

Temple Beth Emeth Religious School Health and Safety Policy for 2021-2022

With the health and safety of our students, staff, and families as our number one priority we have established the following policies and procedures. The Temple Beth Emeth Religious School will continue to monitor the latest CDC recommendations, medical guidelines, state mandated policies, and Washtenaw County Health Department regulations to update these protocols as it becomes necessary. What is on our website at any moment is our most up to date policy at the time. Our families are critical partners in the success of this health and safety plan. All families and staff are required to read and agree to abide by these guidelines prior to attending the Temple Beth Emeth Religious School. We view our concern for health and safety as a *brit*, a sacred covenant we make with each other and we ask that each member of our Religious School community take this *brit* to heart.

- **Health Acknowledgement for Students, Staff and Parents upon Entering our Facilities.**
 - Staff and parents, on behalf of their children, agree with the following statements by coming into the building and working or attending the Temple Beth Emeth Religious School.
 - **Staff Statements**
 - Neither I, nor anyone in my family, have been in close contact with a person who has Covid-19.
 - I confirm that I do not have a cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, headache, GI symptoms, or lethargy
 - **Parents on behalf of students**
 - Neither my child/children, nor anyone in our family, have been in close contact with a person who has Covid-19.
 - I confirm that my child/children do not have a cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, headache, a rash, diarrhea or lethargy.
- **Updated Illness Policy** – In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we are modifying our normal sick policies to take special consideration in an effort to reduce the risk of possible infection. **We cannot emphasize enough the need for our parents to keep children home when they are sick.** We will require the following protocols be adhered to by all staff and families.
 - Any sick children and staff are required to stay home if they have any of the following symptoms: temperature of 100.4 or higher, coughing, sneezing, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, sore throat, loss of smell or taste, chills, muscle pain, headache, runny nose, rash, abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting, or lethargy.
 - If a child begins to display symptoms of illness while at school including, but not limited to fever, coughing, sneezing, sore throat, runny nose, abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting, lethargy, and rash they will be removed from the classroom and held in an isolation room.
 - Parents will be notified and required to pick up their child immediately. Emergency contacts will be called if we are unable to reach a parent within 30 minutes.
 - Parents are responsible for keeping the emergency contact list up to date.
 - Materials and furniture used by the ill child must be cleaned and sanitized.
- **COVID-19 Vaccination Policy**
 - All Temple Beth Emeth employees - professional staff, teachers, and *madrikhimot* (teen classroom assistants) - must be vaccinated against Covid-19 as a condition of their employment when working within the school

- All Genesis staff who will be working during school hours must be vaccinated against Covid-19
- **Building Access** - As a functioning synagogue, we will not be limiting who enters the building, but we will do our best to keep the Shabbat population and the school population separate. As always, guests for Shabbat services will not enter our downstairs classrooms. Parents who enter the building should report to the downstairs Education office and find either Rabbi Daniel, Emily Alter, or Sagen Fuller. **Please do not go to your child's classroom.**
- **Classes and Social Gatherings**
 - There will be no all-school gatherings indoors at all. Any program involving multiple classes or grade levels will take place outside. These include but are not limited to tefillah and music.
 - Tefillah - on both Saturdays and Sundays, tefillah will take place outdoors, and all classes will remain distanced from one another. Masks will be worn at all times
 - Music - any time multiple classes will have music together, that session will take place outdoors, and classes will remain distanced from one another. Masks will be worn at all times.
 - Teachers are encouraged to utilize outdoor spaces during class time. These include:
 - The front lawn
 - Under the tent, while we have it
 - The front parking lot
 - The back parking lot
 - Pattengill field
 - All families are encouraged to dress appropriately and bring a towel, yoga mat, etc, to sit on while outside for tefillah, music, or other outdoor experiences
- **Food and Drink** - Until all students are able to receive a COVID vaccine, we will not be serving food or drink during any school program. This includes challah and juice normally offered during Saturday Religious School and Sunday Hebrew School, as well as pizza dinner before Sunday Religious School. A disposable cup dispenser will be installed next to the water fountain downstairs and will be available. The school will also have small water bottles on hand.
- **Drop off and Pick up Procedures**
 - For all programs and classes, including all Saturday and Sunday in person classes, teachers will remain outdoors for five minutes after the start of class to gather everyone together before heading down to their classroom or outdoor space. This will continue for the first three weeks of in person programming. After that, students will go directly to their classrooms
 - At the end of each session, teachers will walk their students outside for pickup. Each class will remain separated from one another during this time
- **Hand Sanitizing** – All children and staff will receive hand sanitizer upon entering the building and/or a classroom
- **Protective Equipment**
 - Face Covering – All staff and students will be wearing face coverings, which cover their nose and mouth when at the religious school
 - Parents are responsible for providing clean masks for students and laundering them if needed.

