

North Shore Hebrew School- Opening plan for 2020-2021

On the advice of the Provincial Health Officer, in-person instruction in public and independent K-12 schools was suspended effective March 17, 2020 as a precautionary measure in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. As of the end of May, school districts were expected to gradually resume regular operations and return to in-class instruction using a staged approach. Following these instructions, NSHS moved to online learning using Zoom starting March until the end of the school year. The following document will articulate the opening and operational plan for the 2020-2021 school year (beginning page 3), in accordance with provincial instructions.

The Ministry of Education has a five-stage approach for resuming in-class instruction:

STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4	STAGE 5
SCHOOL DENSITY TARGETS 100%	SCHOOL DENSITY TARGETS K-7: 100% Grade 8-12: 40%	SCHOOL DENSITY TARGETS K-5: 50% Gr. 6-12: 20%	SCHOOL DENSITY TARGETS K-12: 20%	SCHOOL DENSITY TARGETS K-12: 0%
In-class instruction: K-12: 5 day per week	In-class instruction: K-7: 5 days per week Grade 8-12: 2 days per week <hr/> 5 days per week available for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Children of essential service workers ✓ Students with disabilities/diverse abilities ✓ Students who require additional supports <hr/> Remote/online instruction: Balance of learning	In-class instruction: K-5: 2 to 3 days per week Gr. 6-7: 1 day per week Gr 8-12: 1 day per week <hr/> 5 days per week available for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Children of essential service workers ✓ Students with disabilities/diverse abilities ✓ Students who require additional supports <hr/> Remote/online instruction: <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-size: small;"> Parent/Guardian choice to return to in-class instruction optional </div> Balance of learning	In-class instruction: K-12: Limited <hr/> 5 days per week available for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Children of essential service workers ✓ Students with disabilities/diverse abilities ✓ Students who require additional supports <hr/> Remote/online instruction: K-12: Majority of all students	In-class instruction: K-12: None <hr/> Suspend all in-class instruction for all grades and students <hr/> Remote/online instruction: K-12: All Students

Based on the current epidemiology of COVID-19 in B.C., and the fact that children are at a much lower risk of developing COVID-19, the instruction is that K-12 schools in British Columbia should be increasing the number of students receiving in-class instruction within the school environment, while supporting the health and safety of children and adults (Stage 3, moving into stage 2 in September). Schools should adapt as much as possible to implement public health and infection prevention and control measures, including staying home when ill, physical distancing, minimized physical contact, hand hygiene, frequent cleaning and disinfection, as described in the provincial guidance.

Currently (July 2020), the Provincial Health Officer’s Order for Mass Gatherings continues to prohibit gatherings and events of people in excess of 50 people; however, this Order does not apply to regular school activities. As such, there can be more than 50 students and staff in a school at any given time if they are not all in one area and if they are actively engaged in physical distancing to the greatest extent possible. However, large assemblies of staff and students should not be held. Having said that, with our current number of students and faculty, NSHS will still be under the maximum of 50 participants recommended by the province.



B.C. guidelines for physical distancing in schools

Physical distancing (i.e., maintaining a distance of 2 meters between two or more people) is challenging in a school setting, particularly with younger students. As such, it is reasonable to establish different expectations for varying age levels and activities.

The following physical distancing strategies should be implemented where possible in the K-12 school setting:

1. Avoid close greetings (e.g., hugs, handshakes). Regularly remind students about keeping their “hands to yourself”.
2. Spread people out into different areas:
 - a. Consider different classroom and learning environment configurations to allow distance between students and adults (e.g., different desk and table formations).
3. Organize students into smaller groups that stay together throughout the day.
4. Strive to minimize the number of different teacher(s) and educational assistant(s) that interact with groups of students throughout the day (i.e. minimize the amount of mixing between students and different staff in the setting).
5. Stagger pick-up and drop-off times.
6. Stagger recess/snack, lunch and class transition times to provide a greater amount of space for everyone.
7. Refrain from sharing any food, drinks, unwashed utensils etc.
8. Take students outside more often.
 - a. Organize learning activities outside including snack time, place-based learning and unstructured time.
 - b. Take activities that involve movement, including those for physical health and education, outside. Group sports activities should be organized in a thoughtful way, taking into consideration personal measures.
9. Reassure students and parents that playgrounds are a safe environment, and encourage appropriate hand hygiene practices before, during, after outdoor play.
10. Incorporate more individual activities or activities that encourage more space between students and staff.
 - a. For younger students, adapt group activities to minimize physical contact and reduce shared items.
 - b. For adolescent students, minimize group activities and avoid activities that require physical contact.
11. Manage flow of people in common areas, including hallways.
12. Parents and Caregivers and other non-staff adults entering the school should be minimized as much as is practical to do so. They should also be reminded to practice diligent hand hygiene and maintain physical distance when they are in the school.
13. Assemblies and other school-wide events should be held virtually to avoid a large number of people gathered in one space.



Regular Sunday School Schedule

Leaving the home

Drop off

Welcome and gathering

Classes

Snack break

Tfilah

Enrichment Activity – Chugim (formerly “Electives”)

Pick up

Plans According to Stages

Stage 2/3 (current stage)

Schedule	Plan
Leaving the home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>All students and staff who:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>have symptoms of COVID-19, OR</u> ▪ <u>Travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days, OR</u> ▪ <u>were identified as a close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak, must stay home and self-isolate.</u> These include children of essential service workers who are ill. They must be assessed by their healthcare provider and tested for COVID-19. • Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of the common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. • Staff must assess themselves daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, or COVID-19 prior to entering the school.
Drop off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff will welcome families in the parking lot and send them one by one to the entrance. • Entrance to the school will be made possible through two main doors: Montessori school front door, and synagogue front door. • Parents can come with their children to the door, but will not enter the building, except for parents of Pre-K/K and Grade 1 class, or special circumstances. • We ask that students who are able to walk independently from the parking lot to the entrance and in to the school, be allowed to do so without parental escort. • Students will sanitize/wash their hands when entering the building, and teachers or madrichim will accompany them directly to their classroom.

Welcome	Weather permitting, welcome activities will be held outside while practicing social distancing. During rainy days, each teacher will hold separate welcome activities for 10-15 minutes in the classroom.
Classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classrooms will be sanitized (door knobs, light switches, toilet handles, tables, desks, chairs, keyboards and toys) at the beginning and end of each day. • NSHS equipment will be held separately from daycare/anthroposophical school equipment. • Classroom will be organized in a manner that will allow social distancing as much as possible (table for each student with space between tables) • Every classroom will have its own hand sanitizer. Students will be encouraged to use it. • Social distancing and hygiene instructions and protocols will be hanged in every classroom and around the school. • Every student will bring their own pencil case with school supplies (pencil, pens, markers, glue, scissors etc.) and label them. • Students will be instructed not to share school supplies. If necessary, the teacher will provide the student whatever supplies they need and will sanitize supplies before and after usage. • Activity materials (work sheets, arts supplies, papers, books etc.) will be handed out and picked up to/from every student individually. • Teachers will be encouraged to hold some activities outside, when weather permits. • Each class will be designated recess time outside separately.
Snack Break	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will have their snack with their classmates in their classroom, or outside in a designated area, separate from the other groups. • Students will bring their own snack box from home. All beverage and food containers must be labeled with student's name. • Children should only bring Kosher or vegetarian snacks (cheese is permitted). All food should be nut-free. • Students will be instructed not to share any food, drinks, utensils, etc.
Tfilah	Weather permitting, Tfilah will be held outside while practicing social distancing. During rainy days, Rabbi will go to every class and do Tfilah with each separately.
Enrichment Activity (Chugim)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlike electives, enrichment activities will be held within original classes, without mixing students from different classes. • Instead of students electing Chugim, each class will go through each Chug throughout the year. • Each Chug will have its own protocol in accordance with social distancing instructions (personal equipment, designated work spaces for each student, and sanitation). • All Chugim will be held in the classroom of each individual class.
Pick up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers will escort their entire class from the classroom to the entrance in a staggered manner. • Staff will wait with students at the entrance. • Parents will come pick up their children from the front door while parking in the parking lot. Parents will not enter the building unless absolutely necessary.



Stage 4/5 (Second wave)

Schedule	Plan
Leaving the home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 4- Only Pre-K, K and Gr. 1 students will receive in-class instruction at the School. All other groups will go to online learning. • Should children, youth and staff have common-cold, influenza, or COVID-19 like symptoms they must stay home, be assessed by their health care provider and tested for COVID-19. • Stage 5- All groups go to online learning.
Drop off	<p>Stage 4- Only Pre-K, K and Gr. 1, School hours 9:30-11:30:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff will welcome families in the parking lot and send them one by one to the entrance. • Parents will walk with their children to the door, but will not enter the building, unless absolutely necessary. • Students will sanitize/wash their hands when entering the building, and teachers or madrichim will accompany them directly to their classroom.
Welcome	<p>Stage 4- Pre-K, K and Gr. 1 teachers holds separate welcome activities for 10-15 minutes. Rabbi or Director may join.</p>
Classes	<p>Stage 4-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For in-school classes- see Stage 3. • Online learning schedule: • 9:00-10:00- Grade 4. • 10:00-10:30- School gathering and Tfilah led by Rabbi. • 10:30-12:00- Grade 5-6 and Grade 7 (Parallel). <p>Stage 5- Online learning schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00-10:00- Pre-K, K, Grade 1 (each group is divided into small groups, half hour each). • 10:00-10:30- School gathering and Tfilah led by Rabbi. • 10:30-12:00- Grade 4 and Grade 5-6 (Parallel). • 12:30-02:00- Grade 7
Snack Break	<p>For in-school classes- see Stage 3.</p>
Tfilah	<p>Will be incorporated into in-class group schedule and will be led by the teachers. Tfilah for online will be led by the Rabbi.</p>
Enrichment Activity (Chugim)	<p>Chugim will not be held at the school for the in-class students.</p>
Pick up	<p>For in-school classes- see Stage 3.</p>



Summery

The coming school year will take place in an atmosphere of uncertainty. We are expected to begin the school year in Stage 2, but reality is dynamic and changing. It could very well be the case that the school year will start in a more severe stage, and it could also be the case that we go through several stages during the school year. This requires a great deal of flexibility on our part, but also a great deal of preparation from staff and teachers, who will have to respond to changing circumstances. We are fully committed to keeping parents and students in the conversation, and work through this complicated time in full transparency. We ask for cooperation from both parents and students, so we can safely go through this challenging period together.

References

The above plan is based on the following resources:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-guidance-k-12-schools.pdf>

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-education-restart-plan.pdf>