
UPDATE #5

COVID PROTOCOLS - August 10, 2020

Note: This document provides cumulative documentation of Chabad Preschool's Covid 19 Protocols. Information is conveyed via bullet points and a series of Qs and As. We will continue to provide UPDATES throughout the summer and the school year as needed. If you have questions on this document, or have questions that have not previously been addressed, please feel free to reach out to us.

Best wishes,

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General Comments

- Chabad is taking much care to prepare for the coming school year, taking into account best practices at the camp we are currently running and preschools already in session. We consult regularly with our medical advisors (Dr. Barbara Coven and Dr. Karen Weissler) 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 same issue.
- 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 day.

- All special events such as school-wide holiday programs and celebrations are canceled.

- Daily Screening – applies to staff and children
 1. Each day, teachers 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. Temperatures registering 100.4 or higher are cause for the child or staff person to be sent home before entering the building.
 4. Daily screening data is documented and maintained on site.

- Frequent and regular hand washing – Touchless foam soap dispensers installed at all sinks. Upon arrival all staff and children wash their hands. Additionally, at a minimum, hand washing takes place between all transitions throughout the day. Hand washing will be done scrupulously before and after snack and lunch.

- 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, and playground). Teachers and other staff will have a role in adhering to the schedule.

- All classrooms will receive a deep cleaning / disinfecting every evening

- **Synagogue services will not be held indoors at Chabad**

- 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 children to wear masks. If a parent of a 3, pre k or 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 – Staff will be tested for Covid prior to the start of school.
- If a staff person or child travels during the school year to a current “Hot Spot” (as identified by the state of CT), they will need to self-quarantine for 14 days before returning to the classroom. This applies to travel by airplane or automobile. If there is airplane travel to a “non-Hot Spot”, they will need to quarantine for 10 days.
- If a household member of a child or staff person travels, they follow the protocols that the state and our school require of our staff people and preschool children. It is expected that the household member is able to isolate themselves from the rest of the household. If this is the case, the child / staff person is able to attend school. If not, we ask that the child / staff person stay home for 10 days.
- We are taking great effort to keep each class separate from the others to create separate pods. Toys and classroom supplies will not be shared between classes. Key touchpoints on the playground equipment will be sanitized between classes.
- We are removing toys from the classrooms that cannot be easily disinfected, such as plush toys.
- At snack and lunch time, children will be spread out among 2-3 tables in the classroom.
- While the weather permits we will utilize the outdoors as much as possible. Our goal is that each class has at least two outdoor periods each day.
- If a staff person or child tests positive for Covid or shows any symptoms of Covid, our current plan is to close for two weeks. We would work with the local Health Department to determine if the two week closure is required of all classrooms, or just certain ones. All families would be notified. Individuals may return to school after the greater of: 14 days without showing any symptoms / 10 days after the onset of ANY symptoms and showing an improvement of symptoms / 24 hours after being fever free without the use of fever reducing medicines. (For example, if your child develops symptoms the 8th day he is home, he would need to be home for at least 10 additional days (after day 8). The child could return after 18 days assuming he was fever free for 24 hours on day 18).
- In the event of other circumstances of exposure, we encourage parents and staff to contact Maryashie, who in conjunction with local health officials, can advise the next course of action.
- Any child or staff person that has taken fever reducing medications within six hours of the start of the school day for ANY reason will not be allowed into school for the day - regardless of the reason the medication was taken.
- If a child or staff person develops any Covid symptoms during the school day, the sick child will be isolated with a mask (if age 3+) until a caregiver can pick him / her up from school. School would close and all staff and parents would be notified.

Parents would need to pick their children up from school. We would work with the local Health Department to determine if only certain classes need to close, or if the entire school would need to close. *See the bullet above for determining when a staff person or child could return to school.*

Qs & As

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

Our Health Consultant, Dr. Karen Weissler 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 few weeks of school, classroom discussion will focus on *Feeling Safe*. Also, see "k" below.

c. Are teachers using face shields?

Face shields alone do not provide the same level of protection that a face mask does; however, teachers may choose to wear protective eye coverings (such as a face shield)

d. Can you speak to class size?

The OEC now allows up to 14 children in a preschool classroom. Pre K and Kindergarten will be capped at 14 students. The 2s and 3s Classes will be capped at 10. We will finalize class location and size closer to the start of school when final registration numbers are secured.

e. How are you handling bathrooms?

Each classroom will have its own dedicated bathroom.

f. When can a parent come in the classroom?

Parents, caregivers and other visitors are not allowed in our indoor licensed preschool space. The only time they would be allowed in is if their child is having difficulty separating, and then, a mask would be required.

g. What is the planned teaching model if a class or the school needs to shut down over a Covid concern?

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 virtual one on one sessions with each child each week – either a planned lesson, or a “playdate”.

Depending on the situation, there may be a gap of 1-2 days to be fully operational remotely.

We will consider moving to a “split session” model if the data tells us that we should reduce our class size. This could take the form of two sessions per day, each being 2-3 hours or some other

	model that would lessen the size of each class.
h. Will teachers be commuting from New York?	Yes
i. Will teachers be screened daily?	Yes – same screening as students including a daily temperature check.
j. 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.
k. 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.
l. What is the plan if there is Covid exposure within the child’s or staff person’s home?	If there is a known exposure, the staff person or child would need to quarantine for 14 days. We would consult with the local Health Department for any further action.
m. 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.

n. 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.

o. Does my child really need to stay home every time he/she has congestion, or can I just send them in because it's usual congestion, or will I need to bring a note from the allergist? What if my child is sick but it is not Covid?

If a child presents with symptoms that are **NOT** COVID-LIKE SYMPTOMS, we will require the child see a doctor, either in person or virtually. The child can return to school with a note from the doctor's office. Our non-Covid sick policy (included at the end of this document) remains in place. We will be very vigilant in sending staff and children home if we see any signs of illness. If the child (or staff person) presents with any Covid symptoms, we would treat the illness as Covid.

p. How does Flu season effect Covid?

Covid and Flu have many similar symptoms, and it is anticipated that during the height of flu season if Covid is still highly active that it could be challenging. All preschool children are required by the state of CT and the town of Greenwich to receive an annual influenza vaccine every year. This year we are requiring all children receive their **flu vaccine by NOVEMBER 1, 2020.**

NON COVID SICK POLICY

Preschools are particularly susceptible to the spread of germs, and viruses; however, there are actions we can take to minimize this. Our classrooms are cleaned and disinfected daily and our teachers are extremely vigilant when it comes to frequent and thorough hand washing in the classrooms. In addition, if a teacher sees a child does not look well or is acting out of the ordinary, she will call you to pick your child up from school.

We ask that you communicate with us if your child has contracted any contagious condition such as: influenza, coxsackie, strep throat, or pinworms. If we are aware of such conditions, we can inform other families that may have been exposed, while maintaining your privacy.

If your child is sick, he may return to school when:

- fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.
 - able to participate FULLY in all school activities. This means that if your child is feeling tired or cranky, or is uncomfortable eating, the child should stay home.
 - free from vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours. In addition, if diarrhea is present, the child should have at least one solid bowel movement before returning to school.
 - there is no excessive coughing or runny nose. If your child is not able to "*cover their cough*" he/she should not be at school.
 - there is no crusting or discharge from the eyes.
 - If your child is on antibiotics, we may require a doctor's note before returning to school.
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