

Pursuant to the Department of Health's *Interim Guidance for In-Person Instruction at Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency*, Rambam Mesivta sets forth the following plan for reopening and operating during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

This plan was developed in accordance with the guidance released by the Department of Health and other state and local agencies, and reflects engagement with school stakeholders and community members including faculty, staff, students, parents, local health departments, local health care providers, and affiliated organizations. Four key aspects are addressed: (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.

Rambam Mesivta's chief medical advisor is Rabbi Dr. Aaron E. Glatt, who is the Chair of the Department of Medicine at Mount Sinai South Nassau and is the Chief of Infectious Diseases.

Rambam Mesivta's core team for COVID-19 school management is:

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I. Reopening of School Facilities for In-Person Instruction

School Capacity:

Rambam Mesivta will be open for all students for the 2020-21 school year. Students will phase into the building as follows:

9th and 10th grade students will have orientation on Tuesday, September 8th. They will be welcomed into the building and be informed of important information pertaining to the school year. They will also receive their textbooks, schedules and other school materials. The orientation program will last approximately 2 hours and then the students will be dismissed. They will begin their regular full day of classes on Wednesday, September 9th.

11th and 12th grade students will have orientation on Wednesday September 9th. They will be welcomed into the building and be informed of important information pertaining to the school year. They will receive their textbooks, schedules and other school materials. The orientation program will last approximately 2.5 hours and then the students will be dismissed. They will begin their regular full day of classes on Thursday, September 10th.

Social Distancing:

Social distancing and the accompanying measures will be mandated at all times in Rambam Mesivta. 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 unless safety or the core activity requires a shorter distance or individuals are of the same household. Students, faculty, and staff will use face coverings and PPE when not social distancing.

PPE and Face Coverings:

PPE and face coverings will be used when social distancing is not being practiced and in the absence of protective barriers. This applies to students, faculty, staff, and all other individuals. Acceptable masks are those that cover both the mouth and nostrils and are of a suitable material that can adequately prevent spreading of germs. Students and faculty are asked to bring in their own masks, however masks will be provided to them in the event if they do not have their own. Signage of these protocols will be placed throughout the building.

Restarting Operations:

To prepare the facility for re-opening with the realities of COVID-19, building spaces will be reconfigured to maximize distancing for students. Desks will be outfitted with hardware to create see-through barriers for students. Classrooms will be outfitted with technology to enable remote learning. All surfaces in the building will be completely sanitized. Air ducts are being serviced to ensure air-flow is maximized. Signage will be posted around the building to remind occupants of all safety mandates and etiquettes.

Operational Activity and Food Service:

Daily prayer groups will be divided into smaller units in order to avoid large gatherings and maximize spacing. These groups will utilize classrooms instead of gathering together in the synagogue. Breakfast will follow with food students bring from home which can be eaten in their first period classrooms before class begins. Students will have barriers on their desks to ensure adequate social distancing. For morning classes, student will not need to change rooms and teachers will come to them. This is possible since the classes are tracked. This will continue in the afternoon when possible. Lunch will be eaten in classrooms in the same manner as breakfast, with food brought from home and eaten at desks behind protective barriers. Outside deliveries will not be permitted. The school's regular lunch program in which students have the opportunity to pre-order food from the day's chosen vendor will be able to continue so long as vendors can

meet the required packaging criteria. However, it is not yet confirmed by vendors that they will be able to do so. All classes take place in person with PPE and social distancing requirements in place. Rooms will be outfitted with technology to enable remote learning for students who are sick, compromised, or from a vulnerable population. Extracurricular activities and field trips will be minimized and when they do take place, all PPE and social distancing requirements will be in mandated.

Vulnerable Populations:

To the greatest extent possible, we will make accommodations for vulnerable students to allow them to participate in educational activities. In the classroom, students will be provided with protective barriers affixed to their desks. They can use them in conjunction with face masks to increase their level of protection. Distancing will be maximized to the extent possible. Rooms will also be outfitted with technology to enable vulnerable persons to participate remotely from the safety of their home.

Transportation:

All individuals will wear acceptable face coverings, and social distance when possible. Students should bring masks from home in order to have their face covered before they enter the vehicle. Masks will be supplied to drivers of school operated and hired vehicles in order to provide for students who need. All buses which are used every day will be cleaned daily. High contact spots will be wiped down after the morning or afternoon runs depending upon the disinfecting schedule. Drivers will monitor loading, unloading, seating, and bus conduct to ensure that these activities maximize distancing between students.

Food Services:

Students may eat breakfast in their first period classrooms before class begins. This can be done at their desks with their protective barriers in place to meet social distancing requirements. Food must be brought from home. There will be no vendors or food service for breakfast and the cafeteria will be closed. Lunch can be eaten in 5th period classrooms before class begins, in the same manner as breakfast is eaten. Likewise, students must bring lunch from home and no outside deliveries will be permitted. The school's regular lunch program in which students have the opportunity to pre-order food from the day's chosen vendor will be able to continue so long as vendors can meet the required packaging criteria. However, it is not yet confirmed by vendors that they will be able to do so. Lunches from vendors will need to be individually packaged, labeled, and boxed for each classroom. These in turn will be delivered to student's 5th period classrooms. Students will perform hand hygiene before and after eating by washing their hands.

