taking similar steps to protect people coming to their premises.

Rabbi Dara Frimmer

David Leichenger, Temple Isaiah President

Effective immediately for the safety of the children and others in our congregation, we implement the following Temple wide policy:

In order to ensure the health and safety of our children and congregation, every student and camper participating in Temple Isaiah Preschool or Religious School and/or Camp Isaiah or Camp Isaiah Katan must be up to date on their vaccinations as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and/or the American Academy of Pediatrics.

We recognize that due to certain medical issues, some may not be able to be fully immunized. If your child falls into that category, please immediately notify our Executive Director, Michael Cantor, and provide proper medical exemption documentation. The documentation provided may be confidentially reviewed by a physician designated by Temple Isaiah, and it will then be within the discretion of the Senior Rabbi, the Executive Director and the Temple President whether to accept the provided medical exemption in lieu of proof of the applicable immunization(s).

In order to protect the health of those at risk and minimize risk of exposure, students and campers who are incompletely vaccinated without a medical exemption accepted by Temple Isaiah as set forth above will not be permitted to attend school and camp and will be welcomed back only when vaccinations are up to date and proper documentation as set forth above is received by Temple Isaiah.

The Torah decrees, “וּנְשַׁמְרֶתֶם מֵאֵד לְנַפְשׁוֹתֵיכֶם” -- Be very careful about your lives,” (Deuteronomy 4:15). This is a mitzvah, a commandment; we are obligated to preserve our health. The Torah also teaches, “לֹא תַעֲמִיד עַל־דַּם רֵעֶךָ” -- Do not stand idly by the blood of your neighbor.” (Leviticus 19:16) Tradition demands of us a response when lives are in danger. The preservation of human life, Pikuah Nefesh, takes precedence over all the other commandments in Judaism. When life is involved, וְכָל סֵפֶק נַפְשׁוֹת דּוֹחָה אֶת (Yoma 83a), all Sabbath laws may be suspended to safeguard the health of the individual, the principle being pikuah nefesh doheh Shabbat – [rescuing a] life in danger takes precedence over the Sabbath.