



YESHIVA SHAAREI TORAH NY STATE RE-OPENING PLAN

91 WEST CARLTON ROAD

SUFFERN, NY 10901

845-352-3431

OFFICE@YST.EDU

Pursuant to the NY State Department of Health's *Interim Guidance for In-Person Instruction at Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency*, the following is Yeshiva Shaarei Torah's plan for reopening and operating during the COVID-19 public health emergency. We affirm that we have read the state guidelines and are familiar with the requirements.

Our plan meets the standards set forth in the guidance and reflects engagement with school stakeholders and community members, including but not limited to administrators, faculty, staff, students, parents/legal guardians of students, local health departments, local health care providers, and affiliated organizations. Specifically, our plan covers: (1) reopening of school facilities for in-person instruction, (2) monitoring of health conditions, (3) containment of potential transmission of the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19), and (4) closure of school facilities and in-person instruction, if necessitated by widespread virus transmission.

I. Reopening of School Facilities for In-Person Instruction

Capacity: Students and faculty who have tested negative for Covid-19 within five days of prior to the start of the school term may return. We will phase in our students by having the college program begin classes on August 23 and the high school will resume on September 1.

Social Distancing: All students, faculty and staff will maintain appropriate social distancing, which means six feet of space in all directions between individuals or use of appropriate physical barriers between individuals. Students, faculty, and staff will use face coverings and PPE when not social distancing.

PPE and Face Coverings: Face coverings will be used at all times. PPE and face masks will be used when social distancing is not possible. Students, faculty, staff, and other individuals will be directed to use facemasks and appropriate signage will be placed throughout the building.

Vulnerable Populations: To the greatest extent possible, Yeshiva Shaarei Torah will make accommodations for vulnerable students to allow them to participate in educational activities which may include extra PPE or social distancing for the particular student or teleconferencing and/or distance learning, when appropriate. Separate dormitory accommodations will be provided for vulnerable students. Vulnerable faculty and staff will be encouraged to wear extra PPE such as gloves and/or face shields as appropriate.

Extracurricular Activities: Extracurricular activity will be minimized and when they will occur, proper social distancing and/or face coverings will be required.

Field Trips & Visitors: Field trips will generally be limited. When field trips will occur, students, faculty and staff will be asked to social distance and/or wear appropriate face coverings as the situation dictates. Visitors will be limited, and facemasks will be required of visitors as well as temperature checks. Visitors will be required to check in at the office for screening and temperature check.

Transportation: If and when the local school district begins to provide transportation to and from school, all students will be required to wear acceptable face coverings and follow school district transportation guidelines.

Food Services: Meals will be served in the dining room in shifts. Appropriate social distancing will be maintained and measures to protect students with food allergies when providing meals in spaces outside the cafeteria, including appropriate staff training, will be maintained. Students will perform hand hygiene before and after eating by washing their hands. Appropriate hand hygiene will be promoted through signage and teacher reinforcement and the sharing of food and beverages will be discouraged through the same means. Additionally, cleaning and disinfection prior to the next group of students arriving for meals, will take place.

Emergency Drills: Fire (evacuation) Drills and Lockdown Drills will be conducted without exceptions.”

Dormitory: The school dorm is spacious and rooms conform to social distancing protocols. There will be enhanced cleaning and disinfection twice each day. Appropriate social distancing, use of acceptable face coverings in common areas will be required. Visitors and non-essential gatherings will be restricted. Special housing considerations for students who are immunocompromised or who have an underlying health conditions will be provided. Students requiring quarantine should ideally not be in the dormitory. In cases where students are unable to return home or find other accommodation, we will provide separate living spaces for persons undergoing isolation or quarantine, and a modified set of rules for these students to follow will be enforced.

Screening: All students and faculty must be tested and provide proof of a negative Covid test within five days prior to returning to school. Student and faculty will be screened for symptoms and exposure daily. Students with recent international or long-distance travel, or travel from designated states with widespread community transmission of COVID-19, as identified through the New York State Travel Advisory must quarantine appropriately prior to returning. Isolation or quarantine of individuals residing on school grounds, if necessary, will be carried out in consultation with the local health department, which will specify where individuals will be residing and the support system that will be implemented to meet daily needs.

Students who test positive: Yeshiva Shaarei Torah will take measures to monitor and provide medical care and other health services to students who test positive and require in-school isolation, need more advanced medical care, or who are awaiting test results. Said students will be housed in the separate guest apartments that have their own bathroom facilities and meals will be delivered directly.

Mental Health, Behavioral, and Emotional Support Services and Programs: Teachers will be trained to observe for signs of mental, behavioral, and emotional issues with students. Such students will be referred for evaluation and proper next steps will be taken. The referral mental health agency will be Achieve Behavioral Health.

Communication: There will be timely emails/texts sent out to parents and staff with updates and applicable instructions. Teachers and students will be trained in proper social distancing and hygiene protocol. Appropriate signage will be placed throughout the building and informational material will be kept for distribution in the main office.”

