November 16, 2021

Dear Friends:

We are making steady progress in our efforts to rebound from the pandemic-related challenges of the past two years. In the coming weeks you can expect to see many new programs and services including Pickleball, tai chi, new volunteer opportunities, physical therapy services, boxing, new youth programs, and more. We are even planning to make food and coffee available for purchase.

Based on the success of our "mask-free" weekends, we are pleased to announce that **effective Monday, November 29th, mask-wearing will be optional throughout the facility, including in the Fitness Center, Gymnasium, Group Exercise Studios, and Aquatics Center. Concurrent with this change in policy, all JCC members, staff and visitors ages 12 and up will be required to show proof of vaccination to enter the facility.**

While the Covid-19 vaccine is now CDC approved for children ages 5 through 11 and we strongly encourage families to have their children vaccinated, the vaccination requirement will not pertain to children under 12 at this time. We will revisit this policy regularly and, as vaccine access increases and data and information evolves, the policy may be modified. Anyone who is medically ineligible for vaccination will be exempt from the vaccination requirement.

As you know, the COVID-19 landscape can change rapidly. In recent weeks Westchester has had the lowest rates in the State, but if that changes, our policies may change as well. Further, the JCC may at times identify certain programs and spaces in which mask-wearing will be required. For example, masks will continue to be required in our Early Childhood Center and Almost Home after-school program, regardless of vaccination status.

On a related note, as of December 1st, the saunas in both locker rooms will be open to be used at members' discretion. Good news for those of you who like to get your *schvitz* on.

I wish you all a joyful Thanksgiving and a festive Hanukkah. I look forward to seeing you on the JCC's campus soon!

Adam Weiss