They will also be encouraged to use gloves. Appropriate hand hygiene will be promoted through signage and teacher reinforcement. Sharing food and beverages is prohibited.

Emergency Drills:

Emergency drills will be conducted in compliance with state laws.

Mental Health, Behavioral, and Emotional Support Services and Programs:

Mental health professionals will be on staff to provide support for students. They will issue guidance to teachers to look out for signs of mental, behavioral, and emotional issues in students, especially as they might be related to COVID-19. Such students will be referred for evaluation with our mental health staff.

Communication:

Students, parents, and faculty members will be kept informed of important school information via e-mail. Some information will also be disseminated via school WhatsApp groups. Information that will be sent will address expectations of conduct for students and staff throughout the building, new protocols and procedures that have been instituted, important health information, best hygiene practices, changes to the regular school day, and social distancing and mask requirements. This will enable families to prepare for the upcoming school year. Appropriate signage will also be placed throughout the building to reinforce these communications. On any occasion when there is information pertinent to a single person or family, the parent or guardian will be called or emailed directly, depending on the timeliness of the information.

Continuity of Learning:

Rambam is committed to a successful year of learning for all students. We will be outfitting each classroom with technology to enable any student to participate in classes from home in the event they are unable to be in the building. If it is deemed appropriate at any point to have remote learning school-wide, classes will continue over Zoom.

Attendance Taking:

Regular attendance will be taken to track students in the building as well as those participating from home. Corresponding attendance reports will be generated. Teachers will monitor student engagement and participation as usual.

II. MONITORING OF HEALTH CONDITIONS**Screening:**

Daily screening will be implemented to determine if any individuals may be infected or have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus. Screenings will be required for all individuals before entering the building. Temperature will be monitored at two stations using fast-reading non-contact infrared thermometers. Anyone with a reading of 100.0 Fahrenheit or above will not be permitted entry into the building and will be directed to wait in a dedicated area away from anyone else. Students will periodically need to complete health questionnaires. Questionnaires and temperature readings will both be mandatory daily for all staff.

Hygiene Cleaning and Disinfection:

School wide cleaning and disinfection will take place on a daily basis. Special attention will be given to high touch surfaces such as doorknobs, push-bars, faucets, desks and handrails. These areas will be cleaned repeatedly throughout the day. Cleaning strategies from the DOH and CDC will be incorporated into the cleaning and disinfection methodology.

Testing Protocols and Responsibility:

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. Individuals will need to be symptom free and test negatively before returning to the building. Further milestones and requirements which are due to be set forth by Lawrence Union Free School District will be implemented.

Testing Responsibility:

Individuals with symptoms of coronavirus will be directed to local testing facilities and their primary care physician. Processes for wide-spread testing will be coordinated with Lawrence Union Free School District and both local and state health departments.

Early Warning Signs:

We will be using metrics established by our local school district, Lawrence Union Free School District, as we have been advised to do by the Nassau County Department of Health. The metrics for Lawrence Union Free School District are currently pending. These metrics will be used in conjunction with the health guidance from New York State to monitor the prevalence of coronavirus in order to act swiftly and curb potential spread.

III. CONTAINMENT: RESPONSE AND PREVENTION

Appearance of Symptoms:

If an individual develops symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day, he/she will immediately be isolated from everyone in an isolation room. A staff member with appropriate PPE, such as the school nurse, will monitor the person until they are picked up or able to safely leave on their own. If the individual is a student, their parent or guardian will immediately be notified in order to make prompt arrangements for pick-up and further monitoring. Individuals will be advised to immediately seek consultation from their primary care physician or be directed to a local health facility where they can be tested for COVID-19. In the case of a student, this information will be given to the parent. Individuals will need to quarantine, present a negative test result, and no longer be a potential carrier of coronavirus before they are permitted back into the building. Further milestones for re-admittance may be required. Guidance from Lawrence Union Free School District and other local health agencies are still pending.

Hygiene, Cleaning, and Disinfection:

Guidance for hygiene, cleaning, and disinfection set forth by the CDC, NYSED, the Nassau County Department of Health, and Lawrence Union Free School District will be fully implemented. Pertinent signage will be posted throughout the facility. Instructions for proper hygiene will be disseminated to teachers, students, and faculty. Special attention and cleaning logs will be used for the outlined areas.

Contact Tracing:

Any positive diagnostic test result of COVID-19 will be immediately reported to both state and local health departments for any individual within school facilities or on school grounds. This includes students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Full cooperation will be made to ensure successful efforts by health departments for contact tracing. All efforts will be made in accordance with protocols, training, and tools set forth by the New York State Contact Tracing Program.

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. In the event of either partial or complete school closure, we are prepared to transition with minimal disruption to online learning.