



HEBREW ACADEMY OF LONG BEACH

# ROADMAP TO REOPENING



#wearehalb

Dear HALB Family,

We are pleased to share HALB's Roadmap to Reopening with you. We have every expectation of beginning the school year in the building and are preparing for various scenarios to provide the best education possible in the safest environment. We still have a lot of work in front of us, but our Roadmap is designed to give parents and staff a broad sense of what we are thinking about and preparing for 2020-21. Please realize that the final plan will depend upon the guidance we receive from the New York State Education Department, Governor Cuomo and the Nassau County Department of Health.

As our partners, you should understand the main principles that are guiding our decision-making processes:

- Prioritize student, faculty, and staff health and safety.
- Provide face-to-face learning instead of remote learning whenever it is safe to do so.
- Promote practices and policies to reduce risk of virus transmission by ensuring hygiene and health related policies that are research based, clearly communicated, effectively implemented, and diligently enforced.
- Demonstrate flexibility and fluidity by preparing various scenarios with the ability to move from different models on a weekly or even daily basis.
- Create the best and most normalized educational environment for our children.

We would like to recognize our faculty and staff for all of their hard work and ingenuity in designing a new way to educate our students. Our HALB administration and their respective teams have led our faculty through the most challenging of times, and we are so proud of how well all of our staff has responded. We also want to thank our parents and students, whose commitment, trust, and optimism have fueled our Yeshiva's success.

Most importantly, as we look ahead, we hope that our community will remain healthy and safe. We will continue to care for each other and work together to empower, educate, and inspire our students. We are grateful for your continued collaboration, optimism, and patience.

We feel privileged to do this work with you and to lead this community through these challenging times.

Sincerely,  
The HALB Reopening Task Force



# THE HALB REOPENING TASK FORCE

Rabbi Yisroel Kaminetsky,  
Rosh HaYeshiva HALB, Menahel, DRS Yeshiva High School for Boys

Rabbi Adam Englander,  
Head of School, HALB Elementary and Lev Chana

Mrs. Elisheva Kaminetsky,  
Principal, SKA High School for Girls

Mrs. Bluma Drebin,  
Principal, SKA High School for Girls

Dr. Hillel Broder,  
Principal, DRS Yeshiva High School for Boys

Rabbi Elly Storch,  
Associate Principal, DRS Yeshiva High School for Boys

Mr. Richard Hagler, Executive Director  
Mr. Chaim Hollander, Director of Operations  
Mr. Richard Altabe, Chairman, HALB Reopening Task Force

Mr. Lance Hirt, Chairman of the Board  
Mr. Mitch Kirschner, President  
Mr. Nathaniel Rogoff, President

Marc J. Sicklick, MD, FAAAAI, FACAAI  
Evan B Pockriss, M.D., F.A.A.P  
Michael I. Oppenheim, MD, FAMIA  
Division of Infectious Diseases, North Shore University Hospital  
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell  
Vice President and Chief Medical Informatics Officer, Northwell Health



A top-down view of various school supplies scattered on a white surface. In the upper left, there are several colored pencils (red, yellow, blue, orange, green) and a wooden ruler. To the right, there's a palette with several circular pans of paint in green, red, and yellow. Below the ruler, a pair of blue-handled scissors is visible. Scattered around are several pushpins in different colors (white, blue, green, yellow, red). In the bottom left, there's a small spiral-bound notebook with a green pencil resting on it. A blue sharpener is in the bottom right.

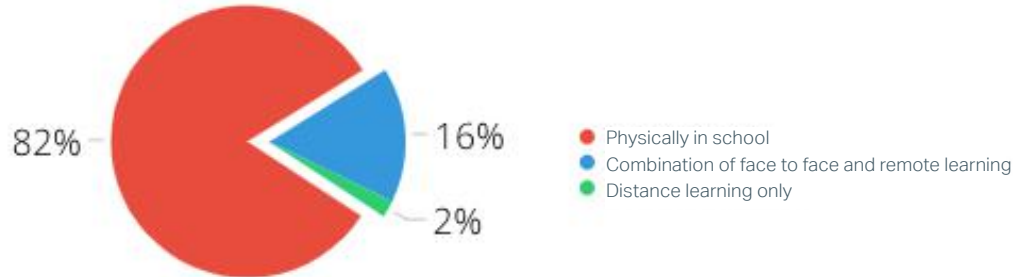
## RESULTS OF OUR PARENT SURVEY

We appreciate the feedback you provided in our recent surveys. It is overwhelmingly clear that the HALB family wants to return to in-person, "face-to-face" teaching for their children. Much of what we have decided to do in this document is in direct response to your feedback. Below please find some of the data we collected:

# RETURN TO SCHOOL: SURVEY RESULTS

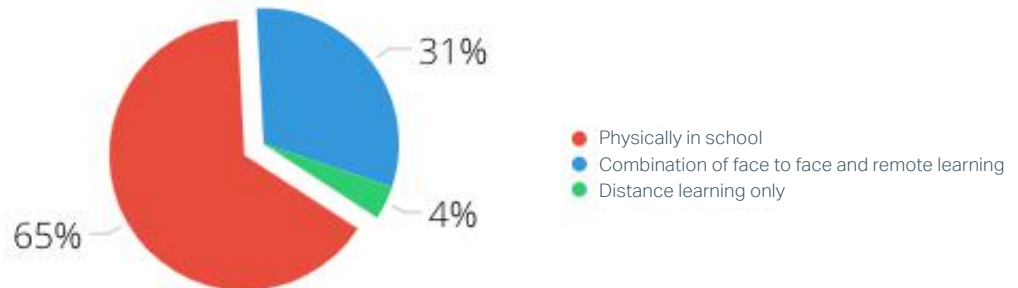
## Elementary School Grades 1-5

Assuming all health guidelines for reopening of schools have been met, and if given a choice, how would you prefer for your child to attend school in 2020-2021?



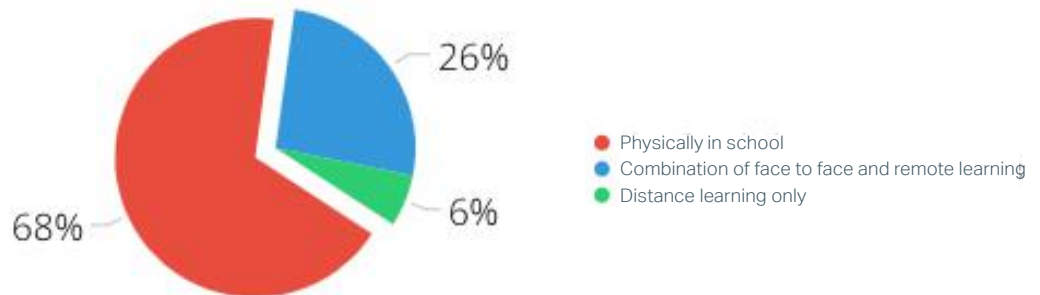
## Middle School Grades 6-8

Assuming all health guidelines for reopening of schools have been met, and if given a choice, how would you prefer for your child to attend school in 2020-2021?



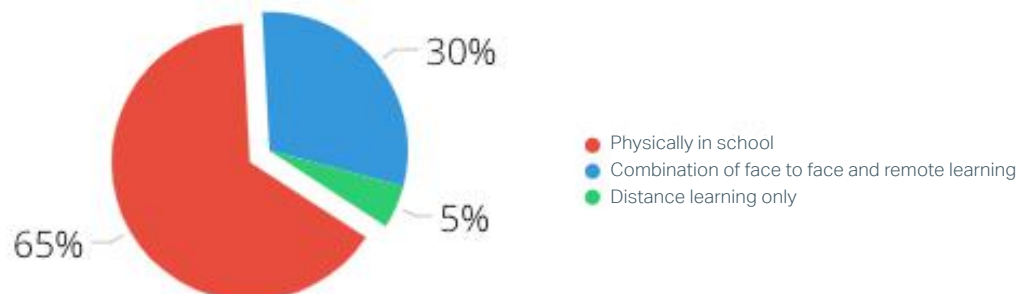
## SKA High School

Assuming all health guidelines for reopening of schools have been met, and if given a choice, how would you prefer for your child to attend school in 2020-2021?



