

Dear <> ,

Thank you to all the parents that participated in Wednesday evening's Zoom Update on our Covid preparations. We realize not everyone was able to make the call, so we will repeat the content on Monday evening at 8:30. The Link can be found at the end of this email.

Below you will find a summary of Wednesday's Zoom session, including answers to previously submitted questions as well as questions that were submitted during the call. This information will be posted to the preschool website: ganofgreenwich.org.

Zoom Meeting Notes – July 15, 2020

Chabad Preschool

Introductory Comments

- Chabad is taking much care to prepare for the coming school year, taking into account best practices from camps and preschools already in session. We consult regularly with our medical advisors and seek out the latest news and recommendations from the CDC, the CT OEC, and local and state Health Departments. We also join discussion groups with other preschools and camps, many of which have been open during the pandemic, to learn from them what has worked and not worked.
- Our plans and protocols are fluid and will remain as such while the pandemic is here. What is recommended today could need adapting down the road as our knowledge of Covid increases and as the conditions in our area change. The information and best practices are changing regularly. We will adapt our procedures when the data tells us we should. Schools all over the country are grappling with this - preschool through college....
- Most recent information is that preschool age children tend not to be as sick as others when infected with Covid, and the spread from child to child and child to adult is a lower risk.
- Ultimately it is up to you as parents to decide if you are comfortable sending your children to school. Our goal is to share information with you and to be as transparent as we can be so that you can make an informed decision as to what is best for your family.

Key Protocols for Chabad Pre School

- We plan for each class to enter through a different door each morning. A drop-off schedule (Based on an alpha order) will be created to stagger arrivals so that the morning screenings go smoothly and quickly, and cut down on the activity in the parking lot each morning.

- Daily Screening – applies to staff and children
 1. Each day, teachers and caregivers will be asked a series of questions to help identify any potential risk.
 2. Staff person asks parent / caregiver a series of questions and records the answers.
 3. Daily temperature check of children and staff with a touchless medical grade thermometer.
 4. Daily screening data collected and maintained

- Frequent and regular handwashing – Touchless foam soap dispensers installed at all sinks.
- Hand Sanitizer stations installed throughout the buildings and outdoor space.
- There will be a written and posted cleaning / disinfecting schedule showing frequent points of cleaning throughout the day (classroom and bathroom surfaces, toys, playground). Teachers and other staff will have a role in adhering to the schedule.

- Masks are worn by staff all the time while indoors. If outside, the masks can be removed ONLY if a 6ft separation is able to be maintained. We are not requiring any of the children to wear masks. If a parent of a 3 or pre k student wants their child to wear a mask, the parent must supply the mask and the child needs to come to school wearing the mask. No children under the age of 3 should be wearing a mask. Teachers will also wear clean smocks each day.

- COVID Tests – current thought is that staff will be tested within 5 days of the start of school. If a staff person travels, they will need to retest before returning to school. Depending on where the travel is from, a quarantine could be required. Currently we are not asking children to be tested unless household circumstances present a reason for this.

- We are taking great effort to keep each class separate from the others.
- We are removing toys from the classrooms that cannot be easily disinfected, such as plush toys.
- Some furniture will be removed from classrooms to create a better opportunity for kids to distance themselves.
- While the weather permits we will utilize the outdoors as much as possible.

Submitted Questions

a. Will our Preschool Health Consultant be part of the policy and protocol determination?

Our Health Consultant, Dr. Karen Weisler is part of the decision process. She has a long history with the preschool as a parent and as our Health Consultant. In addition, as an experienced pediatrician practicing in our area, she brings a wealth of current and practical COVID knowledge to the table.

b. Have you spoken with a behaviorist or a child psychologist as to how these changes or how children of preschool age can be kept a safe distance? How will they react to the masks etc.

We connect regularly with experts in the field on these topics and will continue to do so through the summer. Our planned backyard home visits is one way we plan to help the children become comfortable seeing their teachers in masks (This will occur the week prior to the start of school). Also, we are planning for the teachers to wear clear masks that provide protection, and also allow the children to see more of the teachers' facial expressions. The first two weeks of school, the teachers will focus class discussion on community to allow students to feel safe and secure upon their return to a structured learning environment. – Also, see “m” below.

c. Are teachers using face shields?

