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Mill Basin Yeshiva Academy **COVID-19 Reopening Plan** **2020-2021**

Monitoring health conditions

MBYA Plans to safely reopen our facilities:

All MBYA facilities have been properly disinfected, wiped down and appropriate signage has been placed throughout the school building. Disinfection stations have been set up as well for easy access throughout the school day. Furthermore, we have procured the proper amount of PPE and face coverings for all of our faculty, and staff. Parents will be required to purchase face coverings for their children prior to starting of the school year. If a student forgets or misplaces their face covering, the school will provide them with one.

Our school will ensure that students and staff are protected by requiring at least one of the following or a combination of all, depending on location: Social distancing of Six Feet, Barriers, and Face Masks/Coverings.

Students will be required to wear face masks/coverings when students are in motion (e.g. walking to the bathroom, at recess, and in the hallways). Students will be allowed to remove masks for meals and we will allow students to take mask breaks as long as they maintain social distancing.

Students, teachers, and the staff desks will be outfitted with polycarbonate barriers for the safety of students and teachers. The physical barriers between individuals will not adversely affect air flow, heating, cooling, or ventilation, or otherwise present a health or safety risk. Teachers will wear masks, face shields and teach behind a standing desk with a polycarbonate, see-through-barrier. Assigned seating will be required to facilitate contact tracing. In junior high school, students will remain in their homeroom classroom and the teachers will rotate. Early childhood education will reduce class sizes to 15 children per class for all grades. Each grade will be in their classrooms with their teachers during the school day.

Hygiene Cleaning and Disinfection:

Protocols and procedures for school-wide cleaning.

School wide meticulous cleaning and disinfection will take place on a daily basis with our trained cleaning staff and special cleaning products specifically approved by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the CDC for use against COVID-19.

BATHROOMS/HALLWAYS

- We have increased our maintenance staff to ensure constant cleaning of the bathrooms and frequently touched surfaces. Socializing will not take place in bathrooms/hallways. Everyone is expected to wash hands before returning to class.

HAND HYGIENE

- Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and common areas, and will be used upon entering or leaving classrooms.
- Hand sanitizer will be used upon exiting the bus/car and entering the building each morning.
- Students will wash hands thoroughly washed with soap and water, or cleansed with sanitizer before and after lunch time.

HVAC

- We will be upgrading our HVAC system to allow for maximal air coming in from outside. This upgraded system will dramatically improve the air circulation.

Monitoring Health Conditions at School Screening:

Protocols for mandatory health screenings, including temperature scans, Health forms.

Social Distancing and Mask Requirements

All students are required to wear a mask and should maintain appropriate social distancing. The only exception to the mask requirement is that students whose physical or mental health would be impaired by wearing a mask are not required to do so, but must maintain social distancing of 6 feet from other individuals on the bus.

Upon arrival to school, health screenings, including temperature scans, visual and verbal screenings of students, faculty, staff and, where applicable, contractors, vendors, and visitors will take place daily. Any non essential visitors will NOT be allowed in the building, absolutely no exceptions. 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.

All students must have up-to-date health forms, including emergency contacts and contact information for their pediatrician.

Testing/Immunization Protocols:

Process for the provision or referral of diagnostic testing.

Staff and students will be referred to their primary care physicians for diagnostic testing for COVID-19, 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.

In addition to our standard, prior immunization policy, all students under six years of age are required to get the flu shot prior to October 1, 2020, unless documented as medically contra-indicated.

Testing Responsibility: Identification of who in the community is responsible for referring, sourcing, and administering testing.

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

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

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.

Guidelines shared with parents:

WHEN TO STAY HOME

- If you or someone in your household has been in close contact with anyone with suspected or confirmed COVID.
- If you or someone in your household has experienced—or taken any medication to reduce—any of the following symptoms in the past 72 hours, unless cleared by a health professional. The following symptoms require physician clearance in order to return to the school campus.

