



# Roadmap to Reopening Elementary School FAQ

---



**YESHIVAH OF FLATBUSH**

August 2020 | Av 5780

# YOF Elementary School Roadmap to Reopening FAQ

## ***Who is coming to school and when?***

As the summer has progressed and the infection rate in New York City has vastly improved, we are preparing for a healthy and safe return for **all of our students** back into school.

Our plans are to provide a safe educational environment for all students and faculty. If a student is high risk, in quarantine, or showing symptoms that are of concern, they will be able to access their learning remotely.

## ***Who is advising the Yeshivah on processes to ensure the health and safety of students and faculty?***

In addition to CDC and state guidance, we hired an expert consultant group, Environmental Infection Prevention, and developed a medical task force to help guide us.

Environmental Infection Prevention is a group of leading experts in the field working with major for-profit companies including the local NY professional sports teams.

Additionally, the members of our medical task force have provided us with continued support during this time. Please see the names of our medical task force below:

### 1. Murray Jonas MD



- Internal Medicine/Infectious Disease
- Attending: Mount Sinai –Brooklyn
- 30+ years in practice

### 2. Jack Katri MD



- Internal Medicine Nephrology
- Attending New York Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, Mount Sinai - Brooklyn
- 11 years in practice

### 3. David Khaski MD



- Internal Medicine/Cardiology
- Clinical instructor Department of Medicine at NYU Grossman School of Medicine
- Hospital affiliation NYU Langone Medical Center, Mount Sinai Medical Center
- 12 years in practice

#### 4. Daniel Matalon MD



- Internal Medicine/Nephrology
- Hospital affiliation NYU Langone Medical Center, Mount Sinai Medical Center/Beth Israel, NYP Lower Manhattan Hospital
- Clinical Instructor, Department of Medicine at NYU Grossman School of Medicine
- 16 years in practice

#### 5. Judy Dayan Namer MD



- Pediatrics/Pediatric Gastroenterology
- Attending, Brooklyn Hospital
- Hospital Affiliation - Mount Sinai Medical Center
- 5 years in practice

#### 6. Joseph Tawil MD



- Cardiology/Internal Medicine
- Assistant professor of medicine
- Hospital Affiliation - Mount Sinai Medical Center
- 11 years in practice

### ***What health and safety provisions will the Yeshivah implement for the coming school year?***

With the guidance provided by both our medical advisory team and the state, our Elementary School has adopted the “cohort” model to minimize risk of COVID-19 spread and increase healthy and effective hygiene. The cohort model is designed to keep a group of students together as an isolated unit over the course of the day.

Our Early Childhood will implement the cohort model in our buildings.

Our Lower and Middle Schools will use the cohort model as well, with two additional provisions that are important to note:

1. **Masks:** Research and regulations show that the two most effective ways to protect ourselves and others are to practice social distancing and wear masks. Being that we will not be able to maintain six feet of distance at all times within our building, masks are a central and imperative element of our health and safety plan. All students in Lower and Middle School will be required to wear masks at all times when they are not sitting directly behind their desk barrier (which is described below). That means that any time students are out of their seats, walking to the bathroom, entering or exiting the building etc. masks will need to be worn. All adults will be required to wear masks at all times when not sitting directly behind the teacher barrier.
2. **Desk Barriers:** There will be individual student barriers made from clear polycarbonate that will be installed on every student desk to provide protection around students while they are sitting in class. The barriers can be treated as a replacement for the masks for the time that they are seated within them in their class cohorts.

3. **Air Filtration:** Our air filtration system is currently being upgraded to high efficiency Merv13 filtration throughout the building in order to reduce the spread of aerosolized COVID-19 particles.
4. **Hand hygiene:** All classrooms, hallways, common areas, and entrances have been outfitted with hand sanitizer dispensers. In addition, proper hand hygiene routines will be taught and practiced throughout the day.
5. **Sanitization:** Throughout the day, our maintenance staff will clean and sanitize high-touch surfaces and bathrooms. At the end of the day, the entire building will undergo a deep cleaning.
6. **Bathrooms:** In order to maintain social distancing as much as possible, bathrooms will be limited to two people at a time, and middle sinks will be disabled.
7. **Water Fountains:** While water fountains will be turned off, water bottle refilling will be available.
8. **Signage:** Signs will be posted throughout the building notifying students and staff of proper social distancing markers, one-directional stairwells, and health and hygiene protocols.