No. face shields do not provide the same level of protection that a face mask does.

d. Can you speak to class size?

The OEC now allows up to 14 children in a preschool classroom. Our classrooms at 6 Lincoln are capped at 15 children total (7 and 8). The classrooms at Chabad have current capacities of 8 (prior Toddler Class), and the basement classroom and the Pre K classrooms can accommodate up to 14. Based on our

	<p>current enrollment numbers; however, it looks like we would have 9-10 in the basement classroom, and 12-14 in the Pre K space.</p>
<p>e. How are you handling bathrooms?</p>	<p>We plan to have one bathroom assigned to each classroom, utilizing the two in the basement, the two at 6 Lincoln, and an upstairs bathroom at Chabad. These bathrooms would be solely for the use of children. All staff would use other bathrooms (upstairs at 6 Lincoln and top floor at Chabad).</p>
<p>f. When can a parent come in the classroom?</p>	<p>Parents and caregivers (and other visitors are not allowed in school area. The only time they would be allowed in is if their child is having difficulty separating, and then, a mask would be required.</p>
<p>g. What is the planned teaching model if a class or the school needs to shut down over a Covid concern?</p>	<p>The preschool will provide each child effected by a shutdown with a supply box. Teachers will lead 60-90 minutes of remote instruction each school day. They will plan for a worksheet activity each day as well. For extended closings teachers will schedule three one on one sessions with each child each week, or a backyard playdates.</p> <p>Depending on the situation, there may be a gap of 1-2 days to be fully operational remotely.</p> <p>We will consider moving to a “split session” model if the data tells us that we should lessen our class size. This could take the form of two session per day, each being 2-3 hours or some other model that would lessen the size of each class.</p>
<p>h. Will teachers be commuting from New York?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>i. Will teachers be screened daily?</p>	<p>Yes – same screening as students including a daily temperature check.</p>
<p>j. How do you handle families that travel on during this time?</p>	<p>Identifying travel (staff and children and members of households) is part of our daily screening. Given what we know today, we would require children and staff traveling out of the area to quarantine for 2 weeks before</p>

	returning to school. Staff would require a COVID test before returning.
k. Will the school close every time someone tests positive for Covid?	Our current plan is to close for two weeks if a teacher tests positive for Covid. If a child tests positive we may close a class or the full school. We would consult with the Department of Health and make a decision. Families would be notified of all positive tests.
l. How will you help children adjust to school that have never been in a separation program if parents cannot enter the building?	Our younger 2s class will transition into the school year by having several days of only playground time with teachers and a caregiver.
m. What other ways are planned for children to feel comfortable with returning to school after such a long break?	We plan to have one teacher from last year's classroom with the children this year so there is some instant familiarity. Before the start of school, parents will have the opportunity to inform the teachers if their child has had a particularly difficult time during this period and if he / she is presenting with any anxiety or other behavior / emotional concerns. – Also – See “b” above.
n. What is the plan if there is Covid exposure within the child's or staff person's home?	We are waiting to hear from the CDC / OEC for guidance on this point and will make a decision before school begins.
o. Will there be any ventilation upgrades to the classrooms?	There is not currently a plan for this. If a risk is identified, we will review and correct.
p. Can we utilize outdoor classrooms?	Yes. As the weather allows us, each class will have outside time twice a day. We have invested in canopies and outdoor table & chair sets that we plan to utilize as well.
q. Can you survey families to see if they would prefer distance or in person learning?	As of today, we haven't considered this, but it is an interesting idea. If there are enough families that want only distance learning, we could consider dedicating a teacher(s) to accommodate. Please reach out to Maryashie if this option interests you.
I hope you find this helpful. Here is the ZOOM link to Monday evenings session:	

Invite Link

<https://zoom.us/j/4045802626>

Meeting Invitation

Maryashie Deren is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Review of COVID Protocols for Preschool 2020

Time: Jul 20, 2020 08:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/4045802626>

Meeting ID: 404 580 2626

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Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aCzswg22>

Best wishes,

Maryashie and Greta