

AUGUST 2020

YTE CAMPUS REOPENING

COVID 19 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES





MESSAGE FROM RABBI GARFIELD

Rabbi Yitchok Hutner zt"l once said that a Yeshiva can be compared to Noach's Tayvah. The Tayvah was built as a place of safety and sanctuary. It was designed to rise above the dangerous challenges being faced in the world and enable for its passengers an opportunity for a brighter future. This plan articulates our current approach to doing just that.

The havoc wreaked by the COVID storm that has surrounded us for the past several months has served to amplify the role our school plays in offering sanctuary in the lives of our students. While our faculty did a phenomenal job of transitioning to distance learning, we ended the year with the undeniable feeling that part of us was missing. YTE is not just a place where classes meet and material is taught. In many ways it is home for our students. However, a home that cannot offer safety and shelter is not a home. That's why our first priority must be to ensure the safety of our students and staff while they are on campus. No plan is foolproof, and no one can fully prevent the spread of disease. The following policies are based on guidance from the CDC, the Texas Department of Education, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. This plan is also guided by the advice of Dr. Edward Septimus, MD, FIDSA, FACP, FSHEA. Dr. Septimus is the Medical Director at Memorial Hermann Hospital, Infection Prevention and Epidemiology at Hospital Corporation of America (HCA), and Professor of Internal Medicine at Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine in Houston, Texas.

When implemented with full cooperation from our parent body, these policies ought to significantly minimize the risk of infection and significantly increase the opportunities for our children to grow into the b'nai Torah that we want them to become. Of course, this plan is subject to changes as the data regarding the pandemic continues to evolve.

I look forward to working to partnering with you in this challenging, yet critical endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Yerachmiel Garfield".

Rabbi Yerachmiel Garfield Ed.D.

THERE IS NO SINGLE SOLUTION FOR FIGHTING COVID-19. AN EFFECTIVE APPROACH MUST BE MULTITIERED AND BALANCE PHYSICAL SAFETY WITH THE SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH OF OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF.

YTE's approach to mitigating the risks of COVID-19 involves multiple layers, none of which stands on its own, but which together form a significant barrier against the spread of the disease. Given that we can expect differing levels of student compliance as children get older, the details of each layer will be modified to account for what is developmentally appropriate at each grade level.

SYMPTOMS SCREENING

Anyone entering campus including students, parents, faculty and visitors will have their temperature taken upon arrival. Anyone with a fever over 100.3 degrees will not be allowed to join classes. Students and faculty who develop symptoms during the school day will be evaluated, isolated and sent home if deemed necessary.

COHORTS

Dividing into cohorts helps both to limit the spread of the virus and to reduce the number of students and faculty who have to quarantine should there be a case of COVID-19. All students will be divided into groups. Each group will have its own classroom space and will avoid mixing while on campus during the course of a school day. Any exceptions to this will be done either by wearing masks and in a socially distanced manner, or outdoors. There will be no morning assembly, and during dismissal students will wait in their individual classrooms. After School Activities will be put on hold until conditions change, to allow the mixing of groups.

Due to these new precautions, the carpool process will take longer and we will be working on ways to expedite carpooling as the year progresses. While carpooling with other families to or from school is permitted, please note that it does put your family at risk. If any member of a carpool becomes infected with COVID-19 all members of that carpool will need to quarantine.

FACE COVERING

The evidence is clear that wearing a face mask is the single most effective means of limiting the spread of COVID-19. Therefore, all adults will be required to wear face masks while on campus, both indoors and outside. Though Early Childhood students will not be required to wear masks, all students in 1st through 8th grade will, except during “mask breaks”. During lunch and snack times students will be spread apart as much as possible.

Students and staff are encouraged to bring their own masks but the school will have extra masks on hand to provide to anyone who requires. Masks must be a minimum of 2 ply (3 ply is preferred). Scarfs, bandanas, and other materials used to cover the face should not be used (masks must be secured behind ears or head). Anything imprinted on the masks should reflect the ruach of YTE.

Please use the next few weeks to get your children used to wearing masks at home so that they are better prepared to wear them at school.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Seating in all rooms will be separated as much as possible. Daily schedules including dismissal will be done carefully to avoid large gatherings. The gym will be divided into 4 play areas and lunch will be eaten in individual groups. Groupings of multiple classes will be done in a way that enables distancing, and face masks will be required for all participants. Faculty and staff will be required to maintain physical distance from one another as well. Where possible, faculty and parent meetings will continue to take place via zoom. Teachers will practice social distancing while in the lounge and work room. Field trips will be suspended until further notice. Water fountains will not be used, so please bring in sufficient water bottles for your child.

TRAVEL

Currently YTE does not have any limitation on domestic travel for our faculty and students. Please contact us about international travel which is more complex. Should the conditions change we will let our families know.

SCHOOL VISITORS

We will be significantly limiting all adults visiting the school. When necessary, all visitors will be required to wear masks and have their temperature taken prior to entry.

Parents will not be allowed to enter the building during school hours. Until further notice, family members will not be able to join in student birthday parties. If items are needed to be dropped off, they will be left by the door and YTE staff members will bring them inside.

