

Plan For Re-Opening

Benjamin & Lillian Rochkind Yeshiva of Virginia Shaarei Torah of Richmond

August 26, 2020

**Teaching the Mind, Touching the Heart...
While Staying Safe**

This Plan may be updated periodically as new information becomes available, new guidance is given by the CDC and the VDH and new recommendations made by our medical advisers.

- A. Health Screening
- B. Masks/Face Covering
- C. Polycarbonate Desk Shields
- D. Acrylic Teacher Room Dividers
- E. Social Distance
 - i. Desks
 - ii. Hallways
 - iii. Outdoors
 - iv. Davening
 - v. Restroom
 - vi. Athletic Activities
 - vii. Water Fountain
 - viii. Food
 - ix. Laundry
 - x. Shower
- F. Sanitizing
 - i. Hand Sanitizing station in building entrance
 - ii. Hand Sanitizing station in each room
 - iii. Desk top cleaning
 - iv. Additional cleaning of 'touch points'
- G. Sharing of School Items (books, photocopier, equipment, etc.,)
- H. Ventilation
 - i. MERV Upgraded HVAC Filters
 - ii. Air Filtration Units
- I. Protocols For Covid Symptoms, Cases and Contacts
- J. In The Event of Building Closure or Required distance learning or Teaching
- K. Communication

Teaching the Mind, Touching the Heart...
While Staying Safe

- A. Health Screening
Parents of local students are strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of infectious illness every day. The school will monitor the students and staff daily for signs of infectious illness. The school will conduct daily health screenings for staff and students which may include the taking of temperature. Prior to start of the school year, students coming from out-of-town are required to take a COVID test and have a confirmed negative result.
- B. Masks/Face Covering
Masks which cover the nose and mouth are required to be worn by all staff, students, and visitors while inside the building at all times. Exceptions are as follows:
- i. A student or staff member eating, assuming there is a six foot distance and behind a polycarbonate or acrylic barrier.
 - ii. Students while in their dorm room bed/private area and six foot distance is maintained from all others. This protocol may be amended for students in the dorm after the first two weeks of school.
 - iii. Staff member in a private office and no one else is in the room.
- C. Polycarbonate Desk Shields
Each student will be given a three-sided polycarbonate desk shield to be used while seated in class, as well as during davening and eating. Students are responsible for keeping their desk shields and their desk areas clean and will be required to wipe down their table areas prior to moving to another area.
- D. Acrylic Teacher Room Dividers
Each teacher will teach behind a three-sided acrylic room divider. Students may not enter that area at any time. The area will be wiped down after each teacher's use.
- E. Social Distance
The school will endeavor to maintain a social distance of at least six feet or more between people as much as possible.
- i. Desks - Desks will be placed six feet apart as much as possible.
 - ii. Hallways - A six foot distance will be maintained as much as possible while walking through hallways and stairwells. No congregating in hallways and stairwells will be permitted.
 - iii. Outdoors - Tents have been set up outdoors to allow for some outdoor instruction. Desks will be placed six feet apart and polycarbonate shields will be required.

- iv. Davening - Each student will have a set location and a six foot distance will be maintained. The students will be required to use their polycarbonate shields.
- v. Restroom - Only one person will be allowed in a restroom at a time.
- vi. Athletic Activities - All contact sports are prohibited until further notice. Students are welcome to enjoy athletic and sports activities as long as a ten foot distance is maintained and any shared equipment (balls, frisbee, etc.) is sanitized before and after use.
- vii. Water Fountain - Water fountains have been disabled until further notice. Students are encouraged to have a personal refillable water bottle.
- viii. Food - Local students are either expected to eat breakfast and lunch at home or bring it to school for them to eat at their designated location. Boarding students will have food divided into individual portions and will move through the cafeteria line, maintaining a six foot distance from each other. Only one person will be allowed in the kitchen at a time. This protocol may be amended for students in the dormitory after the first two weeks of school.
- ix. Laundry - Each dorm room will have two designated laundry days a week for use of washer and dryer. No more than one person can be in the laundry room at any given time. This protocol may be amended for students in the dormitory after the first two weeks of school.
- x. Shower - Only one person may use the shower room a given time. This protocol may be amended for students in the dormitory after the first two weeks of school.

