

## **Congregation B'nai Shalom Health and Safety Policy for 2021-2022**

August 30, 2021

With the health and safety of our students, staff, and families as our number one priority we have established the following policies and procedures. The Congregation B'nai Shalom Religious School will continue to monitor the latest CDC recommendations, medical guidelines, Commonwealth mandated policies, and Westborough Health Department regulations to update these protocols as it becomes necessary. What is on our website at any moment is our most up to date policy at the time.

Our families are critical partners in the success of this health and safety plan. All parents, students, faculty, and staff will be required to read and agree to abide by these guidelines prior to attending the Congregation B'nai Shalom Religious School.

### ***Health Acknowledgement for Students, Staff and Parents upon Entering our Facilities***

Staff and parents, on behalf of their children, agree with the following statements by coming into the building and working at or attending the Congregation B'nai Shalom Religious School.

#### **Staff Statements**

- Neither I, nor anyone in my family, have been in close contact with a person who has Covid-19.
- I confirm that I do not have fever, chills or shaking chills, signs of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, lowered oxygen saturation), fatigue, sore throat, headache, body aches/myalgia, or new loss of sense of taste or smell.

#### **Parents on Behalf of Students**

- My child/children, nor anyone in our family, have been in close contact with a person who has Covid-19.
- I confirm that my child/children do not have fever, chills or shaking chills, signs of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, lowered oxygen saturation), fatigue, sore throat, headache, body aches/myalgia, or new loss of sense of taste or smell.

*Any child or staff member who displays visible symptoms of illness will not be accepted to school that day without a valid doctors note.*

#### **COVID-19 Vaccination Policy**

- All Congregation B'nai Shalom employees and volunteers who work directly with students must be vaccinated against Covid-19 as a condition of their employment or volunteer service.
- There will be no exemptions granted for employees or volunteers who have continuous, ongoing contact especially with children not eligible to be vaccinated due to their age.

### **Children Becoming Sick at School**

- If a child begins to display symptoms of illness while at school including, but not limited to fever, chills or shaking chills, signs of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, lowered oxygen saturation), fatigue, sore throat, headache, body aches/myalgia, or new loss of sense of taste or smell the child will be removed from the classroom and taken to an isolation Room – a designated supervised room for children with identified signs of illness.
- Parents will be notified and required to pick up their child. Emergency contacts will be called if child is not picked up within 30 minutes.
- Materials and furniture used by the ill child will be cleaned and sanitized. Isolation Room will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

### **Classes and Social Gatherings**

- There will be no all school gatherings indoors – Large group indoor gatherings will be limited to 50 individuals in the sanctuary or social hall.
- Classes from the same grades may join for music or Tephilah if outside and masked.
- Youth Group, Family Programs, Shabbat Services and other events may combine classes to form grade level groups and are completely optional to participate in. Masks will be worn throughout the entirety of these events.
- Middle School and High School students will be able to gather indoors for social gatherings and will be physically distanced and masked at all times.
- Adult committees will not be permitted to meet while school is in session.

### **Handwashing** – All children and staff will disinfect hands at the following times:

- Arrival at school
- Before and after eating or handling food
- After coming in contact with bodily fluid
- Whenever hands are soiled

### **Protective Equipment**

- Face Covering – All staff, parents and students will be wearing face coverings, which cover their nose and mouth when at the religious school except when eating snack or lunch which will only occur outside and socially distanced. gaiters and bandanas are not acceptable face coverings.
- Parents are responsible for providing clean masks for students and laundering them if needed.

### **Snacks/Water Bottles**

- Parents will provide individually wrapped snacks & individual water bottles for students when requested by the school.
- Classes will have designated times and locations to eat, unmasked outside only.
- All events where food will be served will be outside and students and staff will be unmasked only while eating.

### **Campus Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting**

- Our maintenance team will clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces including tables, bathrooms, frequently used equipment including electronic devices, door handles and handrails in all common areas.

## **Quarantining Requirements**

- If a student has had direct contact (been within 6ft. for longer than 15 minutes within 48 hours prior to developing symptoms) with a person who has a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, the student may not return to school for 10 days from the last day of exposure to the individual testing positive, even if they remain asymptomatic. The quarantine period can be reduced to 7 days if they are tested for COVID with a PCR test on day 5 or later and do not test positive. If individuals live in the same household and have continuous exposure, the 10 or 7-day quarantine period would begin on the last day of the self-isolation of the positive individual.
- No staff member or student may attend school if they are awaiting results of a COVID-19 test due to the onset of cold/flu like symptoms, or due to direct contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19.
- Requirements for staff members (fully vaccinated individuals) – in accordance with the CDC guidelines:
  - Staff members do not need to quarantine or be restricted from work following a direct exposure because they are fully vaccinated. However, they should still monitor for symptoms of Covid-19 for 14 days following a direct exposure.
  - We do recommend that all individuals, even those fully vaccinated against Covid-19 get a PCR test 5 days following exposure following a known direct exposure to confirm that they are not an asymptomatic carrier given the nature of our work with children who are not eligible for vaccination.

