



Community Brit: Covid-19 Protocols and Prevention Plan

Updated August, 2021

School Protocols

- **Prior to leaving for school in the morning**, parents must complete a morning health survey. A link for the morning health survey will be sent out with our final policies and procedures information. Students who arrive at school without having submitted their survey will be required to wait in a safe space, likely the First Aid room until a parent can return to administer it.

Drop-off procedures

- The drop-off window for ALL HDS students is 8:00 - 8:15 AM during which students will enter through the HDS entrance.
- The drop off location for HDS students includes the right side of the parking lot and the area directly in front of the main entrance to the building. A cone will be placed on one of the poles in front of the JCC entrance to mark the location of the first car in the HDS drop-off line.
- Parents may either park their car in order to walk their child(ren) to the HDS door, or drop their child(ren) off from the carline. While dropping off, do not leave your car unattended in the carline to walk your child(ren) to the building.
- Parents may walk their child(ren) into the building to drop them off outside of their classrooms. Everyone (age 2 and older) entering the building must be masked, regardless of vaccination status. Parents who also have a child to drop off at the ECC are asked to do so prior to dropping off at HDS.
- Parents who have children that attend both HDS and the ECC should park their car and walk their children to the JCC entrance and then to the HDS entrance.
- We understand that many parents of young children do not allow their children to wear big winter coats while riding in a car seat. We support this safe decision. If this is your family's choice, please help keep the carline moving smoothly by having your child put the coat on as soon as you enter the parking lot, or park in an available spot to allow time for this task.

Cohorting

- By cohorting our Lower EI (Transitional Gan, Gan, 1st, and 2nd) and Upper EI (3rd, 4th, & 5th) students we will be able to create a safe environment that allows for increased opportunities for social interaction. While we recognize that there will be families with students in both cohorts, our strategy is to lower our risk profile to create a safe environment that maximizes our ability to program where we can.

Mask-wearing

- Mask-wearing is a condition for in-person instruction. All students and staff shall wear **properly fitting** masks that cover the nose and mouth.
- Unless they are eating, all students and staff will be required to wear masks including in hallways, common spaces, indoor and outdoor classrooms.
- A student or staff member who is unable to tolerate a mask will not be able to attend in-person instruction. A student who is unable to place or remove a mask without assistance will not be able to attend in-person instruction.
- Students may remove masks when eating inside classrooms and/or in designated mask break areas.
- Parents shall provide clean masks for their children daily, as well as additional labeled masks to be stored in lockers or backpacks.

Students learning from home

- Virtual learning options will be discussed on a case-by-case basis if a student needs to remain home due to a Covid-19 related issue.

Hand washing and sanitizing

- Teachers will review and teach, as necessary, appropriate hand washing techniques and expectations. Parents can help by having students practice at home and by emphasizing the importance of hand washing to their children. Students who are not able to comply with the school's hand washing and sanitizing procedures will be required to learn from home.
- Students will be reminded to wash and/or sanitize their hands throughout the day, including for mealtime, transitions and bathroom use.
- Students may bring in a small bottle of their own perfume-free and nut-free hand lotion, labeled with their name, to combat dryness. Students may bring their own hand sanitizer if they wish (but it will also be provided by the school).

Physical distancing and classroom set up

- Classrooms are configured with 3-feet of space between desks/tables.
- As much as possible, students will maintain 3-feet of space between each other consistent with CDC recommendations for K-12 schools (updated July 9th, 2021) and MDHHS recommendations (updated August 2nd, 2021).

Ventilation and air purification

- To increase ventilation, windows in all HDS rooms and hallways will be open whenever it is safe to do so.
- Every HDS classroom is equipped with one or two air purification units. These units are in operation 45 minutes prior to student arrival and throughout the time students and staff are present in those rooms.

Singing

- Singing and music education are an important part of our growth, development and relationship to Judaism. While students are unvaccinated, our medical advisory team has advised us to allow for singing outside, if participants are masked and have six feet of physical distance between them.

Movement within the building

- As much as possible, students and staff will remain at least 3 feet apart when travelling through the building. Only one person will be permitted to use a bathroom at a time (even if there are enough fixtures in the bathroom to accommodate more).

Parents and Visitors in the building

- Parents and visitors who wish to enter the building must complete the [HDS health screening](#) prior to entrance and remain masked and physically distant.
- At this time, parents and visitors will be welcome to walk their students into the building but only students and staff will be allowed into classrooms.
- Parents and visitors should enter and exit the building through the HDS door.

