



*The mission of the Syracuse Hebrew Day School (SHDS) is to teach, inspire, and nurture future leaders of our Jewish community through an unparalleled academic experience guided by Jewish studies and values.*

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## **SYRACUSE HEBREW DAY SCHOOL 2020-2021 REOPENING PLAN**

### **Introduction**

The Syracuse Hebrew Day School, with a total Kindergarten through sixth grade enrollment of approximately fifty students, will provide in-person instruction on school days from 8:00am-3:00pm. Online instruction will be available for families who require it. If the school is closed for any reason, instruction will continue online.

### **Health & Safety**

The full-time nurse employed by the Syracuse Hebrew Day School will conduct temperature screenings and interviews of all students and staff upon arrival. The guidelines set forth by governing agencies and NYS Regulations will be met or exceeded. Parents will not be permitted to accompany their children into school upon arrival. All visitors throughout the course of the day will be screened by the staff of the Jewish Community Center from which the Syracuse Hebrew Day School rents its space. Parents/Guardians will be advised to notify the school if their children develop symptoms or if their answers to the interview questions change during or outside of normal school hours.

### **Health Checks**

If a student or employee of the Syracuse Hebrew Day School presents with symptoms of illness, the procedure would be as follows:

- Symptomatic students/staff would be immediately placed in a separate 'isolation' area, that is separate from students that visit the nurse's office regularly for care of chronic conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, and other chronic syndromes) or for first aid treatment.
- The nurse will wear all appropriate PPE to assess the ill student/staff in the 'isolation' area, attending to appropriate hand hygiene.
- The ill student, if not already wearing a mask, will be provided a face covering as long as it is medically appropriate to do so.
- The nurse may determine the student with symptoms of illness will need to be dismissed to home, and will contact the parent/guardian for prompt pick up of the student.
- Staff who are ill/symptomatic will also be encouraged to contact their Supervisor and go home.
- Students with illness awaiting pick up from school will remain in the 'isolation area' until parent/guardian arrival.
- Administration may need to assist with coordination of gathering student belongings and coordinating the process by which the student can exit the building.
- The isolation area will need to be cleaned and disinfected after every encounter of a student or staff member requiring assessment. Health office staff will need to ensure that PPE supplies and cleaning supplies are kept stocked.

## Social distancing, face coverings and PPE

All persons in the Syracuse Hebrew Day School must maintain social distancing of at least six feet when on school grounds. Students and employees will wear face coverings when in school. In addition, dividers will be used to separate students and employees from each other when at their desks. Class sizes will be limited to approximately twelve students in order to maintain the six foot social distancing in all spaces. Students will be grouped in cohorts so as to limit exposure to others throughout the day. Lunches will be eaten in classrooms with students facing the same direction. Indoor Physical Education will be taught with a minimum of twelve feet of social distancing. Physical Education will be taught outdoors whenever possible. Cohorts will remain in their classrooms as much as possible throughout the day with teachers moving to different classes rather than students moving to different classrooms. Students will be provided opportunities throughout the day to take breaks from wearing their face coverings. Employees have the option of wearing face shields in addition to their masks.

Face coverings will not be placed on:

- Children younger than 2 years old
- Students where such covering would impair their health or mental health, or where such covering would present a challenge, distraction, or obstruction to education services and instruction
- Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious
- Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance

The school will instruct students and employees on:

- The proper way to wear face coverings
- Washing hands before putting on and after removing their face covering
- Proper way to discard disposable face coverings

## Additional infection control strategies

- **Increased Ventilation:** When it is safe and appropriate to do so, windows will be opened to increase ventilation. All filters will continue to be cleaned or replaced as needed.
- **Hand Washing:** Handwashing will continue to be scheduled on a frequent basis throughout the day for students. Hand sanitizer will be available in all learning spaces.
- **Furniture:** All unnecessary furniture will be removed from the classrooms.
- **Technology:** Each student will be assigned a computer device so as to eliminate the sharing of devices among students.
- **Playgrounds and Outdoor Access**
  - Exposure to the outdoors for students will be a priority.
  - Outdoor instruction in temperate weather will be encouraged.
  - Students will be able to play in designated areas outdoors.