- o New cough or change in chronic cough (children with chronic cough require documentation from their physician.)
 - o Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (not exercise or mask induced)
 - o A fever of 100.0°F or higher. Families must check the temperature of any member who feels unwell.
 - o Sore throat
 - o Chills
 - o Loss of taste or smell
 - o Muscle or body aches without obvious explanation
 - o Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea (2 or more episodes of loose stools in a 24 hour period)
 - o Severe or persistent abdominal pain
 - o Persistent chest pain
 - o Persistent body aches without known trauma/injury
 - o Congestion/URI (runny nose), not related to seasonal allergies (chronic rhinitis requires a physician's note to return to campus.)
 - o Unusual fatigue
 - o Headache (children with chronic headaches require documentation from their physician.)
- If the prevalence of COVID in the community increases, these symptoms may necessitate COVID testing prior to the student/faculty/staff member returning to school. Our administration will work with local hospitals, urgent care, and doctors' offices to ensure expedited COVID testing for symptomatic students and staff. Information will be shared as it becomes available.

PROTOCOLS FOR RETURNING TO SCHOOL AFTER SYMPTOMS

- In the case of a positive COVID test:
 - o If symptomatic: The student must remain home 14 days after symptom onset AND be asymptomatic for a FULL 24 hour period without the use of medication. If the person had symptoms the morning or afternoon prior, s/he may not return to school campus that day. For example, if the last symptoms were Monday morning or afternoon, the earliest return to school campus would be Wednesday morning.

If asymptomatic: 14 days after specimen collection (e.g., after the date of the positive test), assuming no symptoms develop.

- After having negative COVID test, or if the COVID test results have not been sent or returned:
 - o If COVID is still suspected by a healthcare professional due to symptoms, with no clear alternative diagnosis, the student/faculty member may return once symptom-free for 24 full hours AND at least 14 days have passed since symptoms first showed up.
 - o If COVID is not strongly suspected, clearance should be obtained from a healthcare professional who has ruled out COVID. If there is no alternative diagnosis, one may return after being symptom/fever free for 72 hours. If there is a definite alternative diagnosis (e.g., strep, flu), one may return after being symptom/fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication.
- **In general, no one will be allowed to return to school with ongoing symptoms.**

Communication: Communications plans for students, parents/legal guardians of students, faculty, staff and visitors that includes applicable instructions, training, signage, and a consistent means to provide individuals with information.

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

The school will designate a coordinator or other point(s) of contact to be the main contact upon the identification of positive COVID-19 cases and to be responsible for subsequent communication.

“Mrs. Jene Geller will be the designated coordinator/parent liaison and the main point of contact upon the identification of positive COVID-19 cases and will be responsible for subsequent communication. They 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.

CONTAINMENT: RESPONSE AND PREVENTION

School Health Offices: Protocols for safely caring for an individual if they develop symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day.

If an individual develops symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day, he/she will be isolated from everyone and will be instructed to go to their health care provider for testing and treatment. In the case of a student, arrangements for the child to be taken home quickly will be made and instructed to contact their health care provider for instruction and treatment.

Isolation: Procedures to isolate includes protocols for safe transportation of symptomatic individuals.

Individuals who screen positive or those who become symptomatic while at school will be isolated from the rest of the pupils in the building. The isolated individual will be let out through a separate exit, the Ulam room exit area. The individuals will also be instructed to contact their Health care provider. In the case of a student, arrangements for the child to be taken home quickly will be made and instructed to contact the child's health care provider.

Collection: Protocols for how parents or guardians should pick up their student with instructions that the student must be seen by a health care provider.

The parents or guardians will be contacted via phone and told to pick up their child. We will inform them that their child has been removed from their class and will be waiting to be picked up. The parents will also be instructed to take the child to see their primary health care provider for instruction and treatment. School will require a doctor's note with a clear bill of health in order to return to school.

Infected Individuals: Requirements that persons who have tested positive have recovered, and will not transmit COVID-19 when returning to in-person learning. This will be conducted in coordination with the local health department.

Individuals that have tested positive must recover and once they cannot transmit COVID-19 will be allowed to return to in person learning.

- In the case of a positive COVID test:

- o If symptomatic: The student must remain home 14 days after symptom onset AND be asymptomatic for a FULL 24 hour period without the use of medication. If the person had symptoms the morning or afternoon prior, s/he may not return to school campus that day. For example, if the last symptoms were Monday morning or afternoon, the earliest return to school campus would be Wednesday morning.

If asymptomatic: 14 days after specimen collection (e.g., after the date of the positive test), assuming no symptoms develop.

