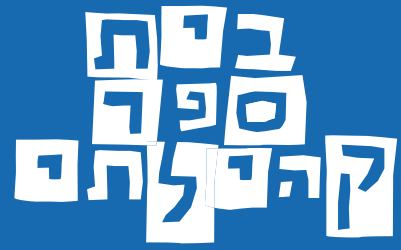


JCDSRI COVID PLAN



jewish community
day school of rhode island

2021-2022



JCDSRI COVID-19 TASK FORCE

Mara Ostro
Board Representative

Andrea Katzman
Head of School

Rebecca Kislak
Attorney with expertise
in healthcare policy;
RI State Representative, District 4

Dr. Nathan Beraha
Pediatric Cardiologist

Dr. Lesley Landau
Psychologist

Jill Davis
Education Team Leader;
Teacher Representative

Antony Bucci
Director of Security
and Physical Plant

Erika Rusley
Tzedek (Social Justice)
and Technology Coordinator

Harshita Lakhiani
Chief Financial Officer

JCDSRI's COVID Task Force met and created the following guidelines for the 2021-22 school year. We are, however, prepared for the public health situation to continue to evolve. **As federal and state officials provide new guidance, we will adjust accordingly and keep you updated.** We are grateful that our community is uniquely situated to respond flexibly, thoughtfully, and generously to any challenges we might encounter moving forward.

We are pleased to share with you our detailed plan that focuses on four specific areas:

- physical infrastructure
- scheduling and staffing
- health and behavioral norms
- pedagogy

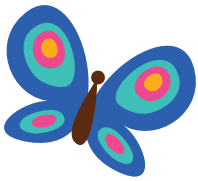
For current updates, see the [RI Department of Health](#) and the [RI Department of Education](#) websites.

Gratitude to the following Reopening Task Force members for their tireless work, astounding expertise, and invaluable insights: Dr. Nathan Beraha, Rebecca Kislak, Dr. Lesley Landau, Mara Ostro, Jill Davis, Erika Rusley, Harshita Lakhiani, and Anthony Bucci. The Task Force members will continue to provide us with guidance throughout the year, ensuring that we can ably respond to any challenges we might face.



August 13, 2021

Guiding Principles



Dedication to our mission – as well as concern for the safety and well-being of our students, families, and faculty and staff – continues to inform all of the Task Force’s decisions. In addition, our reopening plan reflects our school’s five core values (respect, loving-kindness, responsibility, justice, and community), our commitment to *p’kuach nefesh* (protecting human life) and our dedication to the home-school partnership.



הנה מה טוב *Henei Ma Tov* “How Good It Is To Be Together”

Our students love to go to school and learn together! We know how important it is for young children to come together to learn, play, and connect. We also know that while we can reduce the risk to your children – as well as to our faculty and staff – we can not eliminate it entirely. There will still be evolving circumstances and challenges over which we have no control, including the lack of approved vaccines for children under 12 and the discovery of new variants of COVID. That said, we remain focused on what we *can* control in terms of our preparation and planning, with a focus on risk-mitigation and transparency.

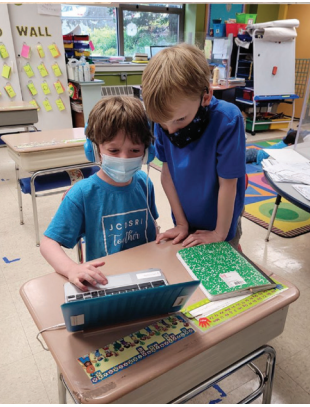
Learning at JCDSRI

JCDSRI students thrive in our nurturing, creative, joyful, **in-person** learning environment. Your children will experience meaningful connections with their teachers and peers, delve enthusiastically into their core academic studies, and participate in specialties, including Art, Physical Education, Library, Music, and Design Lab. Students will be challenged by our rich and diverse Jewish studies curriculum, enjoy celebrating their grade level milestone events, and embrace all the other essentials of the JCDSRI experience.

We know that not only does spending time outdoors help to mitigate the risk of COVID transmission, it also encourages creative learning and a connection to the earth. So, we will be outdoors often! Aside from generous recess time, we will use our *Mo’adon* (covered outdoor classroom) for learning, eating, *t’fillah* (prayer), and play.

Each class in our school will also have their own designated bathroom, supplies, and resources. In addition, students will eat snacks and lunches either outside or within their grade-level classrooms.

An all-day, full week experience



JCDsRI will continue to provide in-person learning from 7:45am to 3:15pm every day, except Friday when dismissal will be at 2:30pm.¹ Please note that children may not be dropped off before 7:45am or picked up after 3:15pm. Further details about drop-off and pick-up will be shared with families before school begins. JCDsRI after-school programs will begin in October.

