



# "ROADMAP TO REOPENING"

UPDATED AUGUST 2020



**YESHIVAH OF FLATBUSH**  
Joel Braverman High School

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## INTRODUCTION

In June 2020, the Yeshivah of Flatbush released our Roadmap to Reopening to inform our stakeholders about our plans for returning to school this Fall. Since that time, much has changed and we are now able to offer an update of that plan as it pertains to our Joel Braverman High School. This document details our updated plan as of August 2020. This document is intended to be concise and therefore may not answer every question you may have.

After extensive research and planning - including consultations with medical experts, government and public health officials, rabbinical leaders, faculty members, peer schools, lay leaders, parent feedback groups, and student representatives - we are excited to be able to present to you an updated plan for the upcoming school year.

The Covid-19 pandemic presents great challenges to the type of educational experience we are used to providing: the virus transmits best in environments where many people congregate in tight indoor spaces. In order to reduce the risk of spread of the disease, we must take many steps that will alter the school experience we are used to. Within these constraints, we will do all we can so that our students will have the fullest possible school experience including the full offering of high-level and elective offerings our Yeshivah is renown for. Our plan is a balanced one: we maintain the highest levels of health and safety and our students receive substantially the same level of education as they would have if there were no pandemic. As will be explained, part of our ability to provide that school experience will include a phase-in period in which all of our stakeholders adjust to the changes.

As a community, we must all commit to the guidelines that will make a safe school experience, even if some of the protocols seem difficult, as they ensure the health and well-being of our entire community. It is our expectation that students, parents and faculty support and practice the expected behaviors, without exception.

**“A DETERMINED COMEBACK WILL  
OVERCOME ANY SETBACK”**

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# WHO IS ADVISING THE YESHIVAH 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:



**Murray Jonas MD**

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



**Jack Katri MD**

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



**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



**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



**Judy Dayan Namer MD**

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



**Joseph Tawil MD**

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

# MAXIMIZING TIME IN-PERSON

## 4+1 MODEL

Following New York State guidelines and the advice of our Medical Advisory Board, we developed our 4+1 school model, which we anticipate will be the primary mode of school until January, at least. In this model, students will be in our school building 4 days and have an additional day of structured remote learning each week. Our building allows us to accommodate safely three grades at one time. That means that each grade will have one day a week in which they have a full-day of structured remote learning - a combination of online classes and guided assignments.

Additionally, on rotating Fridays, each grade will have a special pre-Shabbat program at a nearby location. The following table gives an idea of what that will look like.

WEEK 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9th Grade	In School Learning	In School Learning	In School Learning	Remote Learning	In School Learning
10th Grade	In School Learning	In School Learning	Remote Learning	In School Learning	In School Learning
11th Grade	In School Learning	Remote Learning	In School Learning	In School Learning	In School Learning
12th Grade	Remote Learning	In School Learning	In School Learning	In School Learning	Special Program

WEEK 2	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9th Grade	Remote Learning	In School Learning	In School Learning	In School Learning	Special Program
10th Grade	In School Learning	In School Learning	In School Learning	Remote Learning	In School Learning
11th Grade	In School Learning	In School Learning	Remote Learning	In School Learning	In School Learning
12th Grade	In School Learning	Remote Learning	In School Learning	In School Learning	In School Learning

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# STRUCTURED REMOTE LEARNING

Our faculty has trained extensively over the summer to grow from the Distance Learning experience we had in the Spring 2020 semester. We are prepared to provide an even better experience in the coming year which will be enhanced through the training and preparation our staff has undertaken, as well as the fact that it will be interspersed into in-person learning (which was not the case in the Spring). Additionally, our Guidance Department is better equipped to support students who struggle with this mode of learning.

If the need arises, we are prepared to conduct school completely through structured remote learning.

We recognize that some families will not be comfortable sending their students to school for in-person learning. Should the need arise, we will facilitate streaming into our in-person classes.



## PHASE-IN SCHEDULE

Because many of the necessary policies and protocols will require a great deal of adjustment and getting used to, we will begin school in September in an “Almost There” mode. During these few weeks (likely until Sukkot), we will have manageable time periods to adjust to wearing masks, new arrival procedures, and social distancing norms without having to deal with the complications of lunch time. During this mode, we will only be having two grades in our facility at a time for half of a school day. There would be no lunch in school and students not in the building would have structured remote learning. See the following table.

WEEK 1		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9th/10th Grade	Morning	In School Learning	Structured Remote Learning	In School Learning	Structured Remote Learning	In School Learning
	Afternoon	Structured Remote Learning	In School Learning	Structured Remote Learning	In School Learning	
11th/12th Grade	Morning	Structured Remote Learning	In School Learning	Structured Remote Learning	In School Learning	Structured Remote Learning
	Afternoon	In School Learning	Structured Remote Learning	In School Learning	Structured Remote Learning	

WEEK 2		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9th/10th Grade	Morning	Structured Remote Learning	In School Learning	Structured Remote Learning	In School Learning	Structured Remote Learning
	Afternoon	In School Learning	Structured Remote Learning	In School Learning	Structured Remote Learning	
11th/12th Grade	Morning	In School Learning	Structured Remote Learning	In School Learning	Structured Remote Learning	In School Learning
	Afternoon	Structured Remote Learning	In School Learning	Structured Remote Learning	In School Learning	

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## REVISED PROTOCOLS AND POLICIES

In order to facilitate this level of in-person experience, we will be implementing a series of significant policies, protocols and adjustments.

### PROTECTING AGAINST INFECTION

A key component necessary in order to protect our population is the local **rate of infection**. If the rate of infection is low, it is far less likely that members of our school community will have the disease and transmit it to another person. Therefore, we will be carefully monitoring the rates as maintained by the local health departments and the State. Governor Andrew Cuomo has announced that he will close all NY schools if the infection rate reaches 9%. Currently, it is at around 1%.

The most significant step any individual can take to protect oneself from infection or from passing on infection to others is to wear an appropriate **face covering**. We are therefore implementing a strict face-covering policy. At all times, everyone in our building must wear a mask that covers both mouth and nose. The only exception to this rule (explained below) is for the purpose of eating.

Our classrooms will have transparent **barriers** that will separate students from one another and a larger transparent barrier that will separate the teacher from the class.

Class **period lengths** will be 35 minutes with 5 minutes of time between classes. As much as possible, our scheduling will limit the movement of students between rooms.

### FACILITIES UPGRADES

**Sanitizing and hygiene products** will be in abundance around our facility for frequent hand cleansing and surface wiping. Students and staff will be instructed to periodically utilize these products.

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**Air filtering** in our building will be upgraded to meet the current recommended best practices.

Our **restrooms** will be sanitized constantly to reduce as much as possible the risk of infection. Restrooms will have a two-person occupancy limit.

Our students and staff will be expected to maintain appropriate social distancing protocols in **common areas** such as hallways, stairways and other common spaces. Signage and markings will aid in this endeavor.

Students will each have a **locker** in which they may store personal belongings including, coats, books, tefillin, etc. They must take care not to congregate around locker spaces.

## **SAFE SCHOOL ENTRY**

Before entry to school each morning, students and staff will be required to go through a **screening process**. This will include a questionnaire to be answered before arrival and a temperature check before entry into the building.

## **FOOD**

Students will eat breakfast in their first period classrooms. We will provide water bottles, breakfast bars and bagged fruits/vegetables. The cafe will be open with pre-order grab-and-go options. Lunch times will be staggered so as no more than one grade will have lunch at one time. We will provide ample space for students to eat while maintaining social distancing requirements.

## **POSITIVE TESTS**

In the event that a member of our school tests positive for Covid-19, that member will be held back from in-school programs until the person has appropriate medical clearance. We will follow the advice of the Departments of Health and our Medical Advisory Panel. Although we will deal with matters on a case-by-case basis, it is our understanding that a positive test by one member of the school community does not necessitate quarantine for other members of the school.

## PROGRAMMING

**Tefillah** is an essential part of the Yeshivah experience and we will have tefillah, complying with appropriate distancing and other health guidelines.

Our **Guidance**, **College Guidance** and **Pathfinders** departments will all be available for our students and are uniquely prepared to inspire, challenge and support them.

**Extracurricular Activities** are an integral component of the YOFJBHS experience. As much as possible, within the guidelines provided by the State and our medical advisory board, we will continue our robust offerings. Athletics will be in accordance with our respective leagues. Current thinking has spring sports, which are predominantly outdoors, taking place in the fall and the fall sports delayed until the spring. Academic, Chesed, dramatic and musical programs will be arranged with appropriate distancing measures. We will not have Seminars this school year.

## FLEXIBILITY

One of the enduring lessons learned in the situation which has been thrust upon us is that circumstances often change substantially, quickly and with little to no notice. In the past five months, we have had to redesign our entire school experience multiple times, sometimes in a week or less. While we feel we have plotted a course which takes into account many conceivable contingencies, we are humble enough to know that we simply don't know what the future will bring. We will continue to assess our environment and our plans, listening to our stakeholders and being open to revising or completely reworking our plans as the situation calls for it.



**YESHIVAH OF FLATBUSH**  
Joel Braverman High School

**Rabbi Dr. Raymond Harari**  
*Head of School*

**Ms. Sari Bacon**  
*Associate Principal*

**Rabbi Dr. David Eliach**  
*Principal Emeritus*

**Mr. Abie J. Hidary**  
*President*

**Rabbi Joseph J. Beyda**  
*Principal*

**Ms. Esther Hidary**  
*Assistant Principal/Director of Admissions*

**Rabbi David M. Galpert**  
*Assistant Administrator*

**Rabbi Dr. Jeffrey Rothman**  
*Executive Director*