## Management of ill persons, contact tracing, and monitoring

The Syracuse Hebrew Day School requires students and employees who develop COVID-19 symptoms during the school day to report to the nurse's office. If there are several students waiting to see the school nurse, students must wait at least 6 feet apart. The school has designated areas to separate and isolate individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 from others until they can go home or to a healthcare facility, depending on severity of illness. One area will be used to treat injuries, provide medications or treat chronic student illnesses, and the other area will be used for assessing and caring for students or staff presenting with suspected symptoms of

COVID. Both areas will be supervised by an adult and have easy access to a bathroom and sink with hand hygiene supplies.

PPE requirements for school health office staff caring for sick individuals includes both standard and transmission-based precautions. In areas with moderate to substantial community transmission, eye protection (e.g., goggles or face shield) should be added. When caring for a suspect or confirmed individual with COVID-19, gloves, a gown, eye protection, and a fit-tested N-95 respirator will be used, if available. If an N-95 respirator is not available, a surgical face mask and face shield will be used.

School health office cleaning will occur after each use of cots, bathrooms, and health office equipment (e.g., blood pressure cuffs, otoscopes, stethoscopes). Health office equipment will be cleaned following manufacturers' directions.

Disposable items will be used as much as possible (e.g., disposable pillow protectors, disposable thermometers, disposable thermometer sheaths or probes, disposable otoscope specula).

## **Aerosol Generating Procedures**

Respiratory treatments administered by nurses generally result in aerosolization of respiratory secretions. These aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) potentially put healthcare personnel and others at an increased risk for pathogen exposure and infection. The Syracuse Hebrew Day School requires the following PPE to be worn during AGPs: gloves, N-95 or a surgical mask with face shield, eye protection and a gown. PPE will be used when: suctioning, administering nebulizer treatments, or using peak flow meters with students who have respiratory conditions.

Treatments such as nebulized medication treatments and oral or tracheostomy suctioning will be conducted in a room separate from others with nursing personnel wearing appropriate PPE. For nebulizer treatments, if developmentally appropriate, the nurse will leave the room and return when the nebulizer treatment is finished. Cleaning of the room will occur between use and cleaning of the equipment should be done following manufacturer's instructions after each use.

## **If Students or Staff become Ill with Symptoms of COVID-19 at School**

The Syracuse Hebrew Day School requires students or employees with a fever, signs of illness, and/or a positive response to the questionnaire to be sent directly to a dedicated isolation area where students are supervised, prior to being picked up or otherwise sent home. Students will be supervised in the isolation area while awaiting transport home and will be separated by at least six feet. Students will be escorted from the isolation area to their parent/guardian. Students or staff will be instructed to call their health care provider, or if they do not have a health care provider, to follow up with a local clinic or urgent care center. Information regarding COVID-19 will be provided to parent/guardian and staff as appropriate.

## **Return to School After Illness**

The Syracuse Hebrew Day School will work in consultation with its medical director, the Onondaga County Department of Health and any other required agencies to determine when those who screened positive for COVID-19 symptoms may return to school.

The Syracuse Hebrew Day School will work in coordination with Onondaga County Department of Health regarding individuals who were exposed to the COVID-19 virus and who may be required to quarantine before returning to in-person learning. The discharge of an individual from quarantine and return to school will be conducted in compliance with regulations.

If COVID-19 is not diagnosed by a healthcare provider, the student or employee may return to school:

- Once there is no fever, without the use of fever reducing medicines, and they have felt well for 24 hours;
- If they have been diagnosed with another condition and have a healthcare provider written note stating they are clear to return to school.
- If COVID-19 is diagnosed by a healthcare provider, the student or employee should remain at home until:
- It has been at least ten days since the individual first had symptoms;

- It has been at least three days since the individual has had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); and
- It has been at least three days since the individual's symptoms improved, including cough and shortness of breath.