Parents will be allowed to enter school (with a face mask and temp taking) if a child is injured and is in need of a parent's assistance.

If you are worried that your child will have trouble acclimating and will need parental assistance, please email Mrs. Littman prior to the start of school to make arrangements.

If you need to pick up your child early, please call the office and we will arrange for your child to meet you at the front door.

HAND HYGIENE

Frequent handwashing prevents the spread of Covid-19 on surfaces. In order to facilitate maximal hand hygiene, hand washing and sanitizing stations will be placed throughout the building and students will be educated about its importance. Students will be instructed to wash hands before and after classes.

TAKE 20 SECONDS TO HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

PRACTICE PROPER HAND HYGIENE >



WET

hands with clean running water, turn off the tap and apply soap.



LATHER

the backs of hands, between fingers and under nails.



SCRUB

for at least 20 seconds.



RINSE

hands well under clean running water.



DRY

hands using a clean towel or air dryer.

DISINFECTING

YTE will be expanding the size and capacity of its cleaning crew so as to increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfection. Additional members will be added to the janitorial crew and equipment is being purchased to facilitate cleaning and disinfecting throughout the day.

Most often - Disinfecting and sanitizing the most commonly touched surfaces (door knobs, light switches, push bars) will take place often throughout the day.

Often - All restrooms will be disinfected and sanitized regularly.

Between uses - Shared desks, cubbies and playground equipment will be sanitized between uses.

Every night - Every evening the entire building will be disinfected and sanitized with the use of hospital grade EPA recommended cleaner, and other effective cleaning disinfectants.

Children will not be allowed to bring toys from home that will be shared with others . Sippy cups, water bottles, and pacifiers should be clearly labeled to avoid mixing them up with those of other students.

STAYING SAFE



**SYMPTOMS
CHECK**



MASKS



**PHYSICAL
DISTANCING**



**HAND
HYGIENE**



SANITIZATION

SICK POLICIES

Tracking cases of COVID-19 in our community is a critical element of our safety plan. This requires open communication with our parent body regarding symptoms, exposure and testing. Please contact us should you or anyone in your family be exposed to or have reason to suspect a positive COVID-19 case.

The following policies and procedures will guide the school's response to suspected exposure, confirmed exposure, symptoms of COVID-19 or confirmed COVID-19.

All students, faculty, and staff members who have been in close contact with someone who has been infected by COVID-19 are asked to quarantine for 14 days from the last time of contact. Close contact is defined as greater than 15 minutes of unmasked interaction less than six feet away; or having direct contact with infectious secretions, such as being coughed on.

Anyone with a body temperature of 100.3 Fahrenheit will not be permitted on campus. Anyone who displays two of the following known symptoms of COVID-19 illness will be asked to isolate until they can be picked up. People who are ill with COVID-19 may or may not have all of the symptoms listed. This list may be updated as knowledge of the virus expands.

- Feeling feverish, or measured temperature of 100.3 degrees Fahrenheit or more
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea
- Known close contact (within the 14 preceding days) with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19

YTE will contact students and staff in the same classroom and any individuals who would have come into close contact with someone outside of their classroom (defined as greater than 15 minutes of unmasked interaction less than six feet away with a COVID-19 positive person). These individuals will be asked to quarantine at home for 14 days.

Anyone who has been ill may return to school when the following criteria have been met:

- At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since having symptoms of illness (including resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications)

AND (if ill with COVID)

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared or since a positive COVID test result. (A negative test result is not necessary.) Anyone who wishes to return prior to fulfilling these criteria may obtain a physician's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or negative COVID-19 test(s).



DISTANCE LEARNING MODELS

In anticipation of ongoing and evolving challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, YTE has developed three models for learning. These models take into account our principle of “reaching every child, every day” and work to adapt the conditions in the best possible way to maintain students' learning.

1.

If individual students are at home due to COVID-19, we will provide live video access to classrooms and do everything we can to promote the inclusion of the distant learner in the classroom experience. There may be situations where a teacher will be unable to physically be present in our classrooms. We will be experimenting with having that teacher present remotely with another educator in the classroom facilitating the learning.

2.

In case an entire class needs to transition to remote learning for two weeks, we will continue with a regular school day schedule remotely for that time period.

3.

In the sad event that the entire school must close again, we will be working towards a model that has a full day of live learning for children in 1st to 8th grades. We will work with our families to make sure every child has an appropriate device and the knowledge to use it independently. We will be working on these computer skills from the beginning of the school year to be prepared in case it becomes necessary to transition to online learning. Curricular updates have been selected in order to facilitate virtual learning. The daily program for children in our Early Childhood Department will be carefully crafted to provide our students with the best possible academic, emotional and social experience. The specific program for each age level will be developmentally aligned with the children. The specific details of the daily schedule will be communicated at a later date.

UPDATED IMMUNIZATION POLICY

The combination of a COVID-19 infection with other diseases, such as influenza, could present significant danger and also can make identifying COVID-19 more difficult. Prior to the onset of flu season, we will determine if the influenza vaccine will be a mandatory requirement.

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