



Dear Families.

As we prepare to welcome your children next Tuesday, September 8, we want to take the opportunity to share additional information with you so that we all feel as prepared as possible for our reopening. We've answered as many frequently asked questions as possible (below). That said, we know that you will probably have many more questions once school opens, so we *first* want to make sure that you know whom to contact (and please don't hesitate to reach out!)

*Questions related to health, COVID-19, protocols, or general logistics?*

- Contact [Eileen Ellis](#) in the front office.

*Questions related to class-specific academics, or social/emotional learning?*

- Contact your child's teacher

*Questions related to our general curriculum?*

- Contact [Jill Davis](#) (Director of General Studies)
- Contact [Rhonda Mills](#) (Director of Judaic Studies)
- Contact [Ruti Adler](#) (Hebrew Coordinator)
- Contact [Meghan Cavanaugh](#) (School Social Worker)

*Questions about our JCDSRI community or Parent Engagement Groups?*

- Contact your room parents (listed on each grade level page on the Parent Portal) or [Shayna Fel](#)

*Questions related to tuition or financial aid?*

- Contact [Harshita Lakhiani](#)

**Our [Family Handbook](#) is also a valuable resource!**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Is there a health screening form I will need to fill out every day before my child can go to school?** Yes! Every morning, you will receive (through text and email) a Symptom Screening Form that you must complete for *every child, every day* ([see this video](#) for an example). For further information concerning COVID-19 symptoms, please see the [Governor's Outbreak Response Protocols PreK-12](#).

**What will drop off and pick up look like now?** [This video](#) describes all of our new procedures! If you have additional questions, please contact [Eileen Ellis](#).

**What are your expectations of families *outside* of school?** The Task Force has indicated that our entire community must work together to uphold standards of behavior and public health best practices that support wellness (for more detailed information, see our [Reopening Plan](#)). In order for us to return to in-person learning, we require a commitment from everyone in the JCDSRI community to review and follow our safety protocols. We request that families stay up-to-date on Rhode Island health guidelines and follow them outside of school as well as at JCDSRI (see the [RI Department of Health](#) website).

**How will we learn about confirmed cases in our community?** The first step in an effective COVID-19 mitigation strategy is to screen. Families will receive daily Symptom Screening Forms via text message and email that will need to be filled out for each individual child *before* entering the school building (see an example of the form in [this video](#)). In addition, the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) has developed a testing and tracing infrastructure for K-12 schools. As such, when there is a confirmed COVID-19 case at school, JCDSRI will work closely with RIDOH as they direct families in COVID-19 testing and contact tracing. RIDOH will provide guidance on decisions to quarantine classrooms, stable groups, and close contacts, as well as cleaning and closure instructions, based on the information we will be able to provide to them.

**How will we respond to confirmed cases in our community?** Here are the steps JCDSRI will take to communicate with individuals, families, and the school community:

- Daily screening responses will be reviewed by our front desk staff via our Symptom Screening Form. *No one who is sick can come to school* (please be prepared to keep your child home even if they have mild symptoms).
- We request that families inform us immediately if their child is “probable” and/or tests positive ([click here to see guidance from the State concerning these designations](#)). If we send a child home, believing that they are a probable case, we

will require that a test be immediately administered and that the family informs us of the result.

- Upon confirmation of a positive case, the family will be notified by RIDOH or JCDSRI to isolate at home. JCDSRI will collect information about close contacts at school to share with the RIDOH contact tracing team. Close contacts and/or a stable group will then be notified by the RIDOH or JCDSRI and asked to quarantine at home.
- If an adult or child in our school tests positive, an email will be sent to the full community providing information about the steps already taken, which *may* include classroom cleaning, classroom closure, contact tracing, and quarantine.

**This is a lot of information! Who do I contact if I have questions about the Symptom Screening Form, protocols, contact tracing, or any other COVID-19 related questions?** [Eileen Ellis](#) will be able to help you or direct your questions to the appropriate person. We also suggest that you contact the RI Department of Health on their hotline: 401-222-8022, Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM.

**I'm confused about what kind of mask my child should wear! Can you help?**

You can learn more about JCDSRI's mask guidelines as provided by our task force by [clicking here](#). We recommend that you send your child to school with multiple labeled masks - and with something to help keep their mask on their body at all times. [This is an example of what could be used.](#)

**Where do I go to get more detailed information about your Reopening plan?**

You can go to our Parent Portal on our [website](#) and click on "Coronavirus Updates."

**I can't remember the secure password for the Parent Portal on the [JCDSRI website](#). What is it?**

The password is "JCDSRI2020!" We ask that you do not share this password with anyone outside of our immediate community. In the Parent Portal, you will find a dedicated page for individual classroom information, COVID-19 updates, and all our school forms. In addition, our website contains an upgraded [school calendar](#) which can be synched with your personal calendars to ensure you are aware of all upcoming events, days off, holidays, etc.

**How early can my child arrive at school? What time does school begin?** We ask that no student arrive before 7:45 AM (this includes walkers). *We will not be able to accommodate children arriving before that time.* School begins promptly at 7:55!

**What time is dismissal? How about on Fridays?** Dismissal is at 3:15 PM for all students M-Th and at 1:45 PM on Fridays.

**Will the playground be open so children can play before school begins? Can children play in the playground or under the tent after school?** No. Due to COVID-19 regulations, children will no longer be able to access our playground before or after school. But they will have plenty of outdoor time during school hours!

I hope the answers to these FAQs are helpful to you. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the appropriate person if you have further questions or need clarification.

Wishing you a sweet, peaceful, and joyous Shabbat -

Andrea