JCDsRI does not offer options for distance learning while school is in session. Evidence has long demonstrated the importance of in-person schooling for young children and we will continue to learn in-person following all safety guidelines.

If, however, your child is quarantining because they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, families may contact the teacher on the 3rd day to see if there are options for activities (this will be decided according to the teachers' discretion). **Note that we do not offer learning options for children who are quarantined due to travel restrictions, who are on vacation, or who are sick and need to stay home and rest.**

¹If the State of Rhode Island announces a "stay-at-home" order, including the closure of schools, JCDsRI will initiate distance learning within one-week of the state's announcement.

Mask use



The value of *p'kuach nefesh* (protecting human life) requires that we once again begin the year with a conservative approach to mask use. The evidence continues to show the efficacy of face coverings in mitigating the spread of COVID-19. As such, **all students, faculty, and staff will continue to wear masks at JCDsRI.** Face masks may be removed outside *if* physical distancing can be sustained (3 feet of distance is recommended).

Masks should: fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face; allow for breathing without restriction; be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage. Masks should not be placed on anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

If your child is using a cloth mask, it must be laundered daily. Disposable masks must be replaced daily.

Vaccinations

In order to facilitate the successful in-person operation of our school and ensure as few COVID-related quarantines and illnesses as possible during the school year, we are requiring that all employees be fully vaccinated with an FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine regimen by October 15, 2021. In addition, all eligible individuals entering any indoor spaces used by JCDsRI during school hours must show proof of vaccination, including but not limited to: paraprofessionals, maintenance staff, contracted workers, volunteers, and family members.



The JCDSRI home-school partnership

We treasure our supportive and engaging learning environment in which children, teachers, and families are deeply connected. We are grateful to our parents and caregivers for their support and trust and for working in partnership with our educators. We understand that our *entire* community must continue to work together to uphold standards of behavior and public health best practices that support wellness. **At JCDSRI, we believe that we must take responsibility not only for ourselves, but for the health and safety of our neighbors, friends, and strangers. In addition to the required PCR test on the 5th day, we strongly encourage a COVID test to be administered on the first day symptoms appear and that the results be shared with the school.**

We have learned from past experience that in order for us to sustain in-person learning, we require a commitment from everyone in the JCDSRI community to review and follow our safety protocols. ***We are asking that families respectfully follow all JCDSRI protocols and stay up-to-date on Rhode Island health guidelines.***

HEALTH SCREENING On a daily basis, families will screen every student in their household for COVID-19 symptoms before leaving for school and attest that they are symptom-free.

We request that the symptom form be completed before 7:45am each morning.

If anyone in the household is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 before the school day begins, the JCDSRI student or employee must **stay home**.

NO PARENTS/CAREGIVERS IN THE BUILDING At this point, we are still not allowing any parents, caregivers, special guests or outside visitors into our school building. Drop off and pick up will occur outside our building and we ask that preschool-5th grade parents do not enter our school for *any* reason. Decisions about special guests visiting with students in our *Mo'adon* (outdoor classroom/gathering space) will be made on a case-to-case basis.

TESTING, QUARANTINE AND CONTACT TRACING If a student develops COVID-19 symptoms while at school, parents/caregivers will be notified to pick up the student within the hour. Employees will go home immediately if they develop symptoms.

The student and/or employee may take a PCR test the same day and – with confirmation of a negative result and **no symptoms of COVID-19** – the student may return to school. We will not accept rapid COVID tests in lieu of a PCR test. Please review the *JCDSRI Family Handbook* for further guidance concerning our protocols in regards to student illnesses (including that children must be fever-free *without medication for 24 hours* before returning to school).

If a student has been in known close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, they must self-quarantine and **immediately inform the school**. On or after the fifth day of quarantine, a PCR test may be taken and – with confirmation of a negative test – the student may return to school. JCDSRI will follow direction from RIDOH on contact tracing and quarantining.

Even if the test is negative, the student or employee must be free of ALL symptoms for a minimum of 24 hours before returning to school. If the test result is positive, individuals must complete a period of isolation as directed by the Rhode Island Department of Health. JCDSRI will follow direction from RIDOH on contact tracing and quarantining, which may include requiring that the student's entire class also quarantine.

We respectfully ask for parents and caregivers to **be prepared for children to be sent home** for illnesses that, in previous years, would be considered minor (e.g., colds).

TRAVELING OUT OF STATE If you are fully vaccinated or have recovered from COVID-19 in the past 90 days, you do not need to get tested or quarantine after arrival in Rhode Island. This may change at any time. Due to increasing spread of other variants of COVID-19 (including the Delta variant), it is possible for even those who are vaccinated to experience mild symptoms (or even be asymptomatic carriers), so we ask that you monitor yourself for symptoms and act cautiously around those who are unvaccinated.

If you or your child are not yet fully vaccinated, you and/or your child must **get tested** (PCR test) 5 days after travel within the US and US territories.

