

# Joint Chabad Elementary schools COVID-19 Policies and Procedures

Plan for Reopening, Elul 5780/September 2020



Participating schools:  
Bais Chaya Mushka  
Cheder Chabad

Dear Parents,

We look forward to a successful year and welcoming our students back to our classroom. We have consulted with Medical experts, the Toronto Public Health as well as the Ministry of Education in order to come up with a plan that will allow us to open our Moisdos Chinuch and keep our students, teachers and community as safe and healthy as possible.

We felt that since we are dealing with the same Anash families, it is important that we collaborate to come up with a uniform set of guidelines. We hope that by doing this, it will make it easier for our parent body and community to partner with us by informing your children and adhering to the guidelines.

Keeping our students and community healthy is our top priority. Having that in mind, we put a great focus on our students' emotional well-being. Our goal is to enforce these guidelines with care and compassion.

It is so important not to lose focus and remember our values especially during this time. Things that come to mind include but are not limited to:

- Remaining calm and relaxed for our students
- Maintaining the dignity of our students
- Encouraging our parents and students not to report on one another

This situation is developing, and things keep changing. We will continue to follow the guidelines of the Toronto Public Health and may need to change the policies as things develop. At the same time, we Daven and hope that our entire Anash community should remain safe and healthy and that very soon we should be united with our Rebbe in Yerushalayim, in the Beis HaMikdash Hashlishi!

We appreciate your cooperation,

Rabbi Bard-Wigdor, Cheder Chabad  
 Rabbi Vidal, Bais Chaya Mushka

### **Daily Screening- BEFORE COMING TO SCHOOL:**

It is vital that any child or staff member who may be experiencing symptoms or otherwise identified as a risk for transmitting the virus remain at home in order to protect the rest of the school and the entire Anash community from potential exposure to the virus.

All parents must complete a screening evaluation on their children every day before coming to school. This will include both a screening to ensure your child is not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms as well as other risk factors. You must be able to confidently answer “NO” to all the questions below before sending your child on a school bus, carpool and/or dropping them off at school.

Does your child have a fever? (Anything above 38.0 Celsius is considered fever)

Does your child have a cough?

Does your child have difficulty breathing?

Does your child have a sore-throat or any trouble swallowing food?

Does your child have red eyes or a running nose?

Is your child experiencing a loss of taste or smell?

Is your child not feeling well and complaining of tired or sore muscles?

Is your child experiencing any of the following: nausea/vomiting/diarrhea?

Has your child been in contact with someone who is currently sick or has confirmed COVID-19 over the last 14 days?

Has your child returned from travel outside of Canada in the last 14 days?

Staff members will also be required to do a self-evaluation each day before coming to school.

### **Student/staff who are experiencing symptoms:**

If you answered yes to any of the above, self-isolate and [call Telehealth immediately](#). Students experiencing any of the above will only be allowed

back at school once a negative test has been secured and the results are shared with the school in question.

Any student or staff member who is experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must be kept home and seek medical attention, including getting tested at a COVID-19 assessment centre. It is a free service accessible to anyone in the province. [Click here to find the test centre closest to you.](#)

Students and staff members must remain at home while waiting for test results and follow the directions of their local health unit. For the majority of our student population, this will either be Toronto Public Health or York Region Public Health. Students will not be allowed to return to school until they are cleared by the public health officials.

Please note: In order to protect the health of our students, staff, and Anash community at large, students and staff members from households in which another member is experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19, must also remain at home until that person is cleared by the public health officials (typically 14 days after symptoms started).

Students and staff members who develop COVID-19 symptoms **while in school** will be asked to leave school immediately. Students will be isolated until they can be picked up by their parents.

Should a student develop COVID-19 symptoms and/or tests positive for COVID-19, please notify the school immediately so that this information can be relayed to other students in the cohort. There is no stigma in contracting the virus – it is indiscriminate in how it infects people - but we do have an obligation to protect the health of others. In order to protect our community, Ministry of Education guidelines require us to report any suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school to Toronto Public Health and to provide attendance records to assist in case management and contact tracing. Whether additional steps are required (e.g. school closure, quarantining) will be decided by the public health officials.

## **Quarantine Following Travel**

The Canadian Government has instituted mandatory quarantines of 14 full days (14 x 24hr periods) for anyone arriving in Canada. Quarantine will be strictly enforced, and students or staff who travel outside the country must quarantine for 14 days. In the event that one is legally exempt from quarantine, the Moisdad in question will decide if/how to allow the student/staff member back in school in the safest way possible.

