

GROWING!



ישיבת תורת שמחה

בס"ד



Covid-19 Roadmap – Yeshivas Toras Simcha 2020-2021

These past number of months have been challenging for people across the world. Our community continues to daven while it does the proper hishtadlus to keep everyone safe and healthy. Our Rabbonim and local doctors continue to guide us and lead with tremendous siyata dishmaya. This Yeshivas Toras Simcha Roadmap for Reopening outlines our plan for the continued operation of our Yeshiva during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our goal is to open the 2020-2021 school year on time and fully on campus, and we daven to Hashem that He grant us the siyata dishmaya to be able to do so. Health and Safety Strategies:

What do the experts on the national scene say about schools reopening?

The CDC: Schools are an essential part of the infrastructure of communities, as they provide safe, supportive learning environments for students, employ teachers and other staff, and enable parents, guardians, and caregivers to go to work. Schools also provide critical services that help to mitigate health disparities, such as school meal programs, social, physical, behavioral, and mental health services. **Communities should make every effort to support the reopening of schools safely for in person learning in the fall.**

The AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics): The AAP strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school.

How do I know if it's safe for my son(s) to come to school?

1. If your son and everyone in your family is feeling well and he hasn't been exposed to anyone diagnosed with the Covid-19 virus then he may come to school. Exposure to someone with Covid-19 means he was within 6 feet of the person with Covid-19 without a mask for at least 15 minutes.
2. A child diagnosed with Covid-19 who is asymptomatic must remain at home for 10 days from the date of his first positive Covid-19 test.
3. A child with **at least one** of the following symptoms – fever (100.2) or loss of taste or smell, cannot come to school and should stay home at least 10 days since experiencing the first symptom. There also must be 3 days of no fever (without fever medication) and 3 days of symptom improvement. A negative Covid-19 test or communication from a doctor stating the child may return will allow the child to return in less than 10 days assuming the child has recovered.

4. A child with **at least two** of the following – diarrhea, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, a new cough, sore throat must remain at home at least 10 days since experiencing the first symptom. There also must be 3 days of no fever (without fever medication) and 3 days of symptom improvement. Of course, a child with just one of these symptoms still shouldn't come to school until he feels better and has been given the OK by a doctor.
5. If your child was diagnosed with a communicable disease other than Covid-19 (i.e. cold or flu), he must bring a doctor's note to allow him to return to class.

Notes for parents:

FEVER AND MEDICATION

Do not give your child fever reducing medication prior to the school day (i.e. Tylenol/Motrin), for any reason. If you think your child may need medication for a communicable illness, please keep him home and contact your doctor.

AVAILABILITY

A parent or emergency contact must be available to pick up your child as soon as possible should fever or other signs of illness be detected.

Travel

As the Covid-19 pandemic develops, the situation remains fluid. Our yeshiva may send emails to parents reflecting that traveling to certain cities and/or states would require their son to quarantine at home for 14 days when he returns. You will receive those emails if necessary.

Entering our building

Unfortunately, during this pandemic, parents will not be allowed to enter our school building for any reason. If a parent is coming to pick up a child, an adult will supervise and send the child out when the parent arrives. The parent must make sure the adult sees and acknowledges parent's arrival.

Arrival and dismissal

See below – Prevention

Prevention – Health and safety strategies

Arrival

When dropping off your son(s) you will be asked a series of questions by a staff member. You cannot drop off your son and exit the school parking lot until you have answered those questions. The children will be rescreened again as soon as they enter the building by a staff member. (Please see the last page for our screening process)

Children must come to school wearing a mask. The school will have extra masks to allow for one time that a child forgets to wear one. After the first time, a parent will be called and will need to come to school to bring their son his mask. The child will remain outside the building with adult supervision until he has his mask.

Children will not enter through the front main door. Instead, children grades 3-5 will enter the entrance on the right side of the building and remain on that side of the building the entire day. Children from Nursery through Second Grade will enter the entrance on the left side of the building and remain on that side of the building the entire day.

Inside our school building

Every class will act as its own cohort the entire day. The maximum size for a cohort will be 20 students.

The children in grades 1-5 will need to sit 6 feet apart from one another and wear masks inside at all times. Preschoolers need to wear a mask inside at all times and the teacher will make every effort for them to socially distance when possible. The teachers will also wear a mask at all times.

Only one class will be allowed in the hallway at a time. All classes need to wear masks in the hallways including preschool. The preschoolers will have their own indoor playroom and will not use the gym. Grades 1-5 will use the gym. Masks will be worn inside the gym. Only one class will be allowed to use the gym at a time with a 20 minute break in between usage.

Outdoor activity

During recess our staff will be monitoring the play and the types of activities in which the boys will be engaged. In grades 1-5, the children will not be required to wear masks if they engage in activities that don't necessitate them being in close proximity to one another. Examples include baseball, soccer, running, frisbee etc. Under the watchful eyes of the preschool teacher, the preschoolers won't need to wear masks outside at all.

Preventive steps in school:

- Beside a thorough cleaning of our entire building every evening, there will be a midday cleaning with a focus on areas occupied by more than one cohort throughout the day such as the bathrooms and hallways. Any surfaces that could be possibly touched by multiple cohorts will also be cleaned midday.
- All children will be required to use hand sanitizer when they enter and exit a room
- Children will need to wear masks when using the bathroom
- Every classroom has its own self-contained air conditioner, so air does not move room to room. Fans will be blowing inside the classrooms. When the weather permits, windows will be open.
- Adults in the building will wear masks indoors and socially distance

The Resource Room

Every child and adult will always be wearing a mask while the Resource Room is in session. Surfaces will be cleaned between tutoring and therapy sessions

Sunday Arts Program

Unfortunately, due to the nature of our Arts Program in which we occupy different classrooms and are divided by interest rather than age, we won't be able to begin the school year with an arts program. Be"H when the pandemic is behind us, we look forward to have an even bigger and better arts program!

Carpools

Yeshivas Toras Simcha recommends that parents drive their own child(ren) to and from school. Parents who carpool need to be aware that all the children in the carpool are in danger of requiring quarantine in a case where one of those children is exposed to someone with Covid-19. One way to avoid such a challenge is to a) keep space between the children sitting in the vehicle b) wear masks in the car c) keep the windows open at least a crack. If all three of those steps are taken, then exposure for one child may not necessitate quarantine for the entire carpool but these situations will need to be addressed on an individual basis.

School lunches

The distribution of school lunches is under the auspices of our PTA. We will be able to serve school lunches. The school lunches will be delivered directly to each classroom and the Rebbe/Morah will bring each boy his lunch within his classroom. A small select group of women will serve the lunches under strict protocols. The PTA will be in touch regarding menus, dates, and sign-up info.

Learning

There are three types of learning that may be required this coming school year: In-person learning, Hybrid learning and Distance learning. While we hope to have only in-person learning, we're preparing for the possibility of Hybrid or Distance learning as well.

Hybrid Learning

If a child must quarantine for 10 or 14 days, it's important that he has the opportunity to learn even in such a situation. Our entire staff is now very comfortable teaching via Zoom. Any child who needs to remain at home will be given the opportunity to learn via Zoom. Every staff member will wear a mic in the classroom while teaching so he/she can be heard clearly by the child at home. The computer will be put in the best place possible to maximize the benefits of the visual part of learning. Yeshivas Toras Simcha has joined a group of 10 local Jewish schools applying through the CJE for OWL cameras which are 360 degree cameras that would enhance the visual part of Zoom learning in a scenario where one child is joining live learning via Zoom. We're also collaborating with the CJE and other schools to hire (using grant funds) a coordinator who will assist with the education of those individual students who need to learn from home while the others are learning in person. We'll keep you posted.

Distance Learning

In the case where c"v an entire class needs to quarantine because someone in the cohort has been diagnosed with Covid-19, there will be class via Zoom. B"H our staff is not only familiar with Zoom but many of our Rebbeim/Morohs have become true Zoom experts as they have learned how to effectively teach under such circumstances. We are set up and ready for such a scenario which hopefully should never happen.

Screening process

Our screening process will be layered. We will screen the boys when they exit their car before entering the building and then again once they enter. When exiting their car, the questions will be directed at the parent (or guardian) while once inside the building the questions will be asked to the students themselves.

1. Are you or anybody else in your family feeling ill?
2. Are you or anybody taking pain relieving medication?
3. Do you or anyone in your family have a fever, a cough, a loss of taste or smell, headache, sore throat, stomach pain or breathing difficulty?
4. Have you or anybody in your family been out town recently?
5. Have you or anybody in your family recently been exposed to someone diagnosed with Covid-19?

If the answer to any of these questions is a YES, we will take the necessary action based on our protocols stated above.

Thank you!