



May 20, 2021

As you are likely aware, newly released New York State guidelines establish that, “in most settings, vaccinated individuals will not be required to wear a mask” (<https://forward.ny.gov/reopening-reference-guide>). The JCC’s leadership team has been closely monitoring both CDC and DOH guidance as we explore responsible implementation of new protocols in our facility. Our approach, detailed below, is guided by state and local guidance, community input, and confidence that JCC staff and patrons will continue to be forthcoming, respectful, and caring toward one another.

With this in mind, we are pleased to announce policy changes in the Shames JCC’s Fitness Center, Aquatics Center, Group Exercise classes, and the Locker Rooms **beginning Monday, May 24, 2021.**

Specific policies aside, we ask that you help us continue to care for our community with good judgement, compassion, and empathy for one another as guideposts. At the JCC, everyone carries shared responsibility for our collective health and safety. When determining whether or not to wear a mask, please review the criteria for “fully vaccinated” status and consider that the JCC serves diverse audiences including very young children, elderly seniors, and others who may be immuno-compromised.

Please note that we are adopting new policies in the Main Building Only.

Programs that take place in the Legacy Building such as our Early Childhood Center and River Friends Day Camp are subject to specific and distinct requirements; existing protocols in those programs are unchanged and participants will be notified separately of any policy changes as they evolve.

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Love your neighbor as yourself --Leviticus 19:18

Health Screenings, Visitor Check-In and Masks:

- **Patrons of the JCC, whether members or guests, are no longer required to complete a COVID-related health screening prior to entry.** Nonetheless, please stay home if you are not feeling well. If you are diagnosed with COVID-19 within 3 days of having visited the JCC, please let us know so that we can support responsible contact tracing.
- **All patrons of the JCC, whether members or guests, must sign-in by using their key-fob or otherwise registering their attendance with a representative of the JCC's Community Experience at the Welcome Desk.**
- **Fully vaccinated people are not required to wear masks at the JCC.** Unvaccinated people, under both CDC and state guidance, must wear masks in all public settings, including at the JCC.
- People are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 ≥ 2 weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or ≥ 2 weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson [J&J]/Janssen);. "Unvaccinated people" refers to individuals of all ages, including children, that have not completed a vaccination series or received a single-dose vaccine.
- **Compliance with these policies is the individual responsibility of all who come through the JCC's doors; the honesty and integrity of all JCC patrons is paramount.**

Fitness Center & Group Exercise

Fitness Center

- **Increasing to 100% capacity with six feet of spacing remaining between equipment.** (Every other machine will remain blocked off.)
- **Reservations are NOT required but, in addition to checking-in at the JCC's main entrance, members must also continue to check in at the Fitness Center's front desk.**
- **The Fitness Center will be closed for cleaning at specific times each day.** Please plan accordingly.
The Fitness Center will be closed at the following times:
 - 10:45 – 11:00 AM
 - 1:45 – 2:00 PM
 - 5:45 - 6:00 PM (Monday - Thursday)
- The Fitness Center will also receive a deep cleansing before and after open hours.
- For everyone's health and safety, **Members must continue to wipe down equipment before and after use.**
- **Members are still required to bring their own towel and exercise mat.**

Group Exercise

- **We are increasing classes to 100% capacity while maintaining six feet of separation between participants.**
- **Reservations will still be required** and the number of spots, while increased, will depend on class location and available equipment.
- **Members will still be required to bring their own towel and exercise mat.**

Locker Rooms

- **Lockers will be available for daily use.** Members and guests will be asked to wipe down lockers after use with the wipes provided in the Locker Rooms.
- **Showers will be available for use.** Disinfectant spray will be provided for Members & guests to use before and after use. Unvaccinated people may remove their masks while in the shower and may place their masks on newly installed hooks in the shower stalls. Unvaccinated people must put their masks back on immediately following their shower use. Members & guests must continue to bring their own towels.

Aquatics Center

- **Members are no longer limited to a specific number of reservations in the Aquatics Center per week.** We ask that members be courteous to each other and cancel reservations if they don't plan to attend their reserved session. This allows more members to swim at their preferred times.
- **Reservations will be increased to 50 minutes per session.**
- **We can accommodate up to 3 swimmers per lane** for Lap Swim. Swimmers will be asked to circle swim when there are three swimmers in a lane to optimize pacing and distancing. We ask that lap swimmers stay to the right and swim counterclockwise.
- **Reservations will still be required for Lap Swim and Aquatic Exercise.**
- **Members 13 years old and up may reserve time in the Aquatics Center.**
- **Participants will be asked to social distance when resting between laps.**
- **We can accommodate up to 6 reservations in the Training Pool for Aquatic Exercise, per session.** Members will continue to bring their own equipment.
- **Participants will no longer line up in the Aquatics Hallway prior to each reservation but rather enter the pool deck through the Locker Room doors.** The doors to the deck will be opened every hour on the hour to allow for the next reservation group to enter.
- **Aquatic Center rules will no longer be announced prior to each reservation, though swimmers will be expected to be aware of, and follow, the rules.**

- For swimmers who prefer not to use lockers, chairs will remain available on the deck as a place for their belongings and masks during a session.

We are grateful for our community and appreciate everyone's efforts in making the JCC a safe and enjoyable place to be.

If you have any questions about our protocols, please reach out. Also, please continue to read our communications for the most up-to-date information.

