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Religious School
of
Har Zion Temple

Guidance for Reopening After
COVID-19 Closures

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JFGRS Guidance for Reopening

The reopening guidelines for the Religious School of Har Zion Temple are intended to ensure the health and safety of the staff, children, and families. Please be aware that these guidelines are fluid and are subject to change depending on the needs of our community and as we receive new or updated guidance from Local, State, and Federal agencies.

Har Zion Temple is actively working with our local health officials in creating a set of best practices to help protect all members of our community, while also providing our children a safe, welcoming, and engaging atmosphere.

Specific guidelines for reopening procedures are organized into the following categories.

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Overview of Basic Social Distancing Practices

Our school will follow the practices below regarding Social Distancing:

- We will encourage social distancing of 6 feet apart from children and staff.
- Physical distancing of desks and tables to be spaced 6 feet apart will be implemented as much as possible.
- As much as possible classes will consist of the same group of children and staff each day. Class sizes will be limited. If a teacher becomes ill or is otherwise unable to work with a specific class on a given day, we will assign a different staff member, trained in all of our policies and procedures, to assist in that class. In all situations, we will make every reasonable effort to avoid staff members moving among different groups of children.
- Weather permitting, children will be using outdoor spaces for learning.
- For the foreseeable future, our school will not hold any in-person school-wide or multiple-class special events such as holiday celebrations, performances, and activities. We will have virtual options for our children to participate as a school community in some programs.

Procedures for Arrival and Dismissal

School staff will utilize the following procedures each day for the arrival and dismissal of children.

- Students will arrive/ dismiss from the school lobby only.
- If feasible, we recommend that older individuals (e.g., grandparents) or those with serious underlying medical conditions not drop off or pick up children, as they are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.
- Although we strive to have an “open door policy” for our families, in our effort to protect the school environment, for the foreseeable future, **a child’s parents or caregivers will NOT be permitted to enter the school wing, absent extraordinary circumstances to be determined by the school Director or designee.** For early dismissal pick up, a parent may enter the lobby to request a child be called down. Parents are not permitted to go to classrooms.

Arrival

1. **Parents should complete the Remini Questionnaire prior to arriving in the parking lot.**
2. Upon arriving at the designated entrance, parents/caregivers will drop their children at the canopy entrance to the school lobby.
3. Children will enter the building and be checked in. If they do not have a questionnaire completed, completion will be required at that time. The questions to be answered are:
 - Are you or anyone in your household experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms?
(Fever/chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficult breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea)
 - Has anyone in your household been exposed to someone with confirmed or presumed COVID-19?
 - Is anyone in your household waiting on the results of a COVID-19 test?

If a parent/caregiver indicates “**yes**” to **any** of the above questions, the child(ren) will not be permitted to enter the school building. Return to school will follow the guidelines outlined in the section entitled *Illnesses*.

4. Hand hygiene stations will be provided at each arrival location for children to use to sanitize their hands before entering the building. A staff member will assist in this process to ensure that the child(ren) sanitize their hands appropriately.
5. After a child has been signed in and directed to their respective classroom by a staff member they will be encouraged to wash their hands.

Dismissal

1. Parents/caregivers will wait in their vehicles, in a carpool line by their designated departure location. Parents will display their name on the card on their dashboard so that the carpool coordinator can see it easily.
2. The carpool coordinator will text the names inside to the teachers, who will dismiss children as they are called. Children will proceed directly to their car from the designated exit.

Masks and Personal Protective Equipment for Staff & Children

- All staff will cover their mouth and nose with a minimally 2-ply face mask or cloth face covering.
- Staff will be trained on how to properly wear and dispose of personal protective equipment, including masks, face shields, gloves, and gowns.
- Children must wear a parent-provided face mask or cloth face covering which must be a minimum of 2 layers and must cover the nose and mouth without any air gaps.
 - If a child is fidgeting with the face mask/covering, we will have the child wash his/her hands and encourage them to keep their mask on.

- Priority will be placed on having children wear masks indoors and when children are more likely to be within 6 feet of other children or staff. We will make every attempt to have your child wear their mask for the safety of other children and staff.
- Parents are asked to send with their child each day 2 masks or cloth face coverings. If a mask or cloth face covering becomes soiled or wet, we will have the child change into the clean, dry back-up.
- The school has procured disposable child size face masks in an instance where all of a child's parent provided face masks / cloth face coverings become soiled and are unable to be worn in a given day.

Illnesses

Illness/Stay Home Policy

- Any individual (child or staff member) who has a fever of 100°F (37.78°C) or above, or who demonstrates other signs of illness, will not be admitted into the building. We ask that parents partner with us to be on alert at home for signs of illness in their child, or anyone else in their household, and to report that information to the Pandemic Coordinator, so that we can appropriately assess the situation and determine how best to keep all of our children, families and staff members safe and healthy. **Children and staff with signs of illness should not attend school.**
- School will communicate with parents/caregivers the need to keep children home when they are sick. Parents/caregivers may not send a child to school medicated for the purposes of keeping a fever down.
- School will communicate with staff the need to stay home when they are sick. Staff are strongly encouraged to stay in touch with the School Director if and when they begin to feel sick or exhibit symptoms of fever, cough, and/or shortness of breath.
- For children who have underlying health conditions, staff will talk with their parents about concerns or challenges the child may experience upon returning to school.
- Any child, staff member, or service provider who is or has experienced one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing; or two of the following symptoms: fever (or being treated with Ibuprofen (Advil) or acetaminophen (Tylenol)), chills, fatigue, myalgia (muscle pain), headache, sore throat, congestion, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or new loss of taste or smell must meet the following criteria before returning to school:
 - A signed doctor's note indicating that the person is cleared to return to school; **OR**
 - No fever or other respiratory or gastrointestinal symptoms for at least 24 hours **AND**
 - If it is determined that the person had Covid-19 (confirmed or probable), at least 10 days must pass since symptoms first appeared.
- If a person's symptoms do not meet the above criteria, they can return to school once they have been symptom free (e.g., no fever without the use of fever reducing medication) for at least 24 hours.
- If a student has any one of the following symptoms, testing for COVID-19 may be warranted: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing. If a student has any two of the following symptoms testing for COVID-19 may be warranted: fever (or

being treated with Ibuprofen (Advil) or acetaminophen (Tylenol), chills, fatigue, myalgia (muscle pain), headache, sore throat, congestion, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or new loss of taste or smell. We will allow the child's pediatrician to determine whether COVID-19 testing should be part of a child's diagnostic process.

- Any child, staff member, or service provider who is diagnosed with COVID-19 must tell the school staff. School staff will maintain confidentiality of the child or staff member except as required by local, state, and/or federal reporting requirements.
 - The school will report the case to the Montgomery County Office of Public Health (610-278-5117).
 - The classroom of any child who becomes ill during the school day will be emptied, disinfected after 24 hours have passed, and not used until then. The children and staff will be relocated, if possible, to a room in the building, remaining separated from the other classrooms. It is possible that classrooms, which have a child placed in isolation, may be closed for up to one full school day if a separate space cannot be accommodated.
 - All children and staff in the same classroom or who have come in close contact with (defined as greater than 15 minutes of interaction less than 6 feet away) a Covid-19 infected individual should quarantine at home for 14 days from the time last contact occurred.
 - The school will anonymously report the case to the parents of the children and staff in the classroom of the affected child or staff member, as well as to the parents of the children and staff in the classroom of a sibling of the affected child or staff member.
 - If any student or household member of student, staff or household member of staff, or service provider or household member of service provider has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 it is required that the student, staff, or service provider stay home and self quarantine. The child, staff, or service provider may not return to school and should self-quarantine for 14 days AFTER the person in the household is released from isolation or 14 days from the last interaction with the confirmed COVID-19 infected household member who is under isolation.
- If any student or household member of the student, staff or household member of the staff, or service provider or household member of the service provider is in the process of being tested for COVID-19 due to symptoms or known exposure, that student, staff member or service provider must remain at home until a negative test result is obtained. (A PCR COVID-19 test is recommended.) If the test result is positive, please see above.

- If any student or household member of the student, staff or household member of the staff, or service provider or household member of the service provider has been tested for COVID-19 due to symptoms or known exposure, please report the results as soon as you receive them to the School Staff so that we can determine the steps that need to be taken.
- Any siblings of the child who is being quarantined should also be quarantined from their class for at least as long as the child in the original class.
- If any student or household member of student, staff or household member of staff, or service provider or household member of service provider has traveled outside the country, on a cruise ship, or to one of the states identified by the Pennsylvania Department of Health as having high numbers of COVID-19, the student, staff, or service provider will not be permitted to enter the school until 14 days have passed from the day that the student or household member of student, staff or household member of staff, or service provider or household member of service provider returned home and no symptoms of COVID-19 have occurred. If symptoms occur, students, staff, and service providers must follow the guidelines outlined above for return to school.

Child Illnesses During the School Day

- Any child who begins to exhibit symptoms of illness during the school day will be brought to an isolation space and the parent/caregiver will be called. The parent/caregiver must pick up the child as soon as possible.
- The isolation space will be an office or classroom space separated from the other students and staff in the building. The child will be supervised by the Pandemic Coordinator and/or a designee throughout their time in the isolation space.
 - Any child over age 2 will wear a mask in the isolation space.
 - The Pandemic Coordinator and/or a designee is required to maintain 6 feet or more from the student to the greatest extent possible.
 - The isolation space will be separated by dividers to accommodate more than one student being required to be isolated at any given time.
- Any siblings of the child who is exhibiting symptoms should also be isolated from their classrooms and must be picked up by the parent/caregiver.

Staff Illnesses During the School Day

- Any staff member who begins to exhibit symptoms during the school day will go home.
- In the event of staff absences, the school will ensure that appropriate coverage is in place in each classroom.

Healthy Hand Hygiene

1. Staff will wash their hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (if a sink is not readily available) at the following times:
 - Arrival;
 - After breaks;
 - Before and after preparing food and drinks;
 - Before and after eating or handling food,
 - Before and after using the bathroom
 - After playing outdoors
 - After handling garbage;
 - After coming in contact with any bodily fluids (from themselves or a child);
 - NOTE: Children may bring snacks from home, and at times food may be served for special occasions. JFGRS will provide snacks on Tuesday afternoons. When eating snacks without masks on, children must be properly distanced. Ideally they will have a snack outside.
2. Children will wash their hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (if a sink is not available) at the following times:
 - Immediately upon arriving at school;
 - Before and after eating or handling food;
 - Before and after using the bathroom;
 - After coming in contact with bodily fluids;
 - After playing outdoors

General Hygiene Practices

It is expected that staff and students in the JFGRS will be able to use generally accepted hygiene practices such as covering coughs and sneezes and not touching other people or their things.

Educational Spaces

Classrooms

- Each class cohort will have a designated classroom that will not be used by other cohorts on their day. The rooms will be sanitized between uses.
 - At times large group spaces may be used, that include:
 - Berkowitz Family Auditorium
 - Youth Lounge
 - Gorson, Fishman Tobin Auditoriums
- The maximum number of students in each classroom will be limited to preserve social distancing.

Snacks and program food

- Children may bring peanut free and tree nut free, dairy/parve Kosher snacks to school in a labeled disposable bag each day.
- School will offer snacks upon arrival on Tuesdays. Children will be permitted to take the snack to their classroom and eat unmasked if seated in a socially distanced manner.
- Staff will space the seats around the table to stagger children so that they are not sitting directly across from one another at the table.
- When safety permits, the school may provide certain foods for programmatic purposes. A message will be sent home prior to such an activity and food will comply with nut safety (and kashrut).
- Staff will wash their hands before and after handling of any food items.
- Children will wash hands before and after eating.
- School will continue to follow all applicable federal, state, and local regulations to safe handling and storage of food.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Procedures for Classrooms, Outdoor Spaces and Other Facility Locations

- After each use of a classroom, and during school as necessary, staff will use disinfectant wipes to wipe down commonly touched surfaces, including door knobs, light switches, railings, tabletops, and chairs.
- In between classes using common spaces (Berkowitz, Youth Lounge, Indoor Playground) maintenance will disinfect the space.
- At the end of each school day, cleaning staff will clean all classrooms, bathrooms, and common spaces using the following protocol:
 - Take out the trash
 - Vacuum carpets
 - Mop and disinfect floors
 - Clean and disinfect surfaces, including tables, chairs, counters, sinks, toilets, doorknobs, light switches, and railings.
- Outdoor railings and door handles will be cleaned daily. Other outdoor playground spaces will be cleaned at least daily and between each usage.
- Cleaning staff will use an EPA-registered, fragrance-free disinfectant.
 - All cleaning products will be used in accordance with the product label for disinfecting surfaces.
- Cleaning staff will wear masks and gloves when cleaning, and should thoroughly wash their hands after cleaning.
- Cleaning staff will clean bathrooms inside classrooms while the class is outside of the room.