

Congregation Beth Am Israel (BAI)

2020 School opening plan

This plan is the culmination of conversations with Beth Am Israel educational staff, task force members, and parents. The goal is to find a balance between safety, community engagement, and connection to Judaism. We are aware of the fact that we cannot guarantee zero risk, but we are confident that we can reduce the risk significantly by following best health practices and CDC guidelines.

Three important point to remember:

1. We have a limited amount of time to take advantage of the outdoors, while weather is still amenable. Weather permitting, this plan will be operationalized in September and October, 2020. Starting in November, there will be an additional assessment of the situation to determine if it is feasible to move the meeting inside the building.
2. We can meet even if it rains. We have installed four canopies with open walls that cover up to six participants while maintaining a safe distance. In the case of significantly heavy rain or thunder storms, we will cancel the session.
3. It is important to stress that this plan is designed under the assumption that the health situation and state guidelines remain roughly the same as they are today. **The situation can change at any moment.** If the situation worsens, we will reassess this plan and possibly move to a full-time online program.

This is what a typical Beit Midrash week would look like (see below for group definitions):

Week 1

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Online Small Hebrew groups – Teacher coordinates 30 minutes		Online Full school gathering 4:30-4:45		In person Session 10:00-11:00 Group 3 Online Group 1
				Online Meeting in class online 5:00-6:00		In person Session 11:30-12:30 Group 4 Online Group 2

Week 2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Online Small Hebrew groups – Teacher coordinates 30 minutes		Online Full school gathering 4:30-4:45		In person Session 10:00-11:00 Group 1 Online Group 3
				Online Meeting in class online 5:00-6:00		In person Session 11:30-12:30 Group 2 Online Group 4

Students will each have 2-3 in-person sessions with their teachers.

For students in grades K-1st and 2nd:

- There will be a meeting every Shabbat for one hour.
- There will be small Hebrew learning groups of three or fewer students in each group, 30 minutes each session.

Students in grades 3rd-6th:

- There will be a meeting with their class on Thursday for one hour.
- There will be a meeting on Shabbat for one hour.
- There will be another meeting for small Hebrew learning groups, students or less, 30 minute sessions.
- Every Thursday there will be a large gathering for 15-20 minutes.

There will be an option for one-on-one Hebrew tutoring to supplement and provide extra help to students who need it.

Madrichim will also be working with students.

Safety Measures for in-Person Gatherings

Every person attending **must** adhere to the following conditions:

- Wear a face mask all times, covering their face and nose.
- Maintain a safety distance of 6 feet from other participants.
- Undergo a symptom screening before joining the activity.
- Have a signed social contract, in which the parents acknowledge that, while we are taking all necessary safety measures to reduce risk, participation still involves a low level of risk. The contract will also require parents to agree to follow all safety guidelines, and report to us if their child has symptoms, was tested for Covid-19, or was exposed to others that tested positive for Covid-19.

Activity frequency and structure

Space:

- All in-person activities will take place on the lawn next to the BAI building and the adjacent parking lot.
- That part of the parking lot will be clear of cars.
- Parents will not enter past the upper parking lot.
- Staff will create physical markers using chairs and hoops to make it clear for the students how to properly distance themselves from one another.
- Students will be asked to bring their own folding chairs.
- Students will be asked to bring their own water bottles and hats, both marked with the name of the owner.
- There will be a designated drinking area, at least 15 feet away from the rest of the group.

Capacity: In order to create a more manageable in-person program, the number of individuals will be limited to 20 people, which includes both students and staff.

Groups: Grades K-6th will be divided into 4 groups:

- Group 1= K-2nd grades
- Group 2= 3rd-4th grades
- Group 3= 5th grade
- Group 4= 6th grade

Sessions: Each Shabbat will include two sessions with a break in between, to create a buffer for pickup/drop off, and to allow the staff the needed time to clean and sanitize:

- Session 1= 10:00AM-11:00AM
- Break= 11:00AM-11:30AM
- Session 2= 11:30AM-12:30PM

Each group will meet in person once every two weeks to create a 14 day space for students to report if any participant shows symptoms.

Drop off/Pick up

Drop off:

- All drop off and pick up will be done in the main entrance
- Cars will drive in and wait for the staff there to give them a signal for the student to get out of the car.
- The student will approach the staffer and receive a symptom check, including temperature check, and assuming there are no symptoms, the student will be allowed to join the activity.
- Parents will not be allowed to go to the lower parking lot, unless they are registered to help with the setup.
- Parents that want to wait will be allowed to park only in the upper parking lot.
- Due to the proximity to incoming students, the staff member who will be in charge of the symptom check will also wear protective eye gear.

Pick up:

- A staff member will be waiting in the upper parking lot where parents arrive, and another staff member will be waiting in the lower parking lot where students exit.
- The staffer on top will signal the staffer on the bottom to send one student at a time.

Bathroom breaks:

Bathroom breaks need to be carefully timed and monitored to reduce risk. The main risk is aerosol created after flushing a toilet. Even if the door remains open and the room is ventilated, students will have to wait at least 10 minutes between visits for the air to clear.

There are three bathrooms on the entrance floor, 1 for boys, 1 for girls, and a staff bathroom that is non gender specific.

- Students will be instructed to go to the bathroom before they leave their houses to reduce the number of students requiring bathroom breaks in the BAI building.
- A staff member will be in charge of timing the bathroom breaks.
- Each bathroom requires a 10 minutes buffer.
- Students will keep their masks on in the bathroom.
- Students will be reminded to avoid touching their face.

- The bathroom door will remain open.
- When the student is finished, they will wash their hands for at least 30 seconds and use hand sanitizer before they join the group.

In case of exposure or symptoms:

If we learn of a Covid-19 exposure, or if there are symptoms reported among one or more students, we will follow these steps:

- When a student reports symptoms before an activity, the student will avoid joining the in-person activity, and the parents will notify the school staff.
- When a student has reported exposure to a verified case but has no symptoms, the student will avoid joining the in-person activity, and the parents will remain in communication with the school staff.
- When a student reports exposure and is showing symptoms, the student's entire group will not meet for the following in-person session until the student is cleared.
- In case of a confirmed case the entire group will skip the next in-person session.