



Covid-19 School Reopening Plan
September 2020
Prospect Park Bnos Leah
Leib Kelman

We are very excited to plan our return to **real** school and we hope that this proposal, with Hashem's help, will be sufficient to allow the school to reopen.

The school encompasses Preschool-Grade 12 in a building complex of approximately 75,000 square feet. We have prepared and planned for student re-entry to school and an alternative plan (similar to the distance learning teleconference program used from March until June 2020), either for short-term or long-term distance learning as a result of a local incident or community-wide pandemic changes.

This proposal was formulated based on current knowledge from reports, medical advice (Dr. Ira Hollander, Internist and Dr. Akiva Norowitz, Pediatrician), administrative staff discussions and bulletins from the CDC and BOCES. The Responsible Party is the dean of the school. Transmission of the COVID virus takes place primarily through droplets pushed out by sneezing and coughing as well as aerosol droplets which are exhaled and remain aloft in the air for considerable time and can easily travel on air currents. These factors are the basis of our plan to open school in a safe manner. We are reducing the number of students per room and insisting on everyone wearing face masks and possibly face shields as well. All classrooms, whether using air conditioning or not, must keep one window and the room door open in order to facilitate a rigorous flow of air. We want to avoid small and closed areas with no ventilation. Surface transmissions may or may not play a role in spreading the virus, however, vigorous daily disinfecting should reduce such possible transmissions. Staggering arrival, recess, lunch and dismissal to whatever extent possible will help us avoid areas of congestion. We will also encourage social distancing, face covering, hand hygiene, and staying at home when feeling sick. Signs will be distributed throughout the school.

Classroom Plan

To return to in-person instruction, we require social distancing (6 feet of space) or wearing of a mask. The division of classes will remain constant (cohorts) throughout the day. High School may not be able to maintain cohorts for all classes.

Elementary Division

- Each class will be divided into 2 rooms with no more than 15 students per class. The adjunct classroom will be connected via video camera and monitor so that the students will be able to view and listen to the teacher through the classroom's smartboard. The teacher will be able to see and hear the adjunct classroom as well.
- Each adjunct classroom will have a Teacher's Assistant or a member of our resource room staff to supervise.
- On alternate days, the teacher will teach in the classroom where she was not physically teaching the previous day.
- We are eliminating assemblies, cafeteria lunches and all group activities. Therefore, all school spaces including specialty classrooms, gym, lunchroom, etc., will be utilized as classrooms. Box lunches will be sent to the classrooms. Children will be asked to wash their hands with soap and water before and after eating lunch and snacks.

High School Division

- Each class will be divided into 2 rooms with no more than 15 students per class. The adjunct classroom will be connected via video camera and monitor so that the students will be able to view and listen to the teacher through the classroom's smartboard. The teacher will be able to see and hear the adjunct classroom as well.
- The adjunct room will not have an adult present. However, the High School administrative staff will circulate on a regular basis through the halls observing each room.
- On alternate days, the teacher will teach in the classroom where she was not physically teaching the previous day.
- All school spaces including specialty classrooms, gym, lunchroom, etc., will be utilized as classrooms.
- Unlike the past, teachers will be switching rooms for each subject instead of the students. Students will stay in the same classroom all day.

Transportation

Our school uses the reimbursement system offered by the Board of Education, however, the situation is very unclear as to what transportation arrangements will be available in September.

Some bus companies have gone bankrupt and the remaining ones are unsure of what to do as there are no regulations in place. We assume that, because of social distancing, buses will only be able to transport one child per seat, approximately half their regular student load. To service our current student population, we may require double the amount of buses and it is unknown who will pay for it. Therefore, we encourage children to walk or bike to school when possible and we will also try to facilitate carpools. Both buses and carpools will be asked to have open windows; drivers and students must wear face masks. The school will provide a separate area for bus drop-off and carpool drop-off to the extent possible; we will try to stagger arrivals to ease congestion.