F. Sanitizing

Sanitizing includes washing hands with soap for minimum of 20 seconds or using sanitizer from the sanitizer stations.

- i. Hand Sanitizing - There will be a hand sanitizing station at all building entrances and everyone will be encouraged to use it when they enter and exit the building. Hand sanitizing stations will also be in all classrooms and throughout the building.
- ii. Desk Top Cleaning - All tables and desks will be sanitized at least once a day and between use.
- iii. Additional Cleaning of 'Touch Points' - Light switches, door knobs, faucets, handles, handrails, and other frequent 'touch points' will be sanitized every day.

G. Sharing of School Items (books, photocopier, equipment, etc.,)

The sharing of all books, reference materials, photocopier, electronic or sports equipment, etc. will be limited. Any time such an item is shared, hands must be sanitized prior to and after use.

H. Ventilation

- i. HVAC Filters - Upgraded MERV rated filters will be installed throughout the HVAC systems.
- ii. Air Filtration - Air Filtration units including Medify Air filtration units will be placed in all classrooms, dorm rooms, and other shared spaces. These hospital grade systems filter out up to .1 micron and have a full room air exchange rate of approximately thirty minutes. Different size units have been purchased for different size rooms.

I. Protocols For COVID Symptoms, Cases, and Contacts

These protocols may be updated periodically as new information becomes available.

There is a long list of signs and symptoms that are associated with COVID-19 including:

High-risk symptoms for COVID (those that are common and relatively specific for COVID) include:

- i. Fever (defined as a body temperature of 100.4 degrees F or higher)
- ii. Cough (unless related to another diagnosis)
- iii. Shortness of breath
- iv. Loss of sense of taste or smell

Low-risk symptoms for COVID (those that are more common and alone do not necessarily indicate COVID-19) include:

- i. Sore throat
- ii. Nasal congestion/nasal discharge
- iii. Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea
- iv. Muscle or body aches
- v. Headache
- vi. Fatigue

Any student or staff member with one high-risk or two low-risk criteria (any one of the first group or any two of the second group of symptoms) should be considered to have a "COVID-like illness." They will be immediately separated and taken to a room, isolated from others. A physician will be consulted and parents will be called to pick up the child. The person with symptoms will leave the building through an outside exit door from the isolated room. The person should have a properly fitting mask on at all times and anyone entering the isolation room should wear full personal protective equipment (PPE) - i.e. An N-95 mask and face shield, as well as a gown and gloves.

Any student or staff member residing in Richmond with only one low-risk symptom is considered less likely to have COVID, but should be immediately

separated and taken to a room isolated from others. In the case of a student, the parent/guardian will arrange for transportation home. That student will leave the building through an outside exit door from the isolated room. These individuals will be able to return after 24 hours if no further symptoms develop including fever, without the use of a fever-reducing medication, and with the approval of the consulting physician if determined that an alternative diagnosis is made.

Any boarding student with only one low-risk symptom will either need to be picked up by a parent (following the protocols mentioned above), or if approved by the school's consulting physician, remain in school in isolation until a COVID test is taken and results are complete. In that case, a consulting physician will determine the next steps.

Any sibling of a student residing in Richmond, identified as having a COVID-like illness will be required to leave the school as well and isolate at home until it is determined if the ill child has COVID.

Protocols for isolation and return to school for cases and contacts

Any student or staff member exposed to a known COVID contact (exposure includes being within 6ft for at least 15 minutes, even with a mask) must quarantine for 14 days. Any student or staff member exposed to a possible COVID contact must quarantine until such time it is determined that the contact did not have COVID.