- **Returning to School After Illness**

- Any child or staff member (regardless of vaccination status) showing any symptoms of COVID 19 (fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea) may not return until the following criteria have been met:
 - 24 hours being symptom free without fever reducing medication, AND with **documentation of negative COVID-19 PCR test results**. While rapid tests are helpful because results are given quickly, they are not as accurate as PCR tests, results of which are usually received a few days after the test is administered. Because the PCR test is more accurate, we require a negative PCR test to return to school.

OR

- 10 days have passed since symptom onset AND are at least 24 hours fever free without medication AND have improved symptoms.
- Parents and staff are required to contact the school within 24 hours of finding out a medical diagnosis.
- Classroom Closures - When a child or staff member is sent home ill, the Temple Beth Emeth Religious School will make decisions on closures and quarantining on a case by case basis with guidance from medical professionals.

- **Quarantining Requirements**

- If a student has had direct contact (been within 6ft. for longer than 15 minutes within 48 hours prior to developing symptoms) with a person who has a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, the student may not return to school for 10 days from the last day of exposure to the individual testing positive, even if they remain asymptomatic. The quarantine period can be reduced to 7 days if they are tested for COVID with a PCR test on day 6 or later and do not test positive. If individuals live in the same household and have continuous exposure, the 10 or 7-day quarantine period would begin on the last day of the self-isolation of the positive individual. For further explanation of the CDC guidelines on quarantining, please click [here](#).
- If anyone in a household of a student has a confirmed direct contact with someone that is positive for Covid-19, all family members should follow quarantine guidelines as outlined by the CDC before returning to school. Students will not be permitted to return to school until the household member with the direct contact finishes their quarantine period.
- Siblings of students who are quarantining due to a positive case of COVID-19 in their cohort may not attend school.
- No staff member or student may attend school if they are awaiting results of a COVID-19 test due to the onset of cold/flu like symptoms, or due to direct contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19.
- Requirements for staff members (fully vaccinated individuals) – in accordance with the CDC guidelines:
 - Staff members do not need to quarantine or be restricted from work following a direct exposure because they are fully vaccinated. However, they should still monitor for symptoms of Covid-19 for 14 days following a direct exposure.
 - We do recommend that all individuals, even those fully vaccinated against Covid-19 get a PCR test following a known direct exposure to confirm that they are not an asymptomatic carrier given the nature of our work with children who are not eligible for vaccination.

- **If COVID-19 is confirmed in a staff member or child**
 - If any staff member or student has a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, they should stay home and the Temple Beth Emeth Religious School must be notified immediately. We will notify the Health Department and follow their guidance on action and closures.
 - All families will be notified immediately via email if there is a positive case of COVID-19 at the Temple Beth Emeth Religious School. No names will be shared.
 - If a positive case of COVID-19 is diagnosed in a classroom:
 - Students will be dismissed immediately and must be picked up as soon as possible. Parents will receive notification via email, followed by a phone call if no response is received.
 - Staff and students should get tested as soon as possible and notify the school with the results so we can continue to contact trace.
 - Staff and students must follow the quarantine guidelines stated above. If any staff or students develop symptoms during the quarantine period, please refer back to our “returning to school after illness” policy for further guidance.
 - Siblings of students who are quarantining due to a positive case of COVID-19 in their class or grade may not continue to attend school.
 - We will provide ongoing communication with updates and other important information via email. We will always maintain confidentiality and be as transparent as possible.

- **Returning to School for Staff and Students after a confirmed positive case of COVID-19**

Any staff or child who tests positive for COVID-19 will be excluded for at least 10 days from symptom onset or from the date the positive diagnosis is received (if asymptomatic) AND only allowed to return 24 hours after fever resolution AND improved respiratory symptoms without medication.

- **In the Event of a Closure** - There will be no tuition refunds if there is a temporary classroom closure due to a COVID-19 infection.

- **We strongly encourage our staff, students, and families to follow CDC guidelines when not at school.**

Definitions:

- Social Distancing - Social distancing, also called “physical distancing,” means keeping space between yourself and other people outside of your home.
- Quarantine - The separation of a person or group of people reasonably believed to have been exposed to a communicable disease but not yet symptomatic, from others who have not been so exposed, to prevent the possible spread of the communicable disease.
- Shelter in Place - An official order, issued during an emergency, that directs people to stay at home and not leave unless absolutely necessary.
- Direct Contact - an individual within 6 feet of an infected person for a total of 15 minutes or more within 48 hours of developing symptoms or testing positive for Corona Virus
- Fully Vaccinated – people are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 at least 2 weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or at least 2 weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson (J&J)/Janssen).

Some Helpful Resources:

CDC: What you should know about COVID-19 to protect yourself and others
[How to Protect Yourself & Others](#)

CDC: If You Are Sick

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/index.html>

CDC: Talking with Children about Coronavirus

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/talking-with-children.html>

Please sign below and return to the TBE School Office.

I, _____, have read the Temple Beth Emeth Religious School Health and Safety policy, and I agree that my family and I will abide by said policy. We recognize this as a *brit*, a sacred covenant we make with each other and with each member of our Religious School community.

Parent 1: _____

Parent 2: _____

Child 1: _____

Child 2: _____

Child 3: _____

Child 4: _____

Date:

Signature: