



**Hillel Torah**  
בית ספר הלל תורה

# HILLEL TORAH SAFETY POLICIES 2021/2022



## OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Physical Health and Safety
- Emotional/Social Wellbeing
- Academic Learning
- Balanced, Holistic Perspective
- Partnership, Working Together
- Flexibility

## MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr. Raanan Alter, Gynecology Oncology

Elana Blivaiss, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner

Dr. Elana Comrov, Pediatrician

Dr. Leah Finkel, Pediatric Emergency Medicine

Dr. Ben Katz, Pediatric Infectious Disease

Dr. Ken Polin, Pediatrician

Dr. David Schreiber, Child Psychiatrist

Neeli Sudin, Family Nurse Practitioner

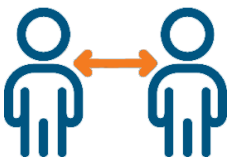
## OUR FOUR LEVELS OF SAFETY



Symptom Screening/Keep Symptoms Out



Mandatory Masks



Physical Distancing



Sanitation and Hand Hygiene

## ARRIVAL - GRADES K - 8 (MAIN BUILDING)

- Each day, before coming to school, parents will check that their entire household is symptom-free. If any household member has a symptom, all Hillel Torah students in the household must stay home from school until further direction is received from the school nurse.
- Early Drop Off begins at 7:30 am.
- 7-8 students should arrive at school by 7:50 to be ready to begin *tefilah* at 7:55.
- K-6 students should arrive at school by 8:15 to be ready to begin classes at 8:20.
- Drive in through the parking lot from Carpenter Rd. and use the circular drive to drop off your child(ren).
  - Staff and security will be outside in the morning helping students from cars.
  - Parents should remain in cars to maintain a safe flow of traffic.
- Students who arrive between 7:30-8:00:
  - Enter the building via the main entrance.
  - K-4 students go directly to the auditorium.
  - 5-8 students go directly to the gym.
  - In the auditorium and gym, students will be socially distanced according to pods.
- Students who arrive between 8:00 and 8:20:
  - Students go directly to their classrooms upon arrival at school. This will give students a calm start to their day for getting their things organized, doing skill-building work, and quiet reading (something we saw worked well last year).
  - K-4 students who arrived earlier transition to their classrooms at 8:00am.
  - 5-6 grade students who arrive between 8:00-8:15 go to the gym.
- Students who arrive late (grades 7-8 after 7:55, and grades K-6 after 8:20) must stop at the office to get a late note before heading to their classroom.

## DISMISSAL - GRADES K - 8

- Monday - Thursday dismissal begins at 4:00 pm.
- Early Friday (Aug 27 - April 8) dismissal begins at 1:40 pm.
- Regular Friday (April 29 - June 10) dismissal begins at 4:00 pm.

### Busses

- Busses are dismissed at 4:00 pm and students should arrive home between 4:20 and 5:00 pm.
- All individuals riding the bus must be masked at all times.
- There is an adult monitor on each bus to supervise general and Covid safety.
- Bus windows are kept partially open for increased ventilation.
- There are assigned seats with families seated together.
- There are seating charts for the purpose of contact tracing in the event of an exposure on the bus.

### Carpools

- All carpools must register with the school.
- Carpool pick up is between 4:00-4:15 pm in the circular drive in front of the building.
- Cars should enter the school parking lot via Carpenter Rd.
- Each carpool will receive a number that must be clearly displayed in the windshield when picking up.
- Staff will check the number and call the students out to the car.
- Carpools should arrive for pickup no later than 4:15pm.

### MULTI-FAMILY CARPOOL

If carpooling with another family, all passengers and drivers should distance to the degree possible and wear a mask while in the car.

When possible, the vehicle windows should remain open.

For contact tracing purposes, we ask that you do not take other children in your car who are not registered as part of your carpool unless you have received advanced permission from the school.

## ARRIVAL - PRESCHOOL (SKOKIE VALLEY BUILDING)

- Early Drop Off for Preschool children at the Skokie Valley campus is at 8:00 am, prior sign-up is required.
  - All children in Early Drop Off in both Pre-Nursery and Nursery should be dropped off in the circular drive on East Prairie in front of the synagogue building between 8:00 and 8:05.
  - If you are unable to arrive by 8:05 am, we ask that you park and walk your child to the school entrance on Monticello. After ringing the bell and entering the building, walk your child to the Early Drop Off classroom.
- Students who arrive between 8:50 and 9:05:
  - We provide curbside drop-off beginning at 8:50 am and lasting until 9:05 am.
  - Please help unbuckle your child so that he or she can get out of the car as easily as possible.
  - For the safety of all of our families and staff, we kindly ask that you remain in your car at all times.
  - **Pre-Nursery:** Please join the drop-off line on Monticello. There will be an area near the school door for you to pull up to drop off next to the sidewalk closest to the school.
  - **Nursery:** Please pull into the alley behind our building off of Monticello to avoid backing up traffic on East Prairie. From the alley, you can turn right into the circular drive on East Prairie in front of the building.
  - A teacher will greet you at your car and walk your child to their classroom where a teacher will be waiting to greet the students as they come in.
- If you arrive after 9:05 am, park and walk your child to the school entrance located on Monticello.

## DISMISSAL - PRESCHOOL

- At the 1:00 pm and 2:30 pm dismissal times, Nursery is dismissed through the school doors on East Prairie and Pre-Nursery through school doors on Monticello.
  - Children remain inside the building, the parent/caregiver comes to the door, checks in with a teacher, and the children are dismissed one at a time to each caregiver.
- At the 4:30 pm dismissal time, parents/caregivers picking up should ring the school doorbell at the Monticello door and will be asked to come into the school to pick up their child. Around 4:20 pm, all remaining students will be brought outside and will be waiting by the East Prairie school door.

# PODS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING



Based on the CDC's recommendation that limiting close contact is the best way to limit the spread of COVID-19, we continue with distancing practices both inside the building and in outdoor spaces.

- In K-6th grade, each grade is considered one pod.
- 7th and 8th grade are considered one pod together, due to the high rate of vaccination in those grades.
- The Skokie Valley Preschool is considered one pod
- Pods can mix outdoors as an outdoor exposure is no longer considered "close contact."
- Indoors, students in grades 1-8 are seated in class at a minimum of 3 feet apart when masked and 6 feet apart while eating, and are forward facing, to comply with CDC guidelines.
- Indoors, Prenursery, Nursery and Kindergarten students are not required to social distance within their pods and therefore may be subject to quarantine in the event of a COVID positive case.
- Windows and doors in the classroom are kept open as much as possible.
- Teachers utilize outside spaces throughout the day when possible.
- There is signage throughout the building to communicate, promote and enforce physical distancing.

## LUNCH & SNACKS

We recognize that lunch and snack time can be challenging since masks cannot be worn.

- Students are at least 6' apart while eating lunch and snack.
- We are utilizing classrooms and other locations within the school as temporary lunch-rooms to facilitate the 6' distance while eating lunch.
- All school provided Hot Lunch meals are served in single serve containers with all disposable utensils.
- Teachers continually reinforce no sharing of any food or drinks.
- Hand sanitizer is used both before and after eating

# MASKS AT SCHOOL



There is strong evidence that wearing a mask, which covers the mouth and nose, is an effective strategy in controlling the person to person spread of COVID-19.

- All students, teachers, staff, and visitors ages two and older must wear a mask while in the building, even if social distancing is maintained, regardless of vaccination status, as per the Illinois mask mandate.
- No bandanas, or athletic types of face masks are allowed, gaiters are allowed only if they are at least double layered. Additionally, masks cannot have a valve.
- At arrival, masks should be in place prior to getting out of the car; at dismissal, masks should remain in place until seated inside the car or until exiting the bus at your stop.
- Masks must cover the nose and the mouth, and fit snugly against the sides of the face.
- Masks can be removed while eating and drinking.
- Masks can be removed outdoors.

# HAND HYGIENE



Hand hygiene is recognized by the CDC as one of the best ways to protect oneself from getting sick.

- Everyone in the school building will be instructed to wash or sanitize hands frequently.
  - At the start of the day
  - Before and after eating
  - Before and after sharing toys and supplies
  - After outdoor play
- There are hand sanitizer dispensers in every room in the school as well as at every entrance/exit.
- Students are taught proper hygiene techniques.
- All restrooms are outfitted with touchless toilets and urinals (new bathrooms only), sinks, paper towel dispensers, and soap dispensers.

## VISITORS TO THE BUILDING

Visitors are allowed into the school building, with prior approval, for essential purposes.

Parents are allowed into the building for specific school programs in a distanced, safe manner.

All visitors to the building regardless of vaccination status are required to wear a mask at all times while inside the building.

All visitors to the school are required to follow social distancing, hand hygiene, and mask policies.