Use of materials

- All students are equipped with their own set of supplies such as pencils, markers, crayons, scissors, etc.
- Wherever possible, students are provided with a personal set of academic materials used for learning, such as math manipulatives.
- Children will be allowed to play together and share toys within their classroom cohort. Precautions will be taken - they will be wearing masks and asked to distance when appropriate; however, students will, for example, be permitted to play board games with others and share equipment such as building blocks. Teachers will limit the number of shared toys available and will periodically spray toys with a sanitizing solution.

Behavior, compliance, and parent support

Our mission is to educate children, and educating them about the importance of compliance with the guidelines outlined in this document will be extremely important. We will approach this education with compassion and sensitivity.

- Teachers will be patient, understanding, and firm with students as they learn the rules and procedures and will help them process their thoughts and feelings accordingly.
- Parents are needed to partner with teachers to help children learn the rules and understand their importance. At home, parents can discuss expectations with children and model honesty and compliance. In particular, parents can:
 - Reinforce the importance of consistent respectful behavior toward **every** adult supervising the class.
 - Reiterate the importance of frequent hand washing and practice proper technique with their child(ren).

- Ensure their child(ren) have clean masks that consistently and snugly cover the child's nose and mouth.
- Teach their child(ren) self-help skills, such as independently getting dressed (especially in winter gear) and opening/closing food containers.
- Send their child(ren) to school with clothing layers.

Behavior outside of school

As of 8/5/21, The CDC's level of transmission for Washtenaw County is labeled as 'substantial' which is the second highest level. To track transmission levels, please visit <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home>. We will continue to monitor transmission levels and update our policy accordingly.

Indoor gatherings:

- Indoor gatherings with unmasked, unvaccinated people who are not members of your household are strongly discouraged.
- All unvaccinated participants should wear masks and remain 3 feet apart from one another.
 - Fully vaccinated is defined as two weeks post second dose of Moderna/Pfizer or two weeks post J&J dose.

Playdates, extra-curricular activities

- If students participate in playdates, pods, and extracurricular activities, please ensure that they maintain the same masking and distancing requirements we require at school.

Travel

- We support the CDC recommendation that unvaccinated persons should not travel. As more family members become vaccinated and countries reopen, there is a natural desire to take advantage of travel opportunities. We value these experiences and balance them with our need to keep our community standards high and our community members safe.
- Unvaccinated students who travel by bus, train, or airplane must produce a negative PCR test taken between 3-5 days upon return and stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel.
 - Even if your student tests negative, they must stay home and self-quarantine for the full 7 days.

Returning to school following vacations:

- In order to return to in-person learning *following travelling vacations of one week or more*, all students and staff will be **required** to produce a negative PCR COVID test result obtained as close to the school start date as possible and no fewer than 5 days after the last time your child was indoors and unmasked with people who are not members of your child's immediate family/pod. HDS students in the same class are considered to be a part of one another's pods; however, adults and siblings from those families are not. We understand that this policy may require

students to learn from home for some or all of the week following vacations, and that this may be challenging for both parents and classroom teachers. We regret this inconvenience; our decisions are based on protecting the health and safety of our community.

- The exception to this policy is as follows: Children and families who visit indoors with adults who have been fully vaccinated but who are outside of their family/pod are exempt from the 5 day rule. Fully vaccinated means the individual has received both doses of the vaccine, and it has been at least two weeks since their second dose. Since children under 12 are not yet eligible for the vaccine, any HDS student who spends time indoors with other children that are outside of their family/pod will need to wait 5 days before getting tested.
- Any student who travels internationally by airplane, bus, or train will be required to wait five days to get the return-to-school PCR COVID test.
- Per [CDC guidelines](#), any student who travels will be required to produce a negative COVID-19 test result or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 before they board a return flight to the United States. We highly discourage international travel at this point.
- If a member of your family contracts COVID during vacation, or your child is identified as a close contact of someone who contracts COVID, please be sure to let [Rav Will](#) know as soon as possible.

Testing:

- All students and staff **must produce a negative COVID-19 test (either PCR or Rapid Antigen Test [RAT])** prior to the first day of school (Monday, 8/30/21). If you are doing a home RAT test, please submit a photo of your result to office@hdsaa.org. ***HDS will be offering free RAT testing on-site before our Back to School Bash on Sunday, August 29th. An email about logistics for our COVID testing/Back to School Bash will follow.***
- As needed, and in accordance with CDC and MDHHS recommendations, HDS will implement Antigen testing at school. Parents and Staff will be expected to sign a waiver allowing participation in on site antigen testing by an HDS staff member.
- For PCR testing, we highly recommend Lynx Dx, the saliva testing center that is located in the parking lot of the 2/42 Community Church (648 South Wagner). You must register and make an appointment. [Here](#) is the registration link. Results could take up to 48 hours but are often available sooner.
- Please be advised that the test is only good up until the moment the sample is given. The need for vigilance following testing is an important part of maintaining the accuracy of the result. If your child is not visiting indoors with anyone outside your family/pod, we recommend waiting as long as possible to get the test.

