

The Alvin Browdy Religious School In-Person Programming Policies



This document, for the families of ABRS, is a plan to protect, to the best of our ability, our staff, students, and families from the spread of COVID-19. The content is based on the recommended guidelines from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and our medical professional team.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

There are communal responsibilities that all ABRS families and staff need to adhere to in order to participate in the in-person programming at ABRS. Creating and maintaining a culture in which staff and families can rely on each other for compliance is essential for our continued operation.

ABRS has incorporated multiple strategies recommended for the health and safety of the students and staff:

- Comprehensive policies and procedures will be in place to monitor students and staff's health and COVID-19 exposure.
- Social distancing will be in place and required of all staff and students
- All students and staff will be required to wear masks at all times while at OKC (inside and outside)
- All students and staff will have their temperature taken upon arrival

FACE COVERINGS (MASKS)

ABRS staff will wear face coverings at all times during any in-person programming, according to guidelines recommended by the CDC.

ABRS staff and parents/caregivers should use cloth face coverings during drop-off and pick-up and when parents/caregivers are performing, and staff are observing, temperature checks.

All students are expected to wear face masks while at ABRS. ABRS staff will encourage the students to wear their masks correctly, completely covering nose and mouth, and not touch their faces. Please let us know if you need us to provide a mask for your child.

NOTE: Cloth face coverings should NOT be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.



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ARRIVAL AND DROP-OFF

Prior to leaving home, a parent/caregiver should determine if their child is feeling well enough to attend in-person programming and take their child's temperature. If a child is not feeling well and/or has a temperature of 100.4 degrees F or higher, they should remain home.

Only staff and students will enter OKC. **Parents/caregivers and siblings will not be allowed to enter the Ohr Kodesh building for any reason.** Each family must park their car in the Ohr Kodesh parking lot, then walk their child to the beginning of the sidewalk area with the blue awning. There will be an area designated for drop-off and pick-up. ABRS staff and parents/caregivers must wear cloth face coverings during these interactions.

At this point, we are only offering classes in person from 11:00 AM-12:00 PM on Sundays. Each class will receive a schedule of when their grade is scheduled to be in-person. **If a family arrives more than 10 minutes after their designated class time is supposed to begin, they will not be allowed to attend the in-person class on that day. Please arrive early/on-time to make sure that your child will be able to participate and has enough time to wash their hands before the beginning of class.**

Health Screening

An ABRS staff member will be waiting to receive your child and perform a health assessment upon your arrival: **The health screening is a condition to participate in ABRS classes at OKC.**

ABRS staff will take the student's temperature with a contactless rapid-read thermometer and record the temperature data. If the student's temperature is under 100.4 degrees F, the staff member will ask the student's parent/caregiver:

1. Does the student feel feverish or have a measured temperature of 100.4 degrees F or higher?
2. Has the student experienced any symptoms associated with COVID-19 (e.g., sore throat, nasal congestion, runny nose, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, fatigue/malaise, headaches, body aches, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell)?
3. Has the student had close, prolonged contact (less than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with anyone (e.g., household or any other person) known to have COVID-19 or who has symptoms associated with COVID-19 (e.g., sore throat, nasal congestion, runny nose, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, fatigue/malaise, headaches, body aches, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell)?



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Any ABRS student or staff member who is returning to Maryland from outside the DMV area must arrange for COVID-19 testing and wait for test results before coming to OKC. We trust families will be honest and monitor themselves.

If the student's temperature is under 100.4 degrees F and the parent/caregiver replies "NO" to all these questions, the student is permitted to enter OKC. The designated ABRS staff member will then remind the parent/caregiver of the pickup time (12:00 PM, unless noted otherwise).

If the student's temperature is 100.4 degrees F or higher or the parent/caregiver replies "YES" to any of these screening questions, the parent/caregiver will be advised the student will not be admitted into ABRS classes that day. The student should quarantine, and if symptomatic the parent/caregiver should contact the student's health care provider for further guidance.

If there is disagreement concerning the health screening, either pre or post entry, ABRS's assessment will always override the decision of the family.

Entering ABRS and OKC

All students will be directed to a restroom where they must wash their hands properly upon arrival, even if class is being held outside. An ABRS staff member will also give a pump of hand sanitizer to each student before they join their class.

Hand Washing

Students will engage in frequent, thorough hand washing with soap and water in a manner consistent with CDC guidance. If a staff member notices that a student is touching their mask, they will be asked to wash their hands again.

Snacks

ABRS will not provide snacks to the students. Students are asked not to bring any food or drinks to ABRS unless it is for medical reasons. Students may bring water if class is being held outside.

Bathrooms

ABRS will have a designated bathroom during in-person programming on Sundays. At the end of every class on Sunday afternoon, every surface that has been touched will be disinfected: stall door handles, toilets, flushers, sinks, soap dispensers, and paper towel dispensers. **Only 1 person at a time will be allowed in each bathroom.**

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Dismissal

When parents/caregivers arrive at OKC for pick up at 12:00, please drive up “carpool style” and wait for the students to come to the parking lot. One student will leave the pickup area at a time when their parent/caregiver pulls up in the car. Please stay in your car if possible and keep the line moving as quickly as you can to prevent backups in the parking lot and crowding amongst the students.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

No stuffed animals, toys, or books may be brought to school. Your student’s teacher will notify you in advance if they would like for you to bring anything to class (ex. Pencils, paper, crayons, etc.).

STAFF PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Masks will be provided for ABRS staff members to use while at work. Masks will be worn inside and outside at all times.

IMMUNIZATIONS & HEALTH FORMS

New students to ABRS must have all their health forms completed and sent to the Assistant Director prior to the start of school. Current families will need to provide their child’s vaccination record before the start of school.

The CDC published a study that showed a significant and concerning nationwide decrease in vaccinations in April 2020 compared to April 2019. In Maryland, data shows similar declines. Both the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend continuation of essential services, including immunizations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Families may visit Maryland’s [immunization information system](#) to view and print their child’s vaccination record.

COMMUNICATION

Parents/caregivers should regularly check their email and Remind app messages for possible health updates, procedure changes and/or school closures.

Parents/caregivers must have their cell phones on during the day in the event the ABRS staff needs to reach them. If a student shows signs of COVID-19 during the class, a parent/caregiver will be notified and asked to pick them up. The student must be picked up within 10-20 minutes.

A diagnosis of COVID-19 for an ABRS staff member, student, or family member must be disclosed to ABRS as soon as possible.

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USEFUL LINKS

- [MSDE COVID-19 guidance for childcare settings](#)
- [MSDE use of face coverings in childcare programs](#)
- [CDC handwashing guidelines](#)
- [MSDE temperature and symptom screening in childcare programs](#)
- [MSDE FAQs re COVID-19 and childhood vaccinations](#)
- [MSDE vaccination requirements for children](#)