## **COVID-19 Testing**

The Syracuse Hebrew Day School will comply with CDC guidance and not conduct COVID-19 testing or require random or regularly scheduled testing of students or employees. The decision to administer a test should be made by a healthcare provider or the local department of health.

## **Contact Tracing**

The Syracuse Hebrew Day School will notify the state and local health departments upon being informed of any positive COVID-19 diagnostic test result by an individual within the school or on school grounds, including students, faculty, staff and visitors of the school.

Contact tracing is a public health function performed by local public health departments to trace all persons who had contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19. The Syracuse Hebrew Day School may assist with contact tracing by:

1. Keeping accurate attendance records of students and staff members
2. Ensuring student schedules are up to date
3. Keeping a log of any visitor which includes date and time, and where in the school they visited
4. Assisting the local health departments in tracing all contacts of the individual in accordance with the protocol, training, and tools provided through the NYS Contact Tracing Program

The decision to close the Syracuse Hebrew Day School will be made based on available data. The school will advise the Department of Health regarding the decision.

Confidentiality must be maintained as required by federal and state laws and regulations. School staff should not try to determine who is to be excluded from school based on contact without guidance and direction from the Department of Health.

## **School Closures**

The Syracuse Hebrew Day School will close if directed to do so by executive order or in keeping with other official directives. The school reserves the right to close, if warranted, as determined by the leadership of the school.

## **Health Hygiene**

The Syracuse Hebrew Day School will emphasize healthy hygiene practices for students and staff by providing initial and refresher education in hand and respiratory hygiene, along with providing adequate supplies and time for frequent hand hygiene. Signs will be posted throughout the school and regular messaging will be shared with the school community. Signage will be used to remind individuals to:

1. Stay home if they feel sick.
2. Cover their nose and mouth with an acceptable face covering when in school buildings or when social distancing of six feet or more is not possible.
3. Properly store and, when necessary, discard PPE.
4. Adhere to social distancing instructions.
5. Report symptoms of, or exposure to, COVID-19.
6. Follow hand hygiene, and cleaning and disinfection guidelines.
7. Follow respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.

## Hand Hygiene

Students and staff must carry out the following hand hygiene practices.

- Wash hands routinely with soap (any kind) and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Dry hands completely after washing. Use paper towels, if available, to dry hands instead of a hand dryer.
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol. Hand sanitizer should be rubbed on the hands until it is completely absorbed. **DO NOT** dry hands if sanitizer is used.
- Time will be provided in the schedule to allow for frequent hand washing.

Hand washing should occur:

- Before and after eating (e.g. snacks and lunch).
- After going to the restroom or after assisting a student with toileting.
- After using a tissue.
- Before and after using shared materials.
- Before and after putting on or taking off face masks.
- After coming in from the outdoors.
- Anytime hands are visibly soiled.

## Respiratory Hygiene

The COVID-19 virus spreads from person to person in droplets produced by coughs and sneezes. Therefore, the Syracuse Hebrew Day School will emphasize the importance of respiratory hygiene.

Students and staff must carry out the following respiratory hygiene practices:

- Cover a cough or sneeze using a tissue. If a tissue is used, it should be thrown away immediately.
- If you don't have a tissue when sneezing or coughing, sneeze into your elbow.
- Wash your hands after sneezing or coughing.
- Face coverings are protective. Wearing a face covering will keep the respiratory droplets and aerosols from being widely dispersed into the air.

## Cleaning and Disinfecting

The Syracuse Hebrew Day School will adhere to hygiene, cleaning and disinfection requirements in accordance with CDC and DOH, including "Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection of Public and Private Facilities for COVID-19," and the "STOP THE SPREAD" poster, as applicable.

Teachers will sanitize high touch surfaces in their respective classrooms throughout the day.

The school nurse will sanitize high touch surfaces outside of regular classrooms throughout the day. The custodial staff will sanitize surfaces, wash floors, and disinfect other areas including bathrooms on a daily basis. Cleaning and disinfection logs will be maintained that include the date, time, and scope of cleaning and disinfection.

