



## B'Yachad 2021-22 Health and Safety Protocols

The health and safety of students and staff is of utmost importance as we prepare for the 2021-2022 school year. Our current plan is for in-person school on Sundays and Wednesdays at Congregation Ohav Shalom. The schedule is subject to change and will be based on the advice and guidance of state and local authorities pertaining to social distancing. Staff shall comply with all state and local laws, regulations, guidelines and requirements regarding COVID-19 and on-site work.

These protocols are subject to change and will be updated as needed. Revised versions will be provided to parents and staff. If a COVID-19 situation arises that is not addressed in this plan, the B'Yachad Director will collaborate with the B'Yachad Board President and at least one representative from each participating synagogue in order to respond and react to the situation.

Parents and staff are encouraged to bring any questions and concerns to the attention of the B'Yachad Director or a member of the B'Yachad board.

For in-person instruction the following protocols will be observed:

- All students and staff will be required to wear masks. Parents must alert the B'Yachad Director before the start of school if their child(ren) are not medically able to wear masks.
- Social distance of at least three feet will be enforced.
- Instruction and activities will be conducted outside as much as possible.
- Students and staff will stay contained within their own group and will not mix with other classes.
- Hand sanitizer will be available and students will be encouraged to use it in between activities. Disinfectant wipes will be available and staff will be asked to use it on tables, door handles, etc.
- Congregation Ohav Shalom staff will thoroughly disinfect all spaces used by B'Yachad before and after each session.
- Restroom occupancy will be limited. Younger children will be accompanied to the restroom by a teacher or aide; older children will be asked to follow the occupancy limit.
- Parents and other volunteers may be asked to assist with monitoring how things are going (such as checking in to make sure masks are being worn, restroom occupancy is observed, etc.).

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- Each student will receive a large ziplock bag of supplies of their own (crayons, pencils, markers, etc.). No supplies will be shared. Parents may be asked to provide some supplies, depending on need and expense (for instance, it may be cost-prohibitive for B'Yachad to provide a pair of scissors for every child).
- Health assessments will be conducted before each session. No student or staff member will be permitted to participate in school if they have COVID-19 symptoms, have been exposed to someone with symptoms, etc.

Drop-off procedure:

- Parents dropping off their children must wear masks.
- Parents will be asked to fill out a health assessment form on behalf of their child upon arrival. If they did not take their child's/children's temperature before arriving, touch-free temperatures will be taken at the door. The form will assess whether the child will be allowed to participate in school that day based on any symptoms, known exposure to someone with symptoms, etc.
- Parents will be asked to stay until the health assessment is complete and their child(ren) are permitted to enter.
- Students will be escorted to their classrooms by teachers and aides. Parents will not be allowed to enter the building to avoid crowding in doorways and hallways.

Dismissal procedure:

- Students will walk to the door with their teachers and aides, by classroom. Classes will be dismissed in a staggered fashion a few minutes apart from each other to promote distancing. Classes will stand approximately 10 feet apart.
- Parents should come just to the sidewalk and stay distanced from one another. Students will be escorted individually to their parents by staff or a volunteer.
- If a child needs to be picked up before the scheduled end of school, parents are asked to inform the B'Yachad Director ahead of time so their child can be escorted to the door. Parents will not be allowed inside the building.

Response to a positive COVID-19 case:

- In the event a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the B'Yachad Director must be notified. B'Yachad will then inform the Albany County Department of Health, which will conduct contact tracing and direct quarantine measures.
- In the event that any person associated with B'Yachad who was inside the host synagogue within the prior 14 days tests positive for COVID-19, B'Yachad shall notify B'Yachad families, board members, and the host synagogue via its executive director. Host synagogue shall be given three hours to review communication to B'Yachad families prior to said communication being. If, after three hours, there is no response from the host synagogue, the B'Yachad board president shall call the host synagogue executive director (and if executive director is not reached then a B'Yachad board member representing the host synagogue) to confirm receipt of the communication.
- B'Yachad will cooperate with and assist Albany County Department of Health personnel in any way necessary, and will abide by the guidance of the Albany County Department of Health and any other relevant authority as to whether to suspend in-person activities.

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- If the B'Yachad Director is informed of a possible exposure in advance of a Sunday or Wednesday session, that session may be suspended if determined to be appropriate. School will resume only if cleared by the relevant local authorities. Parents should check their email before leaving for school each Sunday and Wednesday in the event this happens as late as Sunday morning or Wednesday afternoon.
- If, based on staffing issues due to COVID-19 related absences or community infection rate changes, the Director in consultation with the B'Yachad Board President, with notice to the B'Yachad Board and host synagogue via the Executive Director, shall decide whether or not to continue in-person school, move to virtual learning or close for a session or sessions. The Director shall contact the Board and the host synagogue of this decision, allowing at least three hours before the decision is widely communicated to the B'Yachad community. If, after three hours, there is no response from the host synagogue, the B'Yachad board president shall call the host synagogue executive director (and if executive director is not reached then a B'Yachad board member representing the host synagogue) to confirm receipt of the communication. The Director will also share the specific wording of any communication with above mentioned parties.
- If, based on staffing issues based on COVID-19 related absences, community infection rate changes or any other reason related to the pandemic, or should the host synagogue close its building or parts of the building necessary for the religious school to operate, the Director shall notify the board, no less than one hour before informing the B'Yachad community about the closure.

Response to self-quarantine of staff or student:

- If a staff member or student is self-quarantining while awaiting COVID-19 test results, B'Yachad requires documentation of negative COVID test results before returning to work in-person.
- Privacy and confidentiality of the individual's personal information and circumstances will be strictly maintained. The B'Yachad Director requires this information, but it will be shared with no other individuals (unless through DOH contact tracing).
- If directed by the DOH, the B'Yachad Director will work with the host synagogue's Executive Director to compile appropriate contact tracing information. The host synagogue's Executive Director will maintain the individual's privacy and confidentiality.