## DRS High School

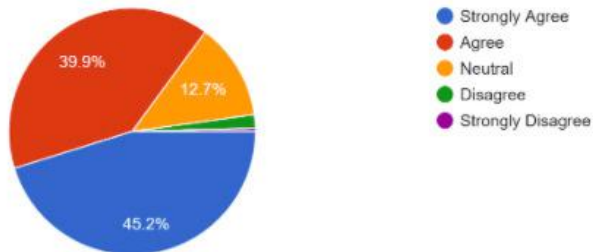
Assuming all health guidelines for reopening of schools have been met, and if given a choice, how would you prefer for your child to attend school in 2020-2021?



Based upon your responses to the surveys we sent, it is abundantly clear that our teachers made every effort to connect with your children. We applaud their efforts and we are proud to share the survey responses with you.

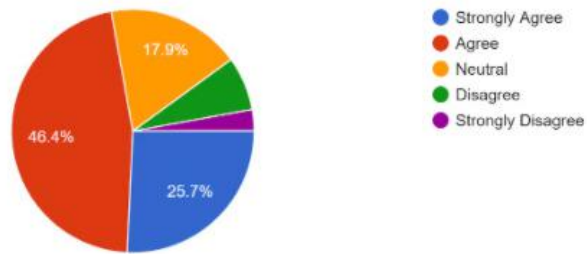
## Elementary School Grades 1-5

For my child(ren) in grades 1-5, the teachers were available to help them when needed.



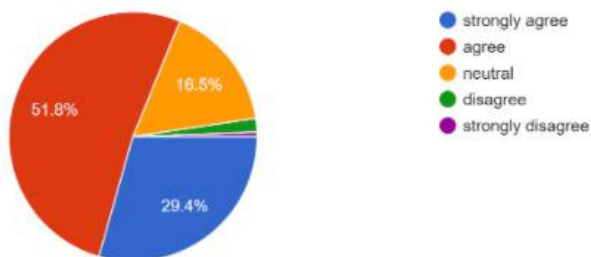
## Middle School Grades 6-8

For my child(ren) in grades 6-8, the teachers were available to help them when needed.



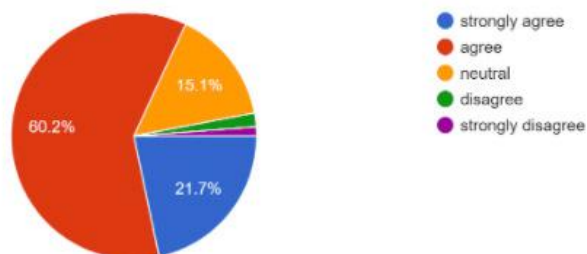
## SKA High School

My daughter's teachers were available to help them when needed.



## DRS High School

I feel that my child's teachers were available to help him when needed.





## SOCIAL DISTANCING

60% of elementary school parents and 67% of high school parents want to see social distancing enforced in classrooms if students return to school.

85% of parents in the elementary school, 80% of DRS parents, and 60% of SKA parents are comfortable with the school reducing class sizes and options by setting up fixed cohorts of students to comply with CDC and State guidelines for social distancing, and as a means of protecting other students in the school if someone in a cohort gets sick.

## HEALTH SCREENING

41% of parents in elementary school grades want to see staff wearing masks, 60% want daily temperature checks, and 65% want to have food served by vendors in a "grab and go" fashion.

At our high schools, 47% of parents want teachers to wear masks, 65% want daily temperature checks, and 56% want food served by vendors in a "grab and go" fashion.

## CLEANING, SANITIZING, AND DISINFECTING

95% of all parents expect to see a regimen of regular cleaning and disinfection at all HALB campuses.

## PROCEDURE FOR ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

In the event that local school districts are unable to provide busing next year, we will be planning carpool arrival and dismissal with a system of staggered arrival and dismissal that assures student safety. We will be sensitive to families who live out of the immediate area in our planning.

## SECURITY & BUILDING ACCESS

In our survey, 86% of parents in the elementary school and 90% of high school parents requested that we limit the access of our building to outsiders. 65% of parents at all schools agreed that even if they come to the school, their access will be limited to the front office.