# TRAVEL POLICY

Guidelines for **unvaccinated** individuals to return to school post-travel are:

- Testing after domestic travel will be determined on a case by case basis, depending on what a family does when traveling and not just on where you go.
- Any unvaccinated individual that travels and is involved in situations that are considered high risk, including eating in indoor restaurants, attending large gatherings indoors where people are unmasked, such as unmasked shuls, events, or *smachot*, will be subject to testing upon return to school. Those maintaining masking and social distancing while traveling will not be required to test upon return.
- International travel requires a 7 day quarantine, followed by a negative PCR test for unvaccinated individuals, as recommended by the CDC.
- The day you return from travel is considered day 0
- See the [City of Chicago Travel Guidelines](#) for the updated status of each state.

Currently, travel guidelines only apply to the unvaccinated. Vaccinated individuals can return to school after travel without a test.

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Special programming such as field trips, extra-curricular activities and after school programs will be held within safety guidelines.

## FLU SHOTS

In addition to our standard immunization policy, all students are required to get a flu shot prior to November 1, 2021, unless documented as medically contra-indicated.

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**We ask all Hillel Torah families to follow CDC, state, and local guidelines while outside of school to help protect the entire community.**

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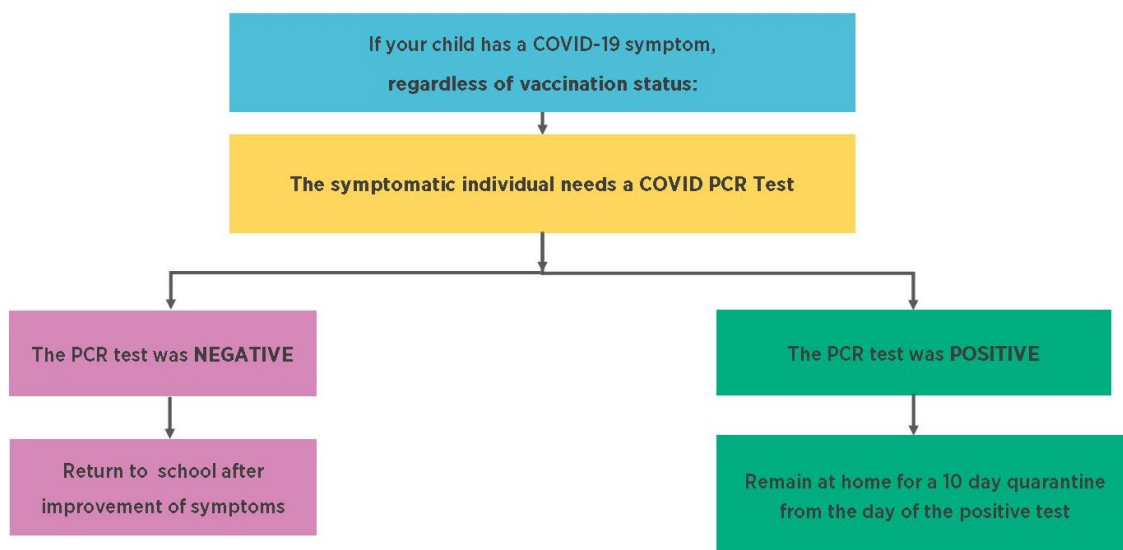


## IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR PARENTS: Preventative Measures and Health Monitoring



**The following symptoms will exclude students from in-person learning until Covid-19 is ruled out with a PCR test:**

- |                       |                     |                                      |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| * Fever               | * Vomiting          | * Loss of taste and/or smell         |
| * Cough               | * Moderate Headache | Please note that congestion and      |
| * Shortness of breath | * Sore throat       | runny nose are no longer on the list |
- If a child presents with any of these symptoms, parents must keep all of their children home and notify the nurse via email [ariele.fox@hilleltorah.org](mailto:ariele.fox@hilleltorah.org)
  - In cases of the symptoms listed above, a negative PCR is required to return to school, as well as a resolution of symptoms. All unvaccinated siblings will need to stay home until the PCR results return.
  - Vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals who are experiencing any symptoms listed above must stay home until they obtain negative PCR results and experience improvement of symptoms.
  - In the event that a child is complaining of any of the above symptoms in school, parents will be asked to pick up all of their unvaccinated children from school.
    - When interacting with students who may be sick, the school nurse and all staff will follow CDC guidelines and precautions.
    - The parents will be notified and the student will need to be picked up.
    - The school nurse will provide parents guidance on next steps.