This means that if your child(ren) will be returning to school on Wednesday, September 1, and they are not vaccinated, they will need to return to Rhode Island by Wednesday, August 25.





Distance Learning and JCDSRI Learning Management System (LMS)

If schools are ordered by the state to close for any reason, JCDSRI will initiate Distance Learning within a week of the state's announcement. Information will be posted on the Distance Learning Page of the Parent Portal of our [website](#). Our Parent Portal will help parents, caregivers, and students effectively and easily manage any distance-learning experiences and require that they have to master only one major Learning Management System during school closure, regardless of subject or grade level. All weekly schedules, pacing guidelines, and materials will be able to be accessed through the Parent Portal of our website.

Please note that we **do not offer distance learning options if a child is absent while school is in session**. However, if your child has been under quarantine for COVID for *more than 3 days*, please be in touch with the classroom teachers, as they may wish to provide your child with learning materials and/or activities. **Only healthy children under quarantine due to contract tracing are eligible for this option (and only on or after the 3rd day of quarantine)**. We do not offer learning options for children who are quarantined due to travel restrictions, who are on vacation, or who are sick and need to stay home and rest.





Fall COVID-19 Plan Framework

1 STUDENTS, STAFFING AND SCHEDULING

Students

- Students will wear masks while inside the school and outside – except when at least 3 feet of physical distancing over a sustained period of time is possible.
- Students will frequently sanitize or wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, especially before they enter and exit a classroom, prior to any mealtimes, and after using the restroom.
- Frequent handwashing will be taught and practiced; the *Nitzamim* and *Ilanot* preschools, as well as the Kindergarten and First grade, have sinks in their classrooms. Each class has an individually assigned bathroom.

Faculty/Staff

- All faculty and staff are required to be fully vaccinated with an FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine regimen. In addition, all eligible individuals entering any indoor spaces used by JCDSRI during school hours must show proof of vaccination.
- Faculty and staff will sanitize and/or wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water frequently throughout the day, but especially before they enter and exit a classroom, prior to any mealtimes, and after using the restroom.
- All faculty or staff will be required to wear a mask unless outside or socially distanced among other vaccinated adults.

Arrival & Dismissal

- Parents/caregivers must remain outside the school. Only students may enter school.
- Families will screen students at home for COVID-19 symptoms. Students must stay home if they do not pass the screening.
- Students will sanitize their hands upon entering the building.

2 PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

General Spacing & Movement

- Grades will occupy consistent space as much as possible, using the same classroom every day and the same bathrooms.
- Shared objects are limited as much as possible within stable groups.

Classroom Layout

- Teachers will assign seating.
- Air purifiers will be in every room and windows will be open throughout the year.
- Students will remain masked in the classroom at all times; when eating, drinking, or mask breaks occur, students will be separated by at least 3 feet.
- Playground will be closed for use before and after school.

Bathrooms

- Each grade has an assigned bathroom that may only be used by that individual grade.
- Bathrooms are regularly cleaned and disinfected during the day by our cleaning staff.

3 HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL NORMS

Frequently Touched Surfaces

- Frequently touched surfaces & objects are cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected multiple times per day.
- Each child will have their own individual cubby or locker.
- We will avoid sharing electronic devices. Chromebooks will be assigned to each student for the year.

Disinfectants

- Organic and non-toxic cleaners will be used whenever possible (following CDC recommendations).
- We will increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible when using disinfectants/cleaning materials.

Air Circulation

- Additional air purifiers will be used in classrooms.
- Windows will be kept open when possible to promote air circulation.

Water Usage

- Contactless water-filling stations may be used.

Handwashing

- Students, faculty and staff will have access to soap and water and/or hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol at all times.
- Faculty, staff and students will frequently sanitize or wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, especially before they enter and exit a classroom, prior to any mealtimes, and after using the restroom.
- Frequent handwashing will be taught and practiced; preschool and Kindergarten, and First Grade classrooms all have sinks in their classrooms. Each class has an individually assigned bathroom.

Screening Students, Faculty & Staff

- On a daily basis, families will screen every student in their household for COVID-19 symptoms **before leaving for school** and attest that they are symptom-free. All JCDSRI employees will follow the same protocols.
- If anyone in the household is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 before the school day begins, the JCDSRI student or employee must stay home.

4 SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Social & Emotional

- *Teacher training:* Meghan Cavanaugh, JCDSRI Social Worker, will continue to lead Professional Development workshops throughout the year with a particular emphasis on Social and Emotional Learning (SEL).
- *Parent Support:* Meghan will continue to offer workshops/support groups for parents throughout the year.
- We will continue to utilize mindfulness and meditation with our students and during faculty and staff meetings.
- Continuation of **Positive Discipline** workshops and professional development.