## PART A

# RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN THE HALB FAMILY

As a member of our HALB family, every student, teacher, and staff member has a fundamental right to be valued and cared for, and that includes the expectation of physical safety. While it is possible that students, teachers, or staff members will be exposed to COVID-19 over the course of their work or studies, everyone is entitled to expect that every effort and reasonable precaution will be taken to prevent this from happening.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, this means complying willingly with rules and policies designed to keep our community safe and healthy. This includes thinking of others, appreciating that their risk tolerance might be lower than ours, and adjusting our behavior with sensitivity and respect, even when inconvenient to ourselves. We expect our respect and sense of responsibility to others to be visible in myriad ways, including the following:

- All members of our community and visitors to our school must wear masks, wash and disinfect their hands, and mind physical distancing norms.
- All members of our community and visitors to our school must follow self-screening guidelines for symptoms of illness and refrain from coming to the school when symptomatic. Per the CDC, symptoms include fever/chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting and diarrhea.
- All members of our community and visitors to our school must comply with self-quarantine rules regarding exposure to COVID-19 and recent travel to COVID hotspots.
- All members of our community and visitors must take responsibility for maintaining a healthy environment by showing respect and concern for safety for all school staff members including teachers, office staff, administration, maintenance staff, bus drivers, and nurses.

To navigate this unprecedented public health challenge, mutual respect, trust, and a deep sense of our reciprocal obligations to one another will be essential.





## PART B HEALTH & SAFETY INTRODUCTION

Above all, our most important principle is to prioritize student, faculty, and staff health, safety, and well-being. To that end, we have taken three important steps to build our school wide strategy of safety.



1

### **Task Force**

We have formed a task force composed of school administrators, medical professionals, lay representatives from our Executive Board, and executive office professionals to guide us in the process of reopening.

2

### **Experts Medical Consultants**

We are working with a team of medical professionals who are experts in pediatrics, infectious diseases & immunology. They will be guiding us towards preparing appropriate safety and hygiene protocols, as well as training our staff to ensure protocols are implemented effectively.

3

### **Directors of Health & Safety**

Additionally, to ensure protocols are adhered to, we will be appointing one person per building to lead and ensure compliance at each of our campuses.



## PART C SAFETY

**HALB's approach to safety has six pillars:**

1. Social Distancing and Reducing Student Density
2. Health Screening and Preventative Hygiene
3. Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting
4. Communications, Training, and Coordination
5. Procedure for Arrival and Dismissal
6. Security and Building Access

**Each of these critical areas help shape our approach to ensure that our policies and protocols provide the necessary conditions to mitigate risk of exposure to COVID-19.**

### 1. SOCIAL DISTANCING AND REDUCING STUDENT DENSITY

Infectious disease experts have promoted social distancing as an essential strategy in the containment of COVID-19. By their nature, schools are high-density, which can promote disease transmission. We recognize that to effectively reduce the risk of infection, we must implement the following effective social distancing policies:

- Class size will be guided by NYS guidelines and our medical consultants.
- Large common areas like the gym, cafeteria and auditorium will be limited to use by small groups only.
- Minimizing movement between classrooms by students.
- Masks will be worn by staff at all times.
- Masks will be mandated for use by High School students when social distancing is not feasible.
- Masks will be mandated for use by Middle school students in hallways.
- Use of physical barriers where needed.
- Students will not be able to share school supplies.
- There will be no field trips unless approved by our medical committee.

### 2. HEALTH SCREENING AND PREVENTATIVE HYGIENE

Another essential pillar recommended by health care professionals involves mandating health screenings and preventive hygiene, which begins with hand washing and use of masks. Coupled with physical distancing, these are the most effective strategies in containing COVID-19.

- All staff at HALB will be tested for COVID-19 before the beginning of the school year to ensure that our buildings will be COVID-free on the first day of school.
- HALB is planning to require individual temperature and symptom screenings prior to entering the buildings each morning as long as it is deemed as an effective method in preventing COVID-19 transmission.



