



March 30, 2021

Re. Increasing Capacity in the Shames JCC Aquatics Center

As schools, offices, and entertainment venues continue to expand their re-opening, so too is the Shames JCC and we undertake this responsibility with utmost consideration of the health and well-being of our community. We know that after a year of coping with extremely restrictive protocols, adaptation to changing circumstances, regulations, and policies is difficult. Understandably, individuals will differ in their particular levels of comfort with organizational approaches. While respecting these individual choices, the JCC maintains the highest possible degree of confidence in its conservative, compliant, and intentionally incremental approach to reopening our facilities and serving our members.

Last summer, when we began the phased reopening of our Aquatics Center, the New York State Department of Health (DOH) restricted capacity to 25% which would allow for 43 people in our lap pool at once. Instead, we made the decision to limit lap swim to one person per lane. When capacity restrictions in New York State were increased to 33%, allowing for 56 people in our pool at once, we chose to continue limiting lap swim to only one person per lane. On February 1, 2021, capacity restrictions were raised to 50% and still, we continued to allow only one person per lane. Now, beginning April 5, having taken a “wait and see” approach for months, with monitoring of DOH regulations that have continually allowed for increased capacity, and in consultation with other local JCCs, the Shames JCC will increase capacity incrementally to two people per lane, still tracking well behind the DOH guidelines.

Of course, the JCC is adjusting its Covid-19 protocols and procedures to address increased activity in the Aquatics Center. For example, we have implemented:

- Health screenings
- Temperature Checks
- Staggered pool entry and exit
- Use of a reservation system to limit the number of people in and around the pools
- Scheduled closure for cleaning and disinfecting
- Limited use of locker rooms
- Increased maintenance of our state-of-the-art air filtration system

Also, when we increase capacity to two swimmers per lane, a new policy will be implemented to ensure ample distance between swimmers while they “rest” between laps in the shallow end.

As always, JCC staff will diligently monitor CDC and DOH communication. We will continue our conservative, safety-focused approach. And, we are confident that with our current and planned protocols in place, we can create a successful and safe experience for our swimmers.

Thank you,

Senior Leadership Team  
Shames JCC on the Hudson

