

FROM THE CEO

# The Dog Days of Covid – Overcoming Challenges with Your Help

August 5, 2021

By Jay Sanderson, President & CEO

We are in the midst of not just the “dog days of summer” but the dog days of Covid. We were all looking forward to a summer where we started to get back to normalcy and up until now, we had that. Our kids were back at camp (with thoughtful precautions). We moved most of our social and communal interactions off of Zoom and we travelled to see our loved ones, many of whom we hadn't seen for over a year and a half. We shared long hugs and deep sighs of relief.

We knew that we were not done with this historic pandemic, but most of us were vaccinated and most of the restrictions set by the City, County, and State were lifted. We have said that we would be feeling the overwhelming impact of Covid on our community for years to come, especially on the growing number of our most vulnerable and on our treasured Jewish institutions. We understood that effectively addressing the emotional and psychological impact would need to become a top priority.

We also were deeply worried that “reopening” would create a false sense of security and lower the sense of urgency to financially support our growing priorities and our even more essential work.

Today, on top of everything else, we are all concerned with a new variant and fearful that we will need to take several steps back. This impacts all of us and our critical work to address our greatest needs.

The dog days of Covid are not about battling extreme heat, drought, and thunderstorms. The dog days of Covid are about our collective resolve to battle our most pressing communal challenges — isolation, anxiety, depression, food insecurity, and poverty.

Our Federation led our community before and during the toughest days of this pandemic. We did this together. Our community needs us even more today. We can't do our work without you.

August is not a usual time for us to ask you to give. This is not a usual August.

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Wishing you continued good health,

Jay Sanderson  
*President & CEO*

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