- Symptomatic children and adults, and those who are asymptomatic but have been placed in quarantine due to exposure to a COVID infected individual, will not be allowed to enter our buildings.
- Everyday hygiene practices will be enforced. As has been well-documented, hand washing many times daily with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is critical. In addition to hand washing, frequent use of alcohol based hand rub with formulations containing 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol is a simple yet effective way to prevent the spread of pathogens and infections.
- If a student or adult develops symptoms while at school, we will have the individual in an isolated room in Lev Chana, our Elementary School and High Schools.
- The individual will be cared for by one identified nurse, who will wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and follow infection control practices designed to decrease the risk of transmission. We will call parents and arrange for the child to be picked up.
- Lunch will be served in classrooms in "food to go" boxes.

### 3. CLEANING, SANITIZING, AND DISINFECTING

- We will implement a strict routine for frequent cleaning of bathrooms, classrooms, hallways, common areas, elevators, doorknobs, railings etc. when school is in session along with a rigorous night-time disinfectant routine.

### 4. COMMUNICATIONS, TRAINING AND COORDINATION

- We will establish clear expectations for our HALB community, through a structure that is both sustainable and flexible to adapt to changing realities.
- We will implement signage in school with our protocols, hygiene and social distancing reminders. We need all members of our community to accept new responsibilities within this changed culture.
- We will reduce contact by placing marked floor direction in hallways and stairways.

### 5. DROP-OFF/ DISMISSAL

- In the event that our local school districts are not able to provide busing this Fall, we will be establishing a schedule for drop-offs and dismissals. Though we are planning for a full day of instruction at our schools, we may create a staggered schedule for arrival and dismissal so that we can maintain a safe system of social distancing and so that we can conduct daily temperature checks in a safe and efficient manner.

### 6. SECURITY AND BUILDING ACCESS

At HALB we pride ourselves with our open-door policy. However, at this time non-essential visitors will be restricted from school buildings temporarily, until we can ensure our new protocols have become standard and routine.

Essential visitors include:

- Approved vendors, package delivery vendors, and facility specialists.

Essential visitors will need access for entry through our security, which will incorporate a temperature and symptom check prior to entry.

Signage at all entrances will indicate our health hygiene policy, including masks and hand sanitizing upon entering the campus. Arrival/Dismissal, Common Areas (Playgrounds, Hallways, Bathrooms etc.),







## PART D MODELS OF LEARNING AND SCENARIO PLANNING

In anticipation of ongoing and evolving challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, HALB has developed three models for learning. These models take into account our principle which states, “Provide face-to-face learning in place of remote learning whenever it is safe to do so”. These learning models acknowledge the critical role face-to-face interactions play in a child’s learning while implementing physical distancing norms that reduce student density. Our learning models are as follows:

- Face-to-Face Learning - for Low Risk Scenario
- Hybrid Learning - for Medium Risk Scenario
- Distance Learning - for High Risk Scenario

LEVEL OF RISK	INPUT & DRIVERS
LOW RISK SCENARIO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• State / County Departments of Health determines risk to be low</li><li>• State/City encourages reopening</li><li>• Low COVID rates in community</li></ul>
MEDIUM RISK SCENARIO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• State / County Departments of Health determines risk to be mid-range risk</li><li>• Partial Re-openings</li><li>• Increased number of cases in the community</li></ul>
HIGH RISK SCENARIO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• State / County Departments of Health determines risk to be substantial</li><li>• City/State mandating or recommending school closures</li><li>• High rates of COVID in the community</li></ul>

# LOW RISK SCENARIO

**Face-to-Face Learning Model:** This is a traditional school experience with students attending school in person five days a week (at DRS and HALB grades 4-8 for boys, it can be six days/week) with our facilities operational. This model will be used when the risk level is determined to be low. External indicators would need to support our confidence in opening campuses to full density and usage. Preventative hygiene policies will be implemented in combination with realistic physical distancing guidelines.

**To limit the risk of infection if and when we are able to learn completely face-to-face, we will not allow students to go on trips or to participate in live interscholastic activities until the risk of infection has been mitigated in the general public.**

## 1. COHORT MODEL - ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND LEV CHANA

- Our classes will be broken up into smaller cohort groups (pending guidelines).
- The cohort groups will be arranged by the level of the students to maximize our ability to promote student achievement.
- Where possible, we may physically split our classes into two, allowing for more students to attend school on a given day.
- Within this model, we may utilize additional teaching staff to rotate with homeroom teachers, allowing for an entire class to be present in school at the same time.
- To the best extent possible, there will be no contact between cohorts,
- Sufficient supplies will be provided in each class to ensure no cross-contamination.