Rabbi Mordechai Wolmark will be the designated coordinator and the main point of contact upon the identification of positive COVID-19 cases and will be responsible for subsequent communication. He will be responsible for answering questions from students, faculty, staff, and parents or legal guardians of students regarding the COVID-19 public health emergency and the plan implemented by the school.

Continuity of Learning: Our school will ensure learning will continue throughout the coming school year. Primarily, we will prepare for in-person instruction and will allow for remote instruction, such as teleconferencing, if the need occurs. Hybrids of the two will also be made available when appropriate. There will be clear opportunities for instruction that are accessible to students. Students and their families/caregivers can contact the school and teachers with questions about their instruction and/or technology via the main office number.”

Attendance Taking: The school will collect and report daily teacher/student engagement or attendance, regardless of instructional setting via email and/or direct contact between the teacher, principals and office.

II. MONITORING OF HEALTH CONDITIONS

The facilities have been properly disinfected and appropriate signage and disinfection stations have been set up throughout the building. Furthermore, we have procured the proper amount of PPE and face coverings for our students, faculty, and staff.

Hygiene Cleaning and Disinfection: School wide cleaning and disinfection will take place on a daily basis as advised by the CDC, with cleaning products approved by the CDC for use against COVID-19.”

Monitoring Health Conditions at School

Screening: Health screenings, including temperature checks, of students, faculty, staff and, where applicable, contractors, vendors, and visitors will take place daily. Individuals will have their temperature checked each day. If an individual presents a temperature of greater than 100.0°F, the individual will be denied entry into the facility or sent directly to a dedicated area prior to being picked up or otherwise sent home. High school students will be required to have their temperature taken prior to leaving home and must bring a note signed by a parent to confirm this protocol was followed.

We will use a daily screening questionnaire for faculty and staff reporting to school and periodically use a questionnaire for students. Remote health screening (e. by electronic survey,

digital application, or telephone, which may involve the parent/legal guardian) before an individual reports to school, will be implemented if and when appropriate. “

Testing Protocols: Staff and students must undergo testing for COVID-19 before returning to school, and in consultation with local health department officials, when needed. Symptomatic individuals, close contacts of COVID-19 suspected or confirmed individuals and individuals with recent international travel or travel within a state with widespread transmission of COVID-19 as designated through the New York State Travel Advisory will be encouraged to be tested by their primary care physician before such individuals return to school.

Testing Responsibility: The local health department will be the community organization primarily responsible for referring, sourcing, and administering testing.

Early Warning Signs: We will follow the metrics signs established by state and local health departments that will serve as early warning signs that positive COVID-19 cases may be increasing beyond an acceptable level.

Communication: There will be timely emails/texts sent out to parents and staff with updates and applicable instructions. Teachers and students will be trained in proper social distancing and hygiene protocol. Appropriate signage will be placed throughout the building and informational material will be kept for distribution in the main office.”

Rabbi Mordechai Wolmark will be the designated coordinator and the main point of contact upon the identification of positive COVID-19 cases and will be responsible for subsequent communication. He will be responsible for answering questions from students, faculty, staff, and parents or legal guardians of students regarding the COVID-19 public health emergency and the plan implemented by the school.

III. CONTAINMENT: RESPONSE AND PREVENTION

School Health Offices and Isolation: If an individual develops symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day, he/she will be isolated from everyone and, in the case of a student, arrangements for the student to be taken home quickly will be made. If said student cannot go home, appropriate isolation facilities are available on campus.

Collection: Parents or guardians will be contacted and told to pick up their child. They will also be instructed that the child see a health care provider.

Infected Individuals: Individuals that have tested positive for Covid-19 will be allowed to return to in person learning after being cleared to do so by a physician. This will be conducted in coordination with the local health department.

Exposed Individuals: Individuals who were exposed to the virus must complete quarantine before returning to in-person learning. This will be conducted in coordination with the local health department.

Hygiene, Cleaning, and Disinfection: We will adhere to hygiene, cleaning, and disinfection guidance set forth by DOH and CDC.

Contact Tracing: We will support our local health department in contact tracing efforts.

Communication: We will share protocols and safety measures with all relevant parties, including but not limited to, emails, newsletters, mailers etc.

IV. CLOSURE AND CONTINGENCY PLANS

Closure triggers: In consultation with state and our local health department, we will identify conditions that may warrant reducing in-person education or closing of the school, and we will plan for an orderly closure with them.

Operational Activity: Operations will be decreased and ceased via phases and milestones as the specific situation arises and determinations as to appropriate closures or partial closers will be done in consultation with the local health department.

Communication: All changes and updates will be communicated to staff and parents and all other relevant individuals via emails, mailers, posters, signage, text messages, phone calls and our school website, as appropriate.

Continuity of Learning: Our school will ensure learning will continue throughout the coming school year. Primarily, we will prepare for in-person instruction and will allow for remote instruction, such as teleconferencing, if the need occurs. Hybrids of the two will also be made available when appropriate. There will be clear opportunities for instruction that are accessible to students. Students and their families/caregivers can contact the school and teachers with questions about their instruction and/or technology via the main office number.”