

7.31.2020 Update to ECEP Families

Dear ECEP families -- here we are with another update on our thoughts, policies/plans and logistics, as of today! There is also a request for help in locating a nanny at the end, so please scroll all the way down.

At this point, we have every intention of opening school in-person, 5 days per week, in September. We have confirmed our enrollment, and our teachers and Temple Sinai are committed to moving forward with all the plans necessary to open. We are expecting to open around September 14, with a soft opening from September 9-11.

Our current focus is transitioning the children back to school by creating in-person and virtual opportunities for the children to "meet" their teachers and spend short periods of time on the temple grounds. The logistics are still to come, and parents will have flexibility in taking part in some or all of the gatherings with teachers and peers. We hope to begin the programs mid- to late August.

Tuition Refund and Withdrawal Policy: The Tuition Refund and Withdrawal Policy has been finalized. In brief, if the ECEP is required to close due to COVID for more than 4 weeks, families may choose to remain enrolled in the ECEP program (which will include online offerings) at a reduced tuition rate. Otherwise, families may choose to withdraw from the ECEP program and receive a full prorated tuition refund. Click here for the full Modified Tuition Agreement and Refund Policy.

Enrollment forms: In the next week or two, you will receive instructions on completing our online enrollment forms through your account on the Temple website. NJ State requires an updated Universal Health Form and Immunization form to be submitted before the start of the school year. For children under the age of 2-½ years, the last physical must have taken place within 6 months of the start of school; for children over 2-½ years, we are required to have documentation of a physical within 1 year of the start of school. Click here for the Universal Health Form and here for the Immunization Record to submit to your child's physician. Completed forms can be mailed to the temple, emailed to Lara, or faxed to 908-273-3653 (to Lara's attention).

Re-opening Task Force Takeaways (from the July 20 meeting)

- Families are getting more accustomed to being out of the house
- Children are getting more comfortable wearing masks and seeing others in masks
- Families appreciate our email communications with FAQs, want regular updates on policies which help them make decisions for their families and feel comfortable with our planning.
- Families expressed the importance of helping parents build relationships with other parents in the class and school communities before school starts and throughout the school year, especially because they will not be able to meet in person during drop-off and other times.
- Families are supportive of more time outside in most weather

The next installment of FAQs: Thank you again for asking any questions that come to mind. Here are our responses to a few more, based on regulations and plans at this time.

- Will the children distance in the classroom or in our outdoor spaces? As per NJ State Licensing, we will not expect or require the children to remain 6 feet apart in the classrooms or outdoors. Each class will function as a cohort and will not come in contact (within 10 feet) with children or teachers in other class cohorts.
- Have you given any thought to ventilation in the classrooms? The filters in our HVAC system were changed recently and will continue to be changed frequently. In addition, the settings for the HVAC system were adjusted to allow for the greatest ratio of fresh air to recirculated air that the system can accommodate. The filters in the window AC units will be cleaned weekly. Finally, each classroom has windows that will be opened as often as possible, weather permitting.
- Do you have any more information about the morning drop-off and screening process? At this time, we are re-thinking the screening process and are leaning toward having screening stations set up by the front door of the building. Parents/caregivers would be asked to park in the Temple lot and remain in their cars until their assigned drop-off window. Adults would then bring the children to the station for a temperature check. A few screening questions would be asked, and adults and children will say a quick good-bye before the children meet up with one of their teachers to head to the classroom. Each person/family will be expected to remain at least 6 feet from anyone else present. We will likely have a practice screening during one or more of our in-person transition gatherings.