**The advantage of a cohort model is that if infection occurs, only the infected cohort has to be quarantined while the rest of the school can continue to operate. If a cohort must be quarantined, it will continue to learn via distance learning for the duration of the quarantine period.**

## 2. SOCIAL DISTANCING AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL

The full cohort model is not practical at the high school level. We are therefore exploring ways to be able to fit 16-20 students in a classroom safely, through the use of masks, social distancing, barriers between desks, and additional barriers between teacher and student. Students will remain with the same group of students for as much of the day as is educationally feasible.



# MEDIUM RISK SCENARIO

**Hybrid Learning Model:** The Hybrid Learning Model combines face-to-face learning with a parallel online learning experience. One of the major challenges in maintaining a safe environment in our school is the issue of population density. This model introduces physical distancing and density reduction as key strategies to further reduce exposure within our community, while at the same time providing face-to-face interaction between students and teachers as much as it is safe to do so. This means having fewer students and/or faculty in the building and less contact for those who are present. This model will be used if we are in a medium-risk level environment.

## 1. HIGH SCHOOL A/B ROTATION MODEL

- An A group and B group would attend school on alternating days, with each group attending for a full five-day schedule (at SKA) or six-day schedule (at DRS) over a two-week time span.
- To reduce interactions with students outside of their classes, most students will remain in a set homeroom with their belongings and teachers will move from class to class. This may be adjusted as needed. Learning will not be limited to “in the classroom” efforts. On days in which students are not in the school building, they will either join their live classes via Zoom, or be given significant responsibilities to learn virtually, independently and/or collaboratively with other students. We will educate and empower our teachers and students to maximize this time.
- We are exploring the possibility of providing actual and virtual locations to which students not in the school building can drop in and receive services such as davening, tutoring, research help, and guidance.

**In the A/B rotation model, each group operates as a cohort, and if re-infection occurs, only the affected cohort needs to be quarantined. Distance learning will continue for the duration of the quarantine period.**

## 2. HALB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Grades 1-5 would continue to operate in a cohort model described above. However if the scenario requires fewer children in the building we might adopt some form of A/B scheduling for the middle school.

# HIGH RISK SCENARIO

## DISTANCE LEARNING MODEL

This is the same model our community experienced in the final months of the 2019-20 school year: Our campuses will be closed but remote learning will continue. This is the model of learning which will be used if it is deemed unsafe to have even half of our students in our facilities at one time. We have learned a great deal about how to best deliver Distance Learning from our experiences in the Spring of 2020 and would use that knowledge to refine the experience in the Fall. We will maintain our Halb@Home website in the Elementary School, including class schedules with Zoom sessions and various educational programs and activities. DRS and SKA will provide distance learning schedules for students that will be similar to live classroom quantity and quality. Classroom learning would be conducted remotely through the Zoom platform for live instruction, and both synchronous and asynchronous work delivered via Powerschool and Google Classroom.



# CONCLUSION

The HALB Reopening Task force is committed to reopening school this fall. Our guiding principle is to provide face-to-face learning whenever it is safe to do so. We await direction from State and Local officials as to which of the guidelines we have discussed in this document will meet official approval. We continue to consult our medical and legal advisors for direction on how best we can maintain the safety measures needed to provide face to face learning for our students. We also are in touch with our advocacy agencies such as TeachNYS and other groups to be sure our needs will be met.

Since we cannot predict the future, we ask members of the HALB family to work with us as we prepare for the next school year. We will continue to update you throughout the summer. We are hopeful that our State of New York, like New Jersey and Connecticut, will approve the reopening of our schools.

As we continue to pray that our students be restored to the norms and fullness of their religious, educational, and cultural experiences, we at HALB are fully committed to implementing all relevant State guidelines so that our staff and children will remain safe throughout the duration of this pandemic.