### **Long- Distance Learning**

In order to allow the students who are unwell, as well as the students who are in quarantine, to be able to continue their learning, we will be having a Long-Distance Learning option as well. Please understand that while we will do our utmost to ensure that Long-Distance Learning is functioning properly, the teacher's primary focus will be on the students who are physically in the classroom.

In the event that Chas Veshalom we need to shut down our schools in order to stop the spread of the virus, we will revert to the Long-Distance Learning options we had last year. Students will be provided with a schedule and will need to login to Zoom in order to participate in their daily classes/studies. We strongly encourage and remind all parents to install proper filters on all their devices so that the children can learn in a safe environment.

### **Masks, Cohorting and Social Distancing**

In order to alleviate the risks of COVID-19 transmission in schools, the Ministry of Education has established various policies. While every Moisdad will have its own set of rules depending on their respective facilities, the general rules we will implement will be as follows:

**Masks:** Masks play a critical role in limiting the spread of COVID-19. For the protection of our entire Anash community Toronto Public Health mandates that:

- All adults must wear a mask whenever in the school building.
- Plexi-glass will be installed on every teacher's desk and teachers will be allowed to take a break from the mask while behind the glass.
- Students of all ages will be required to wear a mask during arrival and dismissal times, and whenever in school hallways, washrooms, and otherwise out of the classroom.

- Students from grades 4 and up are required to wear a mask at all times while indoors. As per guidance we received from Toronto Public Health, exceptions will be allowed in certain instances when students are seated in their seats and are within their cohorts.
- Students in Grades JK-3, when seated within their cohorts, won't need to wear masks.

Every individual Moisdad will outline their guidelines as to what masks the students are allowed to wear.

### **Cohorting:**

Ministry guidelines require that school populations be kept within their groups ("cohorts") which will be isolated from one another. Reducing a person's number of contacts reduces the likelihood of encountering an infected individual; thus, the spread of disease is inhibited. As well, cohorting facilitates contact tracing and reduces the likelihood of full-school closures. We will keep our students in their classrooms during lunch time and schedule recess so that they can stay with their cohort and not mix with other cohorts. Each Moisdad will have their own guidelines based on their facility.

**Social Distancing:** Social distancing is known to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We will try to maintain social distancing as much as possible. Students will be seated as apart from each other as possible and the classroom teacher will be behind a plexi-glass. We will not be conducting assemblies or other school-wide activities, until the health situation improves.

### **Configuration of the School Building**

To help maintain social distancing, directional markers will be placed in the hallway to direct students and staff. To avoid crowding upon entering and exiting the building, students will go straight to their classrooms upon arrival and will wait for their carpools/buses in their classrooms. Each school will decide how students enter and exit their building.

### **Cleaning and Hygiene**

We will be following the cleaning and hygiene guidelines as per Toronto Public Health. All students will sanitize their hands upon entering the school

building, before and after eating, and upon returning from the washroom and/or recess break. Custodial staff will sanitize high touch areas such as doorknobs, light-switches and washrooms frequently. Toys and play equipment will be cleaned and disinfected frequently. Every student will be asked to bring their own bottle of hand-sanitizer to avoid many students touching the same bottle. The schools will have supplies of alcohol-based hand sanitizers to be placed at school entrances and throughout the school. Signage will be placed around the school pertaining to hand washing and students will be reminded to engage in proper hand-hygiene.

### **Outdoors**

The COVID-19 requirements are more relaxed for outdoor school activities. We will maximize outdoor time in order to allow mask breaks during the day. In line with public health guidelines, masks will not be required to be worn outdoors. If a teacher, however, needs to come into close contact with a student, the teacher will don a mask if social distancing is not possible. Outdoor equipment will be disinfected frequently and hand washing will be required upon return to class.

### **Visitors**

In order to safeguard the well-being of our school community, for the duration of the health emergency, the building will remain closed during school hours to parents and visitors. As well, all deliveries during school hours will be made to the front entrance and any delivery or service professional entering the building will be required to wear a mask. Should a parent need to pick up their child early, they will need to call the school office ahead of time and the school staff will send the student to wait for his/her parents at the front.

### **Transportation and Carpools**

Students taking bus transportation to and/or from our Moisdos must wear a mask during the bus trip. This applies to all public transportation, UBER rides, etc.

Carpools are considered cohorts and should be kept consistent. All occupants of the vehicle should wear a mask for the duration of the trip. (If the whole carpool is one family, then masks are not necessary in the car.) If a carpool takes an unexpected passenger or has a change in the carpool arrangement, please let the school know this information – including the

name of the passenger and the date. This information may be requested by public health authorities for the purpose of contact tracing or case management.