



PATHWAYS TO OPENING

A GUIDE TO RASPEDS 2020-2021

"חזק חזק ונתחזק"

Be Strong And Together We Will Be Strengthened

Dear Rabbi Arthur Schneier Park East Day School Community,

We have been blessed with an incredible faculty to whom we owe a sincere and heartfelt thank you. With little advance notice, they retrained on best practices for online learning, developed new teaching techniques and methodologies, and continued teaching all our children with quality, well prepared daily lessons and units of study. Yes, there were challenges, particularly with our youngest Early Childhood students, but nothing deterred our faculty from providing the best quality education that could be shared under the pandemic circumstances. We are proud of our students who adapted so beautifully to online learning and we thank our parent-partners who enabled and nurtured our children's success.

Over the last few months, there has been active and important collaboration amongst the school administration, synagogue and school boards, and parent leadership. Dr. Sarah Schlessinger Hirschfeld and Dr. Stuart Ditchek have agreed to be our medical consultants to help guide our decision making and reopening efforts. Marina Libonati, our architect, is working in conjunction with Vestian, a real estate company specializing in building preparation in the age of COVID-19, on strategies which will aid in the new learning landscape. Strategies are being studied for social distancing, spatial reconfiguration of room layouts, air filtration systems, technology, new cleaning and disinfecting protocols and signage so that we may optimally use the building's physical space. Together we are working on plans for reopening in September in the safest possible environment within our school building subject to City and State Government, CDC, and Board of Health regulations. Additional scenarios for reopening also have been developed to serve as contingency planning should we need to close for any extended period. As the medical and scientific world learn more about COVID-19 on an almost daily basis, new information will necessitate fluid, ongoing responses so that the health and safety of our community are protected.

The following information provides insight into our current thinking. We welcome your feedback as we move forward during the summer.

1 Least Restrictive Environment

- As we are a small school, all students will be able to learn in our physical facility every day.
- Our routine school hours and schedules will be maintained, however, there will be no trips, extra-curricular activities, after school programs, physical assemblies, or team sports.
- Classes will be considered learning cohorts remaining fixed throughout the pandemic. Children will be divided into smaller, flexible groups within their cohorts maintaining social distancing but allowing for both homogenous and heterogenous learning throughout the day.
- Each cohort will be provided with adequate supplies for recreational and educational activities to avoid inter-cohort contamination. Students will not be allowed to share supplies and equipment outside of their cohort.
- Students will remain within their assigned homeroom. Lunch and specialty classes will be in this same room. We will limit the number of departmentalized teachers traveling from room to room.
- Should there be an outbreak of COVID-19 within our school community, containment and contact tracing will be easier within limited cohorts.
- Contact tracing by a designated, trained, responsible staff member will help limit the infection rate in the school. Our school nurse will be reporting cases of COVID-19 to the NYS Department of Health.
- Outdoor recess will be limited to individual cohorts on a rotating basis.
- Arrival and dismissal will be staggered to avoid large gatherings and maintain social distancing.

2

More Restrictive Environment: Hybrid Learning

- Park East Day School is committed to providing a full educational program to each of our students. Online learning capability is being installed in every classroom to ensure that students who are immunocompromised or temporarily remaining outside of New York City will be able to attend classes virtually.
- Only with permission from the Principal may a student opt to participate in online learning. Access will also be given to students in cases of recuperation from fever or illness.

3

Most Restrictive Environment

- COVID-19 is unpredictable. If State and City governments mandate the closing of our school, Park East Day School is fully prepared to teach online. We have learned a lot through our Zoom experiences this past year and are committed to building upon our past successes for even better academic achievement.
- Rabbi Arthur Schneier Park East Day School reserves the right to close independently from New York City public schools and other independent schools.

HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

1



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



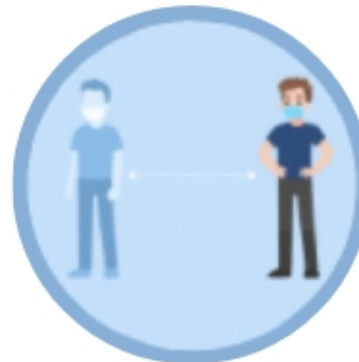
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3



Wear a face mask.

Maintain social distancing.