- After having negative COVID test, or if the COVID test results have not been sent or returned:

- o If COVID is still suspected by a healthcare professional due to symptoms, with no clear alternative diagnosis, the student/faculty member may return once symptom-free for 24 full hours AND at least 14 days have passed since symptoms first showed up.

- o If COVID is not strongly suspected, clearance should be obtained from a healthcare professional who has ruled out COVID. If there is no alternative diagnosis, one may return after being symptom/fever free for 72 hours. If there is a definite alternative diagnosis (e.g., strep, flu), one may return after being symptom/fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication.

- **In general, no one will be allowed to return to school with ongoing symptoms of COVID.**

A doctor's note indicating that the individual that tested positive for COVID is no longer contagious. This will be conducted in coordination with the local health department.

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

Individuals who were exposed to the virus must completely quarantine for 14 days before returning to in-person learning. This will be conducted in coordination with the local health department.

- If an individual was exposed or suspects that they were exposed to COVID they must quarantine for 14 days and has not shown symptoms of COVID before returning to in-person lessons.
- If the individual or someone in their household has been in close contact with anyone with suspected or confirmed COVID must quarantine for 14 days before returning to in-person lessons.
- If the individual or someone in their household has experienced or is taking any medication to reduce COVID symptoms in the past 72 hours, unless cleared by a health professional. Any exposure to COVID or have any or the symptoms are required to provide a doctor's note indicating health clearance in order to return to the school campus.

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

CLEANING and DISINFECTING

We will adhere to hygiene, cleaning, and disinfection guidance set forth by DOH and CDC. School wide deep cleaning and disinfection will take place on a daily basis with our trained cleaning staff and special cleaning products specifically approved by the DOH and CDC for use against COVID-19.

- We have increased our maintenance staff to ensure constant cleaning throughout the building and frequently touched surfaces. Maintenance will fill in a daily cleaning log for tracking the cleaning and disinfecting of the building. Socializing and large gatherings will not take place. Everyone is expected to wash hands on a regular basis.

Teachers and teacher assistants in Early Childhood through grades 2 will be wiping down commonly touched surfaces. Children in grades 3-8 will wipe down their desks, using gloves, before and after eating lunch at their desks.

HAND HYGIENE

- Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and common areas, and should be used upon entering or leaving any room.
- Hand sanitizer should be used when entering the building each morning.
- Hands must be thoroughly washed with soap and water, or cleansed with sanitizer throughout the day.
- Hands must be thoroughly washed with soap and water, or cleansed with sanitizer before and after lunch time, as well as after using the bathrooms.
- Hands must be thoroughly washed with soap and water, or cleansed with sanitizer after touching common surfaces.

Contact Tracing: Plans to support local health departments in contact tracing efforts.

We will work and support our local health department in contact tracing efforts. We will notify the state and local health department immediately upon being informed of any positive COVID-19 diagnostic test result by an individual within school facilities or on school grounds, including students, faculty, staff, and visitors. In the case of an individual testing positive, we will follow protocols and tools provided through the New York State Contact Tracing Program.

Communication: Plans to share protocols and safety measures for all relevant parties.

We will share protocols and safety measures with all relevant parties. There will be timely emails sent out to parents and staff with updates and applicable instructions. Teachers and students will be trained in proper social distancing and hygiene protocols. Appropriate signage will be placed throughout the building and informational material will be kept for distribution in the main office. This is including but not limited to, emails, newsletters, mailers etc.

CLOSURE AND CONTINGENCY PLANS

Closure triggers: Identification of the conditions that may warrant reducing in-person education or closing the school, in consultation with state and local health departments, and plan for an orderly closure.

In consultation with the state and our local health department, we will be contacting Angela Ma, Field Operations/Enforcement Coordinator NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene Bureau of Child Care via email ama2@health.nyc.gov or phone (646) 632-6156. 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: Determination of which operations will be decreased or ceased, and which operations will be conducted remotely; include process to conduct orderly closures which may include phasing, milestones, and involvement of key personnel.

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. Students and teachers will revert to remote teaching and learning until guided by the health department and local officials.

Communication: Plan to communicate internally and externally throughout the closure process

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: All schools must have a continuity of learning plan for the 2020-2021 school year. Such plan must prepare for in-person, remote, and hybrid models of instruction.

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.