### Notifying the School of a COVID-19 Positive Result

In the event you have a positive COVID case in your household, notify the school as soon as possible by emailing [ariele.fox@hilleltorah.org](mailto:ariele.fox@hilleltorah.org) and write COVID POSITIVE in the subject of the email.

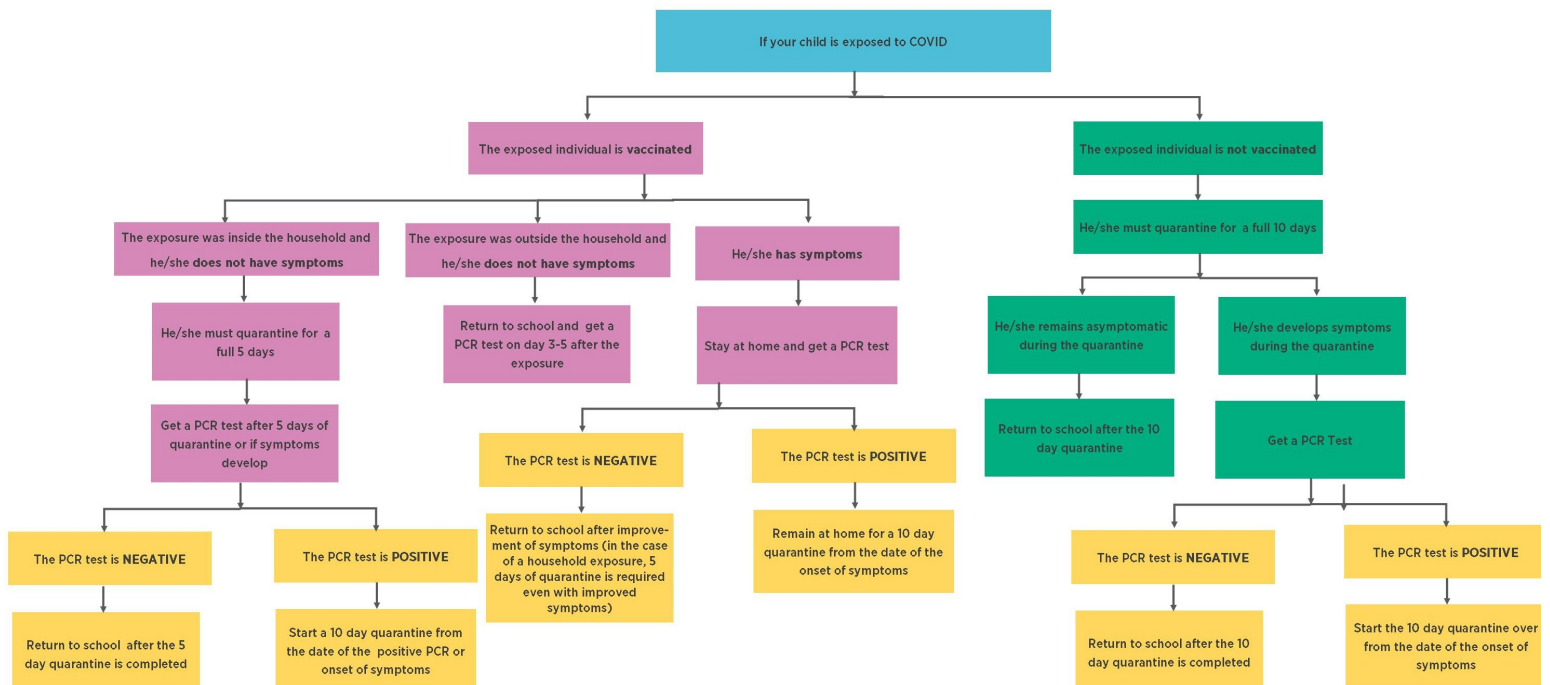
We ask that you notify the school first, before you inform friends and classmates. It is imperative that the school is able to obtain all of the necessary information, take the time needed to contact trace appropriately, and send out formal notifications with accurate information and instructions to the parent body to prevent misinformation spreading around the school.

# IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR PARENTS:

## Exposure and Quarantine

In a school setting, an exposure to Covid is currently defined as being within 6 feet unmasked, or closer than 3 feet masked, of a Covid positive individual, for 15 minutes or longer over a 24 hour period, within the 48 hours prior to the positive individual developing symptoms or testing positive. (CDC/IDPH)

- The contact must occur indoors. Outdoor exposures are no longer considered a close contact exposure.
- Vaccinated individuals living in a house with someone who has tested positive for Covid 19, must stay home and quarantine for 5 days. After 5 days, they must obtain a Covid PCR test. If that test is negative, they can end their quarantine and return to school.
- Vaccinated individuals who have been exposed to Covid outside of their household and are asymptomatic following the exposure do not need to quarantine. However, they do need to wear a mask for a full 14 days or until they receive a negative Covid PCR test, which can be done between days 3-5 post-exposure. (IDPH)
- Unvaccinated individuals who have been exposed to Covid must quarantine for a full 10 days from the date of their last exposure to the positive individual. Unvaccinated individuals may not test out of this quarantine.
- When unvaccinated students in grades 1-8 are seated in class 3' apart with masks on, or 6' apart without masks, while eating, they will not need to quarantine in the event of a positive case in their pod. This is in line with the current health guidelines and a change from last year's guidelines.
- Anyone that develops symptoms after an exposure to Covid, whether vaccinated or not, must get a Covid PCR test. If the individual develops symptoms during quarantine, he/she must get a PCR test, or quarantine for 10 days from symptom onset.



## CONTACT TRACING

- In the event of a case of COVID-19 within the school community, we will inform local health departments and we will notify parents/staff who may have been exposed. We will additionally send an email to all parents/staff that there was a confirmed positive case in the school community.
- We do ask for permission to disclose the name of the individual who tested positive when informing the school community about the case. By identifying and publicizing the individual's name who tested positive, it allows for more thorough and safer contact tracing, and will hopefully also help destigmatize the virus. Of course we will only disclose this information with explicit permission from the individual that tested positive.
- Contact tracing is a tedious process that will begin immediately upon notification of a COVID positive result. The school nurse will speak to all individuals involved in order to determine who is a close contact.
- The school nurse and administration will work closely with the local health department to guide us on the level of risk in regards to community transmission and at what point we may need to take further measures.

### ZOOM OPTIONS

Based on the ability to fully return to school in-person, we will not be providing a permanent zoom option for this school year.

For students in grades 1-8, in the case of COVID symptoms, exposure, or a positive COVID test that requires remaining at home, zoom will be available.

Zoom will not be available for students who must remain home for a non-covid illness or due to voluntary student travel.

### SCHOOL-WIDE COVID TESTING

Due to the recent concern for transmission of Covid by vaccinated individuals, all students and staff, regardless of vaccination status, are required to participate in school-wide Covid testing before the start of the school

We are planning additional school wide testing at a number of key points during the school year.

**\*\*The policies outlined in this document are subject to change along with the ongoing changes to medical and state guidelines. We are committed to being as flexible as possible to make all adjustments necessary to continue to provide our students with the education they need in a safe, healthy environment.\*\***

# HILLEL TORAH COMMUNITY PLEDGE

We ask that all Hillel Torah families commit to the Hillel Torah Community Pledge. The goal of the pledge is to create an ongoing safe and healthy school environment for our students and staff. In addition to our Safety Guidelines that apply to IN-school procedures, we ask for your commitment to follow these OUT-of-school procedures, as well. Your family's strict adherence to this pledge is imperative to maintaining the health and continued wellbeing of our school community.

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## PLEDGE

As a Hillel Torah community member, I pledge to:

- Wear a mask indoors when mandated
- Social distance in group situations when masks are not worn.
- Inform the school if anyone in my immediate family has been in contact with someone who has COVID-19.
- Inform the school when someone in my immediate family shows any of the COVID-19 symptoms outlined by the CDC.
- Inform the school if anyone in my immediate family contracts COVID-19.
- Follow all state travel guidelines.

**We ask that you and your family members please review and commit to this pledge, as well as the guidelines outlined herein. We thank you in advance for your help in keeping our community strong, healthy, and connected in these unprecedented times.**

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\*\*\*This document is a guide for school reopening and COVID-19 policies relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. This guide should not be taken as medical advice to anyone. Medical advice and direct medical care should be handled by a certified medical provider. \*\*\*



## ADMINISTRATION

**Rabbi Menachem Linzer, Principal**

**Rav Natan Brownstein, Director of Judaic Studies**

**Karin Felix, Director of Admissions**

**Miriam Kopelow, Director of General Studies**

**Ed Plotkin, Director of Development**

**Dov Shandalov, Business Administrator**

**Jennifer Wasserman, Director of Early Childhood**

**Rabbi Aron Wolgel, Director of Student Services**

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