4

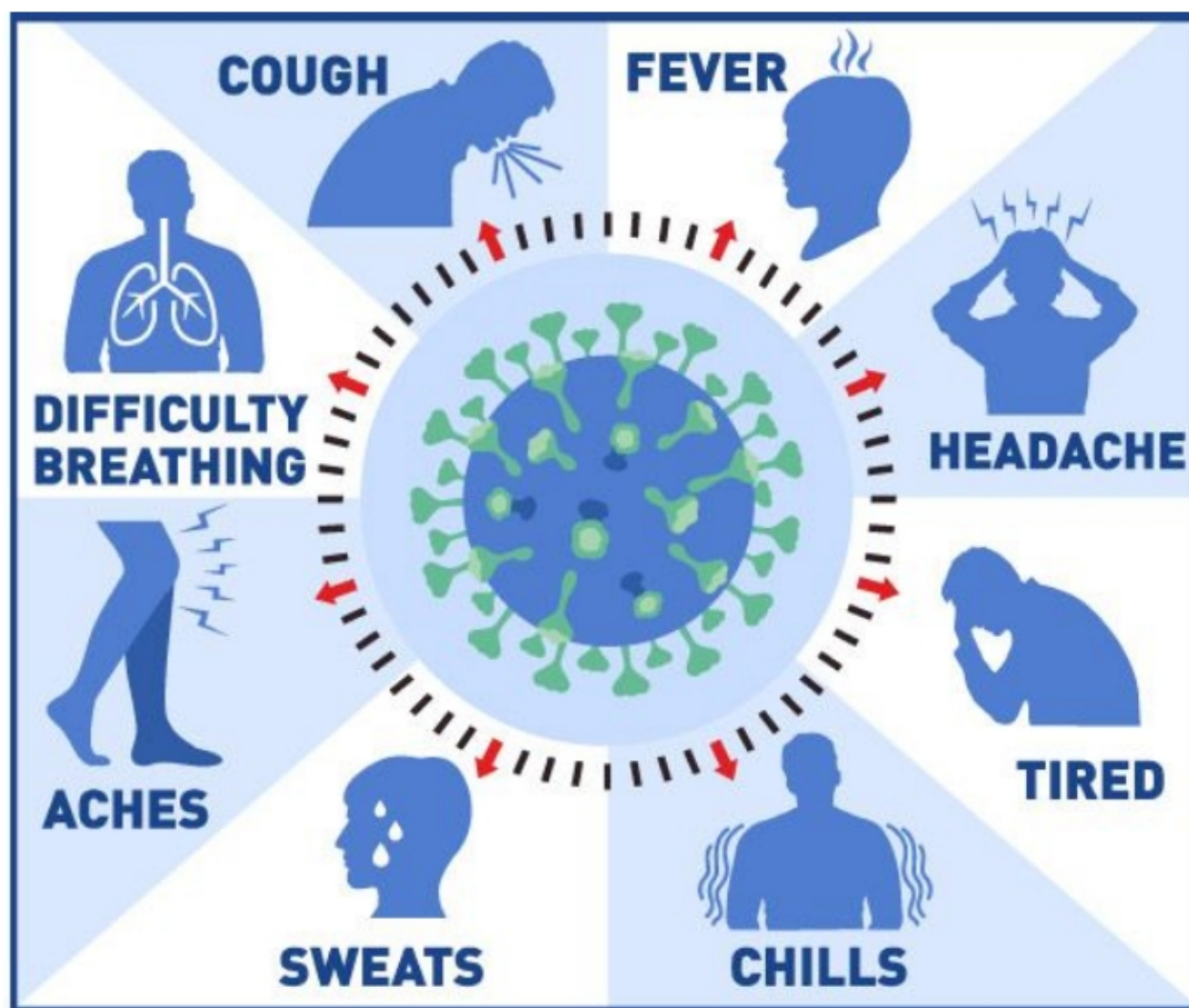
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Stay home if you are sick.

NEW HEALTH PROCEDURES

We need your help to keep our community safe!



Symptoms of **COVID-19** include cough, shortness of breath, fever or chills, muscle aches and pains, sore throat, headaches, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting and diarrhea. However, even if none of the above symptoms are present, if a child or adult is not feeling well for any reason, that person should not enter the RASPEDS building.

NEW HEALTH PROCEDURES

Please note the following important information:

Each parent will need to complete a daily wellness form as mandated by New York State Department of Health regulations and submit it to the school prior to the child's arrival. Submission details to be announced.

