



## **Yahel Israel COVID-19 Response and Program Changes**

Based on the current situation and our experience working with volunteers in Israel since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in the winter of 2020, we are well equipped to safely support our Yahel participants in their service-learning experiences in Israel and make positive impacts in our communities.

Yahel Israel's responses to COVID-19 and its accompanying risks and conditions always prioritize two goals:

- 1) Ensure the health, safety, and well-being of our participants, staff, and communities.
- 2) Work creatively and flexibly to continue serving our communities during difficult times.

In addition to the policies outlined below to ensure health and safety in all aspects of our programming, we are living up to our mission statement and stepping up for communities in these difficult times. In response to high need, we have increased our numbers of fellows and prioritized volunteer placements currently operating at an emergency capacity due to the effects of COVID-19, such as the work with welfare departments and safe, enriching after school programs for children. In particular, children with special needs are the local municipalities' highest priority to provide a healthy and regular routine and Yahel has increased its service to this sector. We are fully committed to taking care not just of our staff and fellows, but also our local partners and communities.

### ***Health and Insurance***

While on the fellowship, participants receive health insurance coverage through Yahel Israel. The policy will cover any and all treatments for COVID-19.

### ***Housing***

Yahel fellows live in shared apartments, including full bathrooms, common spaces, and fully equipped kitchens. The apartments are suitable for fellows to remain comfortably and



safely inside in the instance of a nationwide lockdown or quarantine period. We coordinate groceries and all supplies participants need for this period. If a participant is required to isolate while awaiting test results or if infected, we have alternative housing available to provide quarantine from other members of the group.

### ***Program Modifications***

As of November 2020, many of our volunteer placements take place in-person, with all necessary protection and distancing guidelines. Volunteer placements with schools are a mix of small groups in person, hybrid learning, and online sessions. Yahel is committed to being flexible and stepping up where we are needed, and we have partnered with nonprofits outside of our cities of service to provide much needed support at this time.

Contextual learning and community encounters are an incredibly important piece of the fellowship. Keeping with all guidelines, we are able to meet with guest speakers both virtually and in person, and travel around the country for seminars.

**Note:** Yahel Israel is a Masa Israel Journey affiliated program and adheres to all Masa Israel requirements. We follow all regulations outlined by the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of the Interior, and local municipalities.