As students and teachers enter the building, their temperatures will be taken by security personnel. Students will go directly to their classrooms in a single file line while maintaining social distancing. The same will apply to dismissal. Carpool students and all others will join their classes' assigned location. It may be necessary to ask parents to undertake a one-month transportation tax to enable us to hire additional buses in September depending on the Board of Education reimbursement amount.

Additional Items

- All teachers will reinforce the importance of minimizing virus transmission by using face covering and frequent hand washing or disinfecting. Teachers must reinforce the idea that a decrease in hospitalization does not mean that the virus has disappeared and that it can reappear as we have seen in other states and communities. All teachers will complete weekly questionnaires regarding their health.
- Students' temperatures will be taken on a daily basis upon entering the school building. They will complete questionnaires at random times during each month. We will urge parents to notify us immediately if any member in their family is diagnosed with COVID-19.
- School trips, assemblies, and group prayers will not take place; students will daven in their classrooms.
- The student recess schedule will be staggered by grade to limit the number of children in the schoolyard at any one time.
- All students must wear face masks to school. If a student forgets her mask, she can get one in the school office. Students will be allowed to remove their masks during lunch, recess and other selected times provided that social distancing is respected.

- Teachers must wear face masks and are encouraged to use face shields as well.
- We will provide PPE (personal protective equipment) for our staff.
- Teachers and students should bring water bottles to school every day and not drink directly from the water fountains.
- Teachers should frequently encourage children to use the restrooms to avoid lineups in the bathroom before lunch and before recess.
- All bathrooms have antiseptic soap dispensers and there are hand sanitizer dispensers in the entry areas, halls and all classrooms.
- Toys used in the school must be sanitizable (no fuzzy animals).
- Entry to school is limited to students and staff. Repair people and deliveries should be scheduled after the children have left the school.
- Signs will be posted for mask use, hand hygiene, and social distancing throughout the school.
- **Flu shot:** We advise all students and the entire staff to get the flu shot at their earliest convenience. Our medical advisers have stated that it is likely for both the flu and COVID-virus to resurge in early fall and the combination of both could be very overwhelming for people. We therefore seriously advise flu shots as early as possible.
- **Bleach:** Our housekeeping staff uses a mixture of bleach and water to disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as desks, mezuzot, doorknobs, light switches, and water fountains.
- Parents and staff will receive our weekly newsletters, hard copies and online, at the end of each week indicating any new government information or directives.
- Staff contracting the virus, while staying home as long as required by law, will continue to be paid.
- All employees over the age of 65 and all those with existing conditions, which make them vulnerable to the virus, can choose to leave employment at the Yeshiva.

Protocol for Incidents of Infection

We have developed a protocol for dealing with a virus infection incident among the students and staff. If a student or staff member is diagnosed with the virus, they will be escorted by the school nurse, wearing protective gear, to a secure waiting area until they are picked up. We will use the CDC decision tree to determine if the school needs to be closed for a thorough cleaning (approximately 2-5 days or longer

depending on the status of community health). During such closings, teachers and students will revert to using distance teaching methods. Our obligation to do contact tracing requires us to notify the Department of Health about any new case of infection. Any new case of infection will be reported to the parents as well.

The school will request guidance from the Department of Health as to when to allow infected students to return to school.

It is our fervent wish and prayer that the COVID-19 virus will recede and no longer be a problem worldwide. A committee of one administrator and one teacher will meet weekly to review compliance to community health status changes and new protocols.

SCREENING Questionnaire

LAST NAME:

FIRST NAME:

GRADE:

HOME NUMBER:

1. Have you been exposed to somebody diagnosed with Covid-19? Yes No

If yes, when did this happen? _____

2. Do you have any of the following symptoms? Please circle

Fever Yes No

Dry cough Yes No

Shortness of breath Yes No

Flu like symptoms Yes No

Loss of taste or smell Yes No

Diarrhea Yes No