- A parent must report illness or a COVID-19 diagnosis to the principal mrsetra@parkeastdayschool.org and nurse@parkeastdayschool.org.
- Faculty, staff members and students who receive a COVID-19 diagnosis must remain home for at least 14 days. Written clearance from their medical doctor is required in order to return to school.
- A no-touch temperature device has been installed at our school entrance. Temperature above 100.0°F will be flagged for immediate follow up.
- If an individual has a fever of 100.0°F or more, and has a non-COVID related illness (ie: strep-throat, ear infection) the individual must remain home for a period of at least 48 hours of no fever without the use of Acetaminophen or Ibuprofen. A written diagnosis from a medical doctor must accompany the individual's return to our facility.
- **A child with fever should not be given Acetaminophen or Ibuprofen and sent to school. During this pandemic, parents must be extra vigilant in guarding the health of the school community. Lack of parental cooperation will lead to unnecessary classroom quarantine and school closures.**
- The school nurse will tend to students, faculty, or staff who either have temperature or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19. The individual will be kept in an isolation room until such time that he/she leaves the building.
- We have procured personal protective equipment to be supplied to our employees and will also be distributing masks to our students.
- **As symptoms of the flu are very similar to that of COVID-19, Park East Day School is strongly recommending that all children, faculty, and staff members receive flu vaccinations this year.**

PREVENTION PROTOCOLS



Hand & Respiratory Hygiene:

- The teachers will be trained in teaching healthy hygiene practices to the students. This includes washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after going to the bathroom, eating, blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol may be used with children in the grades, not by our early childhood students.
- Hand washing or sanitizing should be done frequently throughout the day, especially upon arrival, before eating, before putting on or taking off masks and before dismissal.
- The teachers will be trained to teach proper respiratory hygiene, what to do if one needs to cough or sneeze.
- Additional signage throughout the building will be added to help remind students and adults to wash their hands and practice healthy hand and respiratory hygiene.



Social Distancing:

- Professional layouts of classrooms have spaced students 6 feet apart to observe protocols of social distancing.
- Protective barriers will be installed at the security desk and in areas where it is difficult for individuals to remain at least 6 feet apart.
- Signage for social distancing will be placed in all common areas as reminders in our lobby, hallways, stair wells and other common areas.
- Clear physical barriers will be installed as protection for our students and teachers. This is in addition to the 6 foot distancing requirements for pre-kindergarten through grade 8.

PREVENTION PROTOCOLS



Face Coverings:

- Toddlers and three year olds are not required to wear face coverings.
- **Face coverings are required for all students pre-kindergarten through grade 8, teachers, and staff in Rabbi Arthur Schneier Park East Day School.**
- Face coverings must be worn in hallways, stairwells, bathrooms, and elevators.
- Face coverings are required on public and private school buses and mass transit when traveling to and from school.
- Face coverings may be removed only for eating and short breaks when social distancing and protective barriers are utilized.



Cleaning & Sanitizing:

Our maintenance department is upgrading our cleaning practices and procedures as per new Board of Health and CDC guidelines.

- We have already purchased large quantities of cleaning and sanitizing supplies.
- Common areas and frequently touched surfaces such as bathrooms, bannisters, door handles, sink faucets, elevator buttons and the like will be cleaned multiple times a day. A deep cleaning will be done nightly and between use of classrooms and multi-purpose areas.
- Students will not be permitted to share their school supplies, electronics, and personal property. Supplies and equipment used by one group of children at a time will need to be cleaned and disinfected between use.
- The HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) units are being evaluated in order for them to be working at peak performance. Filters are being changed for the maximum air flow and filtration capabilities that are compatible with current systems.

The Rabbi Arthur Schneier Park East Day School has always been an extended family.

Our culture is one of excellence in education and high standards and expectations from our children and ourselves. We are known for our warmth and nurturing, our ability to find the gift in each child. In this pandemic era, however, we must also be known as a community that will help ensure the health and wellbeing of our children, faculty, staff and everyone's respective families.

- No parents, caregivers, or non-essential visitors will be admitted to our building. Teachers will escort children to their classrooms.
- Separation, anxiety and the social-emotional components engendered by the pandemic will be addressed prior to school opening and during the school year. These elements are critical to our student's health and wellness.
- Essential visitors will be required to wear masks, wash or sanitize their hands, and follow all social distancing norms.
- All adults on premises, including essential visitors, will need to complete a health screening form upon entering. Admission will be predicated on exposure to COVID-19, symptoms of the illness, and temperature which will be taken automatically upon entrance.
- **Parents, we need your help!** If a child complains that he/she is not feeling well, even if the child does not have fever, please do not send the child to school that day. Close parental observation and/or a medical checkup should determine the next day's attendance.
- Sometimes a child becomes sick in school. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to take the child home as rapidly as possible. We must minimize the exposure of other students and our faculty to the possibility of a COVID-19 diagnosis.



Together, we will move forward.

There will be challenges but together we will persevere. With collective responsibility, determination, and effort, we eagerly anticipate September 2020 and the new school year.

Rabbi Arthur Schneier, Dean

Barbara T. Etra, Principal

Debbie Rochlin, Director of Early Childhood, Director of Admissions

Dr. Sherry Wiener, Director of Student Services

Cantor Benny Rogosnitzky, Director

Toby Einsidler, Administrator