## School Safety Drills

The Syracuse Hebrew Day School will meet the requirements for all safety drills required by law. Drills will be conducted in a manner that maintains social distancing of cohorts at exits and gathering points outside the building, while still preparing students to respond in emergencies.

## Child Nutrition

School meals and snacks will continue to be available to all students attending school in-person.

Students will social distance and face the same direction while dining.

The sharing of food and beverages is prohibited, unless individuals are members of the same household.

All surfaces will be cleaned before and after dining.

Lunch and snacks will be delivered to and served in the classrooms.

Allergy management plans will be implemented under the school nurse's supervision.

## Technology and Connectivity

The Syracuse Hebrew Day School, in order to ensure the health and safety of its community, was the first in Onondaga County to announce the closing of a school in March, 2020. The school had spent months preparing for online teaching so after school closed on Friday, March 13, 2020, no instruction was lost because online learning began on Monday, March 16, 2020. The SHDS teachers provided direct, synchronous online instruction to its students every day for 3.5 months with great success. The Syracuse Hebrew Day School is completely prepared to continue its online teaching success in the event of another school closure. Students who need them will be allowed to use their school computer devices at home.

## Instruction

Syracuse Hebrew Day School Families will be offered five options:

- Daily, full time, in-person instruction
- Online instruction, if required
- A combination of in-person and online instruction
- Support for homeschooling families in the form of consultation with teachers for either general/secular studies or Jewish/Hebrew studies
- Students attending SHDS in person may avail themselves of online instruction from another source for a highly specialized content area, such as a particular type of Jewish Studies.

Students requiring individualized academic instruction will receive it. The student's district of residence will be consulted for consideration of programs including, but not limited to Section 504 plans and Individualized Education Programs.

## Communication

Leadership of the Syracuse Hebrew Day School will continue to utilize in person meetings, the telephone, email, text messaging, online video conferencing, USPS, and social media to communicate with all stakeholders. The Head of School will continue to be the main contact person for sending and receiving communication from stakeholders.

## Transportation

The Syracuse Hebrew Day School does not provide transportation to students. Students are transported by their public school district of residence and/or through private arrangements made by their families.

# Social/Emotional Well Being

Given the small size of our school, we have the good fortune of being able to be intimately familiar with our students and families. The families and the school communicate very frequently with regard to all aspects of students' development. Students experiencing social, emotional, or other mental health problems are identified and provided the necessary supports. When professional mental health services are required, the school utilizes the Syracuse Jewish Family Service and the student's district of residence if necessary. In addition, to help to ease the transition back to in person learning, the school will begin to implement the secondstep.org curriculum and materials.

**Prior to being submitted, this plan was reviewed by employees, families, and the Board of Directors.**

**This plan is subject to change in keeping with revised mandates and other guidance.**

Submitted by: Laura Lavine, Head of School

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Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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## **2020-2021 Return to School Acknowledgement Form**

The Syracuse Hebrew Day School is looking forward to reopening in September, 2020. New measures for health and safety are in place in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our reopening plan has been submitted to the state and accompanies this form. It is imperative that we all do our parts to keep everyone safe and healthy. To that end, please read the plan then sign and return this acknowledgement form indicating that you have read and understand the guidelines and the risks of sending your child to school.

\_\_\_\_\_ By initialing here, you acknowledge that you have read SHDS's reopening plan.

\_\_\_\_\_ By initialing here, you acknowledge that you will implement the following practices:

- Monitor your child for signs of infectious illness every day
- Not send your child to school if he/she exhibits any signs of illness including but not limited to: fever of 100.4 F or higher; sore throat, new uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline); diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain; or new onset of severe headache, especially with a fever (your child can return to school after 24-hours of no fever and no symptoms, without the use of fever reducing medication).
- Not send your child to school if he/she had close contact with a person with confirmed COVID-19 (close contact means within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes); with a person under quarantine for possible exposure to SARS-CoV-2.
- Pick up your child from school immediately if you are notified that he/she presents with illness while at school. Please keep your phone accessible at all times while your child is in school.
- Consult your healthcare provider if they present with symptoms associated with COVID-19.
- As new research, information, and data become available, these procedures may change.



