

## Message from the Headmaster - Winter Break Travel Guidelines 24 December 2020

Dear Parents,

We recognize the importance of providing an opportunity for families to go away during winter break. For many, a break entails traveling and/or visiting with family and friends, all of which involves an increased chance of virus transmission. Our medical team has determined that a quarantine of 9/10 days with testing at the 7-day mark is necessary to minimize the risks to our community. Winter break at YGW runs from Thursday afternoon, January 14 to Sunday, January 24. To allow families the opportunity to travel, and also to have the necessary waiting period before returning to in-person school, we are asking our school community to abide by the following recommended guidelines if they choose to travel:

- **Thursday January 14 – Sunday, January 17-** unrestricted vacation/travel, recommend masking and distancing whenever possible;
- **Sunday, January 17-** Return to the Greater Washington area by Sunday evening;
- **Monday, January 18 - Sunday, January 24-** winter break continues, remain in the Greater Washington area with strict masking and distancing, avoid groups/gatherings;
- **Sunday, January 24-** large scale testing in the evening for all those who traveled, gathered, etc during the **January 14–17** period but have been strictly distancing since then;
- **Monday, January 25-Tuesday, January 26 -** remote school while PCR tests are pending;
- **Wednesday, January 27-** return to in-person school for all those with negative tests (and no symptoms or exposures).

Students who do not return to the Greater Washington area by **January 17**, and those who do not comply with YGW safety guidelines during the following week, will need to attend classes remotely for the 10 days following their return.

Participants in the Out-of-town Student Program (OSP) and their parents should be in touch with the OSP Manager of their division to confirm their plans for break, and the student's return to YGW.

As always, specific circumstances can be evaluated individually via [covidboys@yeshiva.edu](mailto:covidboys@yeshiva.edu) or [covidgirls@yeshiva.edu](mailto:covidgirls@yeshiva.edu).

We wish everyone an enjoyable and healthy break.

Sincerely,  
Rabbi Yitzchak Merkin