

Temple Beth Emeth Religious School Health and Safety Policy for 2022-2023 Version 1.5 – updated 11/17/22

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 Temple Beth Emeth Religious School will continue to monitor the latest CDC recommendations, medical guidelines, state mandated policies, and Washtenaw County 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 families and staff are required to read and agree to abide by these guidelines prior to attending the Temple Beth Emeth Religious School. We view our concern for health and safety as a *brit*, a sacred covenant we make with each other and we ask that each member of our Religious School community take this *brit* to heart.

- **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 or attending the Temple Beth Emeth Religious School.
 - I confirm that everyone in my household who is eligible¹ to receive a COVID-19 vaccine have received said vaccine. I further understand that TBE programming will move forward with the understanding that everyone who is medically able to be vaccinated is vaccinated.
- **COVID-19 Vaccination Policy**
 - All Temple Beth Emeth employees - professional staff, teachers, and *madrikhimot* (teen classroom assistants) - must be vaccinated against Covid-19 as a condition of their employment when working within the school
 - All Genesis staff who will be working during school hours must be vaccinated against Covid-19
- **Updated Illness Policy** – In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we are modifying our normal sick policies to take special consideration in an effort 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.
 - Any sick children and staff are required to stay home if they have any of the following symptoms: temperature of 100.4 or higher, coughing, sneezing, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, sore throat, loss of smell or taste, chills, muscle pain, headache, runny nose, rash, abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting, or lethargy.

¹ Eligibility refers to CDC guidelines. Anyone with medical exemptions would be considered ineligible.

- If a child begins to display symptoms of illness while at school including, but not limited to fever, coughing, sneezing, sore throat, runny nose, abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting, lethargy, and rash they will be removed from the classroom and held in an isolation room.
 - 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 the emergency contact list up to date.
 - Materials and furniture used by the ill child must be cleaned and sanitized.
- **Building Access** - As a functioning synagogue, we will not be limiting who enters the building, but we will do our best to keep the Shabbat population and the school population separate. As always, guests for Shabbat services will not enter our downstairs classrooms. Parents who enter the building should go to the downstairs Education office and find either Rabbi Daniel, Emily Alter, or Sagen Fuller. **Please do not go directly to your child's classroom.**
- **Classes and Social Gatherings**
 - Tefillah - mixed-grade tefillah will take place indoors or outdoors, depending on the weather. Masks will be worn at all times
 - Music - music classes may occur either indoors or outdoors. Masks will be worn at all times.
 - Teachers are encouraged to utilize outdoor spaces during class time. These include:
 - The front lawn
 - Under the tent, while we have it
 - The front parking lot
 - The back parking lot
 - Pattengill field
 - All families are encouraged to dress appropriately and bring a towel, yoga mat, etc, to sit on while outside for tefillah, music, or other outdoor experiences
- **Protective Equipment** - All staff and students must wear a well-fitting disposable surgical mask or respirator (N95, KN95, or KF94) during school hours. Parents are responsible for providing a mask or respirator, but the school will stock additional masks in both kid and adult sizes.
- **Food and Drink** – Based on updated synagogue policy, school participants may temporarily remove masks to consume food and drink during school at all times. Students must put their masks back on when snack/meal time has concluded.
- **Hand Sanitizing** – Hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom
- **CDC Guidelines for Exposure, Diagnosis, and Return** – All school participants – students, teens, and staff members – must follow CDC guidelines for exposure,

diagnosis, quarantine, and returning to school, as described here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>

- Exposure:
 - Vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine following a COVID-19 exposure unless symptoms develop. The CDC recommends getting tested 5+ days following an exposure.
 - Any individual not up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations should quarantine for at least 5 days following exposure and continue watching for symptoms to develop for at least 10 days.
 - Diagnosis - Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, must isolate for at least 5 days
 - If you develop symptoms, you may return after 5 days AND you are fever-free for 24 hours without medication.
 - If you do not develop symptoms, you may return after 5 days from the positive test.
 - Parents and staff are required to contact the school within 24 hours of finding out a medical diagnosis.
 - Classroom Closures - When a child or staff member is sent home ill, the Temple Beth Emeth Religious School will make decisions on closures and quarantining on a case by case basis with guidance from medical professionals.
- **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 Temple Beth Emeth Religious School must be notified immediately. We will notify the Health Department and follow their guidance on action and closures.
 - All families will be notified immediately via email if there is a positive case of COVID-19 in their student's Religious or Hebrew School classroom. No names will be shared.
 - If a positive case of COVID-19 is diagnosed in a classroom while class is in session:
 - Students will be dismissed immediately and must be picked up as soon as possible. Parents will receive notification via email, followed by a phone call if no response is received.
 - Staff and students must follow the quarantine guidelines stated above. If any staff or students develop symptoms during the quarantine period, please refer back to our "returning to school after illness" policy for further guidance.
 - We will provide ongoing communication with updates and other important information via email. We will always maintain confidentiality and be as transparent as possible.
 - **In the Event of a Closure** - 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 to follow CDC guidelines when not at school.**

Definitions:

- Social Distancing - Social distancing, also called “physical distancing,” means keeping space between yourself and other people outside of your home.
- 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, to prevent the possible spread of the communicable disease.
- Shelter in Place - An official order, issued during an emergency, which 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 within 48 hours of developing symptoms or testing positive for Corona Virus
- 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).

Some Helpful Resources:

CDC: What you should know about COVID-19 to protect yourself and others
[How to Protect Yourself & Others](#)

CDC: If You Are Sick

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/index.html>

CDC: Talking with Children about Coronavirus

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/talking-with-children.html>