

November 8, 2021; 4 Kislev 5782

Dear PJA Families,

As we have previously communicated, the PJA Board of Directors approved a resolution in September mandating that all eligible PJA Day School students be vaccinated against COVID-19. At the recommendation of the CDC, the FDA has authorized a pediatric vaccine for children ages 5-11. Consequently, all PJA Day School students are now required to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Families may request a medical or religious exemption, when honestly and genuinely applicable.

We are extremely excited about this development in COVID prevention. Once our Day School community is fully vaccinated, we will be able to resume many important activities within our program, from all-school Kabbalat Shabbat gatherings to interscholastic athletics to field trips and more. In addition, we will no longer be asked to quarantine whole classes when a positive case is identified, and vaccinated students without symptoms will be permitted to remain in school. When the state relaxes school mandates around practices such as masking and distancing, PJA will also be able to, for vaccinated students.

Members of our Medical Advisory Team have advised us that widespread availability of the pediatric vaccine may not be immediate. At this time, we anticipate asking that families of students who are currently 5-11 years old provide proof to PJA that their child is fully vaccinated by February 1, 2022. This date may change, based on the availability of the vaccine, but under no circumstances will the deadline be earlier than February 1, 2022. We expect to confirm the deadline on or around December 1. Please share information about your child's vaccines with Richard Boyd at rboyd@pjaproud.org. As the school's registrar, Richard keeps all vaccine records and will maintain a spreadsheet for each class. It is important that you get Richard this information.

In order to facilitate access to the pediatric vaccine, PJA is working closely with Congregation Neveh Shalom's COVID Outreach Services (CNS-COS) team to schedule an on-site pediatric vaccination clinic at the Schnitzer Family Campus. We expect to have more details about this event in the coming week and look forward to sharing more information.

We also know that many families have questions about the pediatric vaccine, and we are partnering with Boost Oregon to offer an on-site informational session for families and students interested in participating. The session will be facilitated by Dr. Jay Rosenbloom, long time local pediatrician and PJA alumni parent. You can find information on the flyer that accompanies this letter.

Vaccination against COVID-19 continues to be the most effective way to reduce the spread of the virus and minimize the chance of serious illness in ourselves and others in our community. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Steve Albert at salbert@pjaproud.org or Merrill Hendin at mhendin@pjaproud.org.

Thank you for your commitment to our community's health and safety.

Warm regards,

Steve & Merrill