Also, please see these [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#).

As a part of our *brit*, students, families, and staff will be expected to treat these guidelines with the utmost seriousness. We will all work together to keep our community safe and maximize the duration of our in-person learning.

Health and safety protocols

Consistent with our *brit* and in order to keep our community as safe and healthy as possible and keep our school doors open, all members of the school community are expected to adhere to the following rules.

When symptoms present at home

Students or staff who exhibit any of the following six symptoms, are required to 1) stay home/keep the child (and any siblings) home from school, 2) get the child tested for COVID using a PCR test, 3) call the pediatrician, and 4) inform HDS of the symptoms:

- temperature of 100.4 or higher or signs of a fever (chills/sweating)
- new sore throat
- uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing
- diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- new onset of severe headache
- loss of taste or smell

If the PCR COVID test is negative, the student (and siblings) may return to school when he or she has been symptom-free for 24 hours (including fever free, without the use of medication). A negative antigen test will not be sufficient, a negative PCR test would be needed. If the test is positive, the student may return to school once it has been at least 10 days since the onset of the initial symptom AND the student has been symptom-free for 24 hours.

In addition, any household member who exhibits symptoms and is waiting for a Covid test result must keep their HDS student(s) home until the negative result is received.

A student who is exposed to a COVID positive person (15 minutes or greater, masked or unmasked), is required to quarantine for 10 days.

Students or staff who exhibit any of the following three symptoms are required to stay home and call a physician for guidance. Asymptomatic siblings/family members may attend school. All family members should closely monitor for any symptoms. When speaking with the physician, please be sure to indicate that you/your student attends school in-person:

- muscle/body aches without another explanation
- new runny nose/congestion
- extreme fatigue

When symptoms present at school

- Students or staff members who show signs of illness will be sent home from school.
- The school will call the parents/guardians to arrange for immediate pick up of the sick student. The student will be quarantined in the First Aid room until the student is picked up from school.

When students/staff test positive for COVID

- A COVID positive student and their siblings must isolate at home and away from others for a minimum of 10 days after starting to feel sick or 10 days after a positive test if they have no symptoms.
- Teachers who come in close contact with a COVID positive person but are asymptomatic may continue attending school as long as they have a negative PCR test on day 3 and day 5 from exposure.

Isolation requires:

- Staying home from school or work
- Sleeping in a room by themselves and, if possible, using a separate bathroom
- Staying 3 feet away from household members whenever possible
- Wearing a mask when sharing common spaces with other household members
- Refraining from physical contact with household members (hugs, kisses, playing together)
- Eliminating any sharing of eating utensils or cups/bottles
- Refraining from leaving one's home except if for medical care or in case of an emergency, and should always wear a fabric mask or cloth covering the nose and mouth if leaving the home

Parents or guardians of a COVID positive child should:

- Wipe down all frequently touched surfaces with a disinfectant spray or cleaner
- Keep track of symptoms daily (on a piece of paper or calendar) and note when they start or stop
- Have all close contacts or household members stay home from work or school, begin to watch for symptoms, and quarantine and monitor for symptoms for 14 days from the last date of exposure

Families will be notified of the presence of any confirmed positive cases of COVID in the classroom and/or school and contact tracing will be initiated. Contact tracing may be done by the school and/or the Washtenaw County Health Department. In either case, HDS and the WCHD will work together closely. All identified unvaccinated close contacts in the school will be notified and required to quarantine for 14 days. The identities of students/staff/family members will not be provided to the school community, even if they are publicly shared by the family. Notice of exposure will be provided without specific names included.

One is considered a close contact when one:

- had face-to-face contact (within 3 feet for a total of 15 cumulative minutes or more over a 24 hour period) with someone who has COVID while contagious, with or without masks or protective barriers.
- possibly came in contact with a sick person's droplets (coughing, sneezing or singing).
- had direct physical contact with a person who has COVID (hugging, kissing or other contact).

- shared eating or drinking utensils with a person who has COVID.

If a member of a student's or staff member's household tests positive or becomes ill with COVID:

- The parent/staff member is required to notify the school immediately.
- All members of the family are required to quarantine for 