### ***What is the Yeshivah's learning plan for my child?***

All students will remain in their designated classroom for the duration of the school day. Our teachers will move from room to room to ensure that student cohorts can be maintained. All specialties will take place in the classroom and lunch will be delivered to the classroom for those who are on the lunch program. Students will not be allowed to share any food or snacks. A plan for designated break times both inside and outside of the classroom is being worked on and will be shared in subsequent communications.

If a student is immune-compromised, in quarantine or with observed symptoms and will need to remain at home, there will be an option to tune in remotely through our live webcams that will be set up to make these accommodations.



### ***What will Arrival and Dismissal look like this year?***

Every student and faculty member (along with anyone else entering the building) will need to go through a symptoms check which includes, but is not limited to, having their temperature taken. In order to best execute this plan in a safe and effective manner, arrival and dismissal will need to be staggered over a broader time frame at the beginning and end of the day. To maintain our health and safety protocols while doing our best to accommodate our families schedules, we will be assigning arrival and dismissal times by family for all Lower and Middle School students. Early Childhood arrival and dismissal will remain separate from Lower and Middle School. We will provide additional updates at a later date once we have more information regarding transportation.

### ***Will parents or visitors be allowed into the building?***

At this point, no parents or visitors will be allowed into the building. As we continue to monitor the situation, we will evaluate this policy with the guidance of our medical advisory team. All parent meetings and functions will be taking place digitally until otherwise communicated.

### ***When will the school year begin?***

We are placing great emphasis on our planning for the start of the school year, with a focus on the first week. Our students and teachers are going to be learning and implementing many new routines, protocols and norms that are imperative for us to provide face-to-face learning. With that said, we are designing a staggered start to the school year that is going to divide our students into three groupings each separated by two school days. The first group will be starting school on Tuesday, September 8th, the second group on Thursday, September 10th and the third and final group on Monday, September 14th. These are essential days for our students to be able to get their year off on the right foot and will therefore require mandatory attendance. We ask that all families ensure that their individual summer plans reflect these dates. The division of grades and assigned dates will be assigned in the coming weeks.

### ***What are your plans for Early Childhood if the school must transition to distance learning?***

Our Early Childhood educators worked tirelessly to create and implement developmentally appropriate lessons for our Atideinu 2 and Atideinu 3 students via Zoom once our buildings were closed down this past March. Still, we recognize the difficulty that many of those students had with the platform. As a result, the following will be the educational plan and the tuition structure for the coming year:

1. We anticipate school opening in September. If school does not open in person in September, we will delay the start of school (for Atideinu 2 and Atideinu 3 only) until we can open again. If we are forced to delay the start of the school year or to suspend



in-person instruction at any point before Sukkot, **tuition will be prorated based on how long school was closed.**

2. Assuming school begins in person as planned, tuition will remain the same. If school moves to remote learning after Sukkot, the Atideinu 2 and Atideinu 3 programs will continue remotely. If the remote learning extends for 30 consecutive calendar days, the Atideinu 2 and Atideinu 3 programs will be suspended and families will receive a daily pro-rated tuition credit toward this year's tuition until school resumes on campus, at which point the regular tuition will resume.

### ***What can we expect to hear about in the coming weeks?***

While we are excited to be sharing our plan for returning to school in September, we acknowledge there is much more to share. As we progress in our planning, we will continue to remain in close communication with you. Some of the areas that we will address in future communications:

- ***Transportation:*** We are still waiting for our local authorities to communicate the provisions and guidelines surrounding bussing and private transport.
- ***Support Services:*** We are exploring all angles of how we can best incorporate the wide range of services that our students rely upon while maintaining our health and safety protocols.



**YESHIVAH OF FLATBUSH  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

President  
**Mr. Abie J. Hidary**

Head of School  
**Rabbi Yahel Tsaidi**

Principal, Middle School  
**Rabbi Dr. David Hertzberg**

Director of Teaching and Learning/  
Assistant Principal, General Studies  
**Rabbi Dr. David Saltzman**

Director of Campus Life  
**Mrs. Bethany Strulowitz**

Executive Director  
**Rabbi Dr. Jeffrey Rothman**

Principal, General Studies  
**Mr. Robert Berkman**

Assistant Principal, Judaic Studies, Lower  
School  
**Mrs. Chani Gratzman**

Director, Early Childhood  
**Ms. Debbie Levine Greenbaum**