

## Immunization policy 2026

Parents send their children to camp and assume they will enjoy themselves, benefit from positive social interactions, learn from the rich Jewish environment, and, most importantly, be safe and healthy. Safety and public health remain the number one priority for Tamarack Camps. Each year, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) publishes a [Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule](#). The vaccination of all members of a community creates conditions that protect young children, babies, the elderly, pregnant women, and those who cannot be immunized from harmful and life-threatening diseases.

While parents may choose to defer the vaccination of their children, for Tamarack Camps this is not an issue of individual rights and choice, but an issue of public health and policy. Routine vaccination is an important public health matter especially in the confined environment of a residential summer camp with round-the-clock communal living and with some vulnerable populations present.

Given the overriding Jewish value of Pikuach Nefesh (saving a life), that puts a premium on maintaining health, including taking preventive measures, along with the clear public health-based need to protect the camp community as a whole, and those unable to receive vaccines in particular, we are requiring that all campers, staff, artists in residence, volunteers, doctors, nurses, and their families planning to attend/participate in any Tamarack Camps program be immunized as outlined below.

### Policy

ALL THOSE WHO ARE ATTENDING/PARTICIPATING IN A TAMARACK CAMPS PROGRAM AT CAMP MAAS, CHARLES N. AGREE OUTPOST CAMP, CAMP KENNEDY, ON A WESTERN/ALASKA/ISRAEL TRAVEL TRIP (including staff kids, artist in residence, doctors, nurses, and their families, etc.) ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION THEY HAVE HAD AGE APPROPRIATE VACCINES as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the State of Michigan ([click here for more information](#)), with the exceptions noted.

Participants or staff over age 30 who are unable to provide documentation will be required to sign an affidavit indicating that, to the best of their knowledge, they have either received their childhood vaccines or contracted the diseases.

**Policy Exceptions:** We recognize that individuals who have had a documented allergy or severe adverse reaction to a particular vaccine will not be able to receive further doses of that individual vaccine. In addition, individuals with medical conditions, such as congenital immunodeficiency or HIV, malignancies receiving chemotherapy, transplant patients, and persons receiving immunosuppressive drugs and chronic steroids, will not be able to receive certain vaccines. In these instances, the primary care provider documenting the problem and exempting the child from further doses of that specific vaccine must be furnished to Tamarack Camps, and it will be reviewed by the medical advisory council (MAC). These waivers are subject to an annual review.

This policy will be enforced in accordance with all applicable local, state, and federal laws. In no way should this policy be interpreted to violate the laws of the State of Michigan or regulations affecting licensed Residential Child Camps within the state.

Please note that the Influenza, COVID-19, Hepatitis A, HPV, and Meningococcal B vaccines are strongly recommended.

If, as an infant, your child did not receive standard immunizations, please follow the [AAP catch up schedule](#) (located on page three).

**UPDATED:**

**Measles Prevention Statement**

**Considering recent Measles outbreaks across the country, we want to reassure our community that our camp and year-round programs remain committed to the highest standards of public health and safety. We continue to require compliance with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the State of Michigan's school-required immunizations, including the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine. With our camper and staff population vaccinated against measles, our community benefits from strong herd immunity, offering protection to those who may not be eligible for vaccination due to valid medical reasons. This high level of coverage is a critical factor in preventing the spread of measles in the community.**

We are closely monitoring public health guidance and will continue to ensure our policies align with current best practices to safeguard the health of every camper, staff member, and family in our care.