



“Ma'ayanot Winter Plan”

Daily Schedule Changes: Effective Monday 11/9/2020

New Time Schedule

- The new winter schedule will provide **two 15-minute breaks** (morning and afternoon) for all students. This break time will allow students the opportunity to go outside, take a brief walk, or just decompress. Additionally, these breaks will eliminate the need for mandatory outdoor class time, although it will still be allowed and encouraged, especially on good weather days.
- Classes will be 39 minutes instead of 40, and breaks between classes will now last four minutes instead of five.
- All classes and breaks will be printed on student schedules with the new times.
- In order to maintain the feasibility of keeping social distancing as our norm, some students will have a break *before* 3rd & 8th periods and others will have their break *after* 3rd & 8th periods. The assignment of these break/class times will coordinate with when students have their lunch period that day.
- Mincha has also been allotted a few more minutes, allowing for a more meaningful *tefillah*.

Indoor Lunch Plan: Eating Indoors Safely

According to the current medical recommendations, increasing social distancing is key to the prevention of spreading the virus at indoor gatherings. Additionally, the CDC is currently defining “exposure” as more than 15 minutes of close contact with someone who is Covid positive, measured cumulatively. Therefore, we are maintaining **the current rule that there is no unmasking or eating indoors**, in general; **however**, at the same time, we are redesigning our schedule and the layout of the gym so that **students will have a designated time and place to eat lunch indoors with clear guidelines that ensure the safety of everyone at Ma'ayanot.**

Our Winter Schedule (Linked here) will have **three lunch periods, during periods 5A, 5B and 6** so that each grade has a designated time for lunch in the gym. The gym is being set up so that there is a **designated eating section** with seating set up at **7 ft. distances, and some space for students to socialize throughout the day, while masked**. Although seating during lunch will be fluid, allowing students to sit with friends, we will recommend that students spend minimal time unmasked in the gym and remask to move to other socializing areas after eating. In addition to a **designated social area** in the gym, there will be **two student lounges**, where students will be able to socialize or work while remaining masked during the remaining time of their lunch period and during free periods throughout the day.

Snack Policy:

- **Snacking will only be allowed indoors in the gym, when students are seated at 7 ft. distances in the eating section.**
- **Students will be allowed to go to the eating section of the gym, sit down in the designated section, unmask and eat/drink/snack during their lunch periods, free periods, or breaks.**
- **Students will be encouraged to limit their indoor unmasking time and to spend the remaining time of their free time either outdoors unmasked or masked indoors.**

Now that we will have a designated indoor eating place, we are able to safely bring back microwaves and hot-water urns for student use. There will be a purell station for students to use before using these devices and instructions to guide our students in lining up safely to use each.

Outdoor Student Space / Tents

The large tents we have set up outside for classes and socializing will be in place and available for students until the end of November. We are exploring other winter options for facilitating the use of our outdoors and will share that information when it is finalized.

Leaving Campus Midday

At this point, students are not permitted to leave campus. Parents must sign students out for midday appointments or if students are leaving early. Students are not permitted to leave campus midday for lunch (or free time) on West Englewood Avenue. We will continue to assess our policy about West Englewood Avenue (and going off campus midday) to determine if and when it may be safe to allow large groups of students to eat together, while unsupervised. This policy supports our careful contact tracing efforts and allows us to limit quarantining large groups of students.

Community & Ma'ayanot Off-Campus Guidelines

Over the last few months, our local schools and shuls have worked collaboratively to help all of our members do their part in preventing the spread of Covid in any social gatherings. The local RCBC and school guidelines have requested that families gather only in small groups, outdoors, with masks and social distancing as part of our shared commitment. With the winter weather

making outdoor gatherings very difficult and with a new rise in the local incidence rates - it is really important that each of our organizations clarify the expectations for safely gathering indoors. The policies listed below are responding to the concerns that colder weather, upcoming vacation times, and new levels of Covid spread within our community. We are also mindful that recent trends indicate that younger people are more likely to catch and spread Covid after contact with adults who have had increased exposure.

Please be our partners and exercise caution in your family's choices so that we are able to continue welcoming your daughters to campus for the fullest, richest, learning experience possible this year.

Off-Campus Get-Togethers

We appreciate and value the emotional and psychological importance of social get-togethers for our students and families. We understand that there is Covid fatigue and that we want to assure our lives have a healthy semblance of normalcy in all possible ways. Please take the following guidelines seriously as you consider how to balance the social emotional needs of your family with the health and safety concerns we all face.

Recommendations /Guidelines:

- Outdoor get-togethers are preferred whenever possible.
- Masks and social distancing should be maintained at all gatherings, whether indoors or outdoors.
- Close parental supervision is highly recommended.
- If indoors, limiting the gatherings to less than 10 people can help in ensuring the standards are maintained.
- Limiting extended gatherings to one school cohort is encouraged.

Do Not Host Sleepover Guests or allow your daughter to be hosted overnight.

Thanksgiving/ Chanukah Family Gatherings & Winter Vacation

As these holiday breaks are often times for family or social gatherings, we are reiterating the need to remain cautious and to limit your family's interactions and social gatherings. Please do not join other families for large indoor meals and gatherings. Please do not host sleepover guests, or permit your daughter to be hosted overnight by others.

We have received multiple inquiries about what will be permitted or restricted for winter vacation. We would be delighted if we could, at this time, offer clear insight or guidance. It is simply too early for any reasonable prediction. Winter vacation is still close to three months away and the Covid conditions around the country are changing on a daily basis. Unfortunately, New Jersey currently qualifies as a restricted state for other areas which certainly means it is better to stay closer to home. We expect that we will have a better sense as we get closer to winter break.

Air Travel Restrictions:

As per the Bergen County Joint Yeshiva Day School and High School Medical Guidelines, Ma'ayanot will now require that any student or staff member who travels by airplane does not come to classes on-campus until at least 14 days have passed. After any air travel, please contact Nurse Tali Feder to discuss the specifics of your trip and when your daughter will be allowed back on campus.

Travel from "hot spots"

As per the CDC and local state laws any student who travels to a current NJ "hot spot" must be quarantined for 14 days after their return. We will not accept "testing out" of the 14 day quarantine after returning from a "hot spot"; negative Covid test results are **not** a substitute for the 14 day quarantine after returning from a "hot spot." Additionally, quarantining while in the "hot spot" itself does not negate the requirement to quarantine for 14 days upon returning home. For the current listing of "hot spots" please see the link below.

<https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/travel-information/which-states-are-on-the-travel-advisory-list-are-there-travel-restrictions-to-or-from-new-jersey>

Semachot:

With the colder weather many have moved semachot indoors and it has been noted that some semachot have the potential to be super-spreader events. Please be aware that there still are legal limits to indoor gatherings, even religious ceremonies. Our school requirement is that the expectation must be that masking and social distancing are maintained at every indoor event. If your family/daughter participates in a large indoor gathering that does not adhere to these guidelines she should not attend school for 14 days after the event. For current NJDOH guidelines for safely gathering indoors please see the link below.

<https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/reopening-guidance-and-restrictions/how-can-people-safely-get-together-what-are-the-limits-for-indoor-and-outdoor-gatherings>