Symptomatic children and adults - Non-infectious Diagnosis

Anyone with an illness that is unlikely to be COVID (single low-risk symptom resolving in 24-48 hours and given a non-infectious diagnosis e.g. migraine, allergies) may return to school when symptoms have improved and they are fever free for ≥ 24 hours without fever-reducing medications with the approval of the consulting physician.

Symptomatic children and adults - COVID or COVID-like illness

- i. Anyone with a COVID-like illness (one high-risk or two or more low-risk symptoms) should be assessed by a health care provider and tested for COVID (as well as any other relevant diseases).
- ii. If the test is negative, or another pathogen is identified and the person is not a contact of a COVID case, then the tested person can return to school when symptoms have improved and the person is fever free for ≥ 24 hours without fever-reducing medications.
- iii. If the test is positive or no test is done (and no other pathogen identified), this person must stay home for a minimum of 10 days

and be fever free with improving symptoms for ≥ 72 hours (without fever-reducing medications).

- iv. Length of quarantine may increase as directed by the school administration based on guidance from Virginia Department of Health, Center for Disease Control, and the consulted health professionals.

Asymptomatic children and adults

- i. Anyone who is a close contact of a known case of COVID must be isolated at home for 14 days from the date of last potential exposure to the COVID case and must monitor symptoms. If there is ongoing exposure to the case in the household then the date of last potential exposure is 10 days after the onset of symptoms of the COVID case.
- ii. If this person develops symptoms during this 14-day period, the person should continue isolation for 10 days beyond the day of onset of symptoms and have improving symptoms for ≥ 72 hours and no fever without fever-reducing medications. If anyone in the household develops symptoms of COVID during the 14-day isolation period, then the start date of the isolation period resets to the first day of symptoms for that contact and must continue for 10 days after that exposure (see section on symptomatic with likely COVID).
- iii. Length of quarantine may change as directed by guidance given to the school administration from the Virginia Department of Health, Department of Labor and Industry, and Center of Disease Control.

Students and staff need clearance from the Virginia Department of Health, not from a health care provider, to return to school when the isolation period has ended. A school official will monitor absences and dates of isolation to approve return. Please contact the School for more information or guidance.

Additional Protocols to handle a COVID case in school

By law, all COVID cases are immediately reported to the Virginia Department of Health by the health care provider who administered the test.

The Virginia Department of Health officials will help school administrators determine a course of action. The Virginia Department of Health will ultimately determine which contacts require home isolation and quarantine.

The names of individual COVID cases and contacts will not be released to anyone but the Virginia Department of Health and the consulting physician.

Families of students will be informed about the presence of the COVID case(s) in the school, but individuals will not be named. Those deemed to be contacts will also be given information about remaining in isolation at home for 14 days. The Virginia Department of Health will contact families of cases and their contacts for contact tracing. The Virginia Department of Health will provide any “at risk” person(s) with specific information on what next steps should be taken.

Any room used to house a COVID case or any area where a COVID case has been, will be cleaned and disinfected after the person leaves in accordance with CDC guidelines.

Please see

vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/schools-workplaces-community-locations/k-12-education

- J. In The Event of Building Closure or Required Distance Learning or Teaching
We hope that all of the protocols will help to keep us free from the virus, however, in the event that a student or students will be unable to join a class in person, the instruction will be offered through ZOOM to them. In the event that a staff member is unable to join in person, his or her class will be delivered through ZOOM to the students who will remain in class and be supervised by another adult. In the event that the school is required to close the building and not have the ability to provide for in person instruction all classes will take place through the ZOOM platform until such time that classes can resume in person.
- K. Communication
Signs describing and reminding of efforts to stay safe from COVID will be placed throughout in the school. This plan will be shared and discussed at length prior to the start of school with the staff, parent body, and students. The head of the school’s COVID team and the contact person at the school for all COVID related issues is Rabbi Klestzick who can be reached at 804 288-7610. The COVID team at the school includes our administrative faculty and our executive operating board. Richmond City Health Department, COVID-19 section can be reached at 804 205-3501.

VDH Algorithm for Evaluating a Child with COVID-19 Symptoms or Exposure (August 24, 2020)