### **If COVID-19 is confirmed in a staff member or child**

- If any staff member or student has a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, they should stay home and the Congregation B'nai Shalom Religious School must be notified immediately. We will notify the Westborough Health Department and follow their guidance on action and closures.
  - All families will be notified immediately via text and email if there is a positive case of COVID-19 at the Congregation B'nai Shalom Religious School.

### **If a positive case of COVID-19 is diagnosed in a classroom:**

- Students will be dismissed immediately and must be picked up as soon as possible. Parents will receive notification via text message and email.
- Staff and students should get tested as soon as possible and notify the school with the results so we can continue to contact trace.
- We will provide ongoing communication with updates and other important information via email. We will always maintain confidentiality and be as transparent as possible.

**Returning to School for Staff and Students after a confirmed positive case of COVID-19** – Any staff or child who tests positive for COVID-19 will be excluded for at least 10 days from the date that the positive test was collected (if asymptomatic) AND only allowed to return 24 hours after fever resolution AND improved respiratory symptoms without medication. The Congregation Bnai Shalom religious school must receive clearance from the Health Department before an individual that has tested positive for COVID-19 may return to school.

***There will be no tuition refunds if there is a temporary classroom closure due to a COVID-19 infection.***

***We strongly encourage our staff, students, and families follow CDC guidelines when not at school.***

## Updated Illness Policy - August 30, 2021

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we are modifying our normal sick policies to take special consideration to reduce the risk of possible infection. **We cannot emphasize enough the need for our parents to keep children home when they are sick.** We will require the following protocols be adhered to by all staff and families.

- **All Staff and Students will be required to receive an influenza vaccine for the 2021-22 school year. Staff will need to provide documentation from a medical professional showing they received the influenza vaccine.** Exceptions will only be made for individuals with medical contraindications for vaccination and must be accompanied by a physician's note.
- Sick children and staff are required to stay home if they have any of the following symptoms: fever, chills or shaking chills, signs of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, lowered oxygen saturation), fatigue, sore throat, headache, body aches/myalgia, or new loss of sense of taste or smell.
- If a child begins to display symptoms of illness while at school including, but not limited to fever, chills or shaking chills, signs of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, lowered oxygen saturation), fatigue, sore throat, headache, body aches/myalgia, or new loss of sense of taste or smell the child will be removed from the classroom. Parents will be notified and required to pick up their child immediately. Emergency contacts will be called if we are unable to reach a parent within 30 minutes. Parents are responsible for keeping emergency contact list up to date.
- If a child suffers from a chronic condition such as asthma or allergies that presents with "cold-like" symptoms, a note from their pediatrician must be provided testifying to the diagnosis and symptoms. However, if a child with pre-existing conditions becomes ill at school, we will notify the parent that they need to be picked up.

### Returning to School After ANY Illness

- Any child or staff member (**regardless of vaccination status**) showing any symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, chills or shaking chills, signs of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, lowered oxygen saturation), fatigue, sore throat, headache, body aches/myalgia, or new loss of sense of taste or smell) may not return to school until the following criteria have been met:
  - 24 hours being symptom free without fever reducing medication, AND with physician **documentation of negative COVID-19 PCR test results**. While rapid tests are helpful because results are given quickly, they are not as accurate as PCR tests, results of which are usually received a few days after the test is administered. Because the PCR test is more accurate, we require a negative PCR test to return to school. A doctor's note saying, " \_\_\_\_\_ received a negative PCR COVID-19 test result on \_\_\_\_\_." is acceptable.
- Parents and staff are required to contact the school within 12 hours of finding out any medical diagnosis.
- Classroom Closures -When a child or staff member is sent home ill, the Congregation B'nai Shalom Religious School will make decisions on closures and quarantining on a case-by-case basis with guidance from medical professionals and the Westborough Department of Health.

## Definitions:

- Social Distancing - Social distancing, also called “physical distancing,” means keeping space between yourself and other people outside of your home. **To practice social or physical distancing stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms’ length) from other people.**
- Quarantine - The separation of a person or group of people reasonably believed to have been exposed to a communicable disease but not yet symptomatic, from others who have not been so exposed.
- Shelter in Place - An official order, issued during an emergency, that directs people to stay at home and not leave unless absolutely necessary.
- Direct Contact – an individual within 6 feet of an infected person for a total of 15 minutes or more, during a period of time beginning 48 hours before the development of symptoms or a positive test for COVID-19
- Fully Vaccinated – people are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 at least 2 weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or at least 2 weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson (J&J)/Janssen).