



## Cheder Chabad of Monsey 20-21 School-Year Reopening Plan

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Mrs. Mushky Klyne  
*Middle School Curriculum Coordinator*

### **Pre-School**

Mrs. Chaya Light  
*Early Childhood Director*

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Rabbi Chaim D. Kagan  
Rabbi Zalman L. Markowitz  
Rabbi Sender Lustig  
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July 28, 2020

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.

Our school encompasses Preschool through Grade 8 in 3 buildings.

Building #1 is our Girls Elementary school and some preschool classes at 16,000 SF, Building #2 is our Preschool at 2,000 SF, and Building #3 is our Boys' school at 9,600 SF.

We have prepared and planned for student re-entry to school and an alternative plan (similar to the distance learning online program used from March until June 2020), either for short-term or long-term distance learning as a result of a local incident or communitywide pandemic changes.

This proposal was formulated based on current knowledge from reports, medical advice, 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 a considerable time and can easily travel on air currents. These factors are the basis of our plan to open the school in a safe manner. We intend on 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 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



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hygiene, and staying at home when feeling sick. Signs will be posted and distributed throughout the school.

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 throughout the day.

- We will be installing desk sneeze guards on all teachers and students' desks.
- 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.
- 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 daily 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 of 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 his/her mask, the student 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.



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- 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.
- 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 contacting 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 school.

## 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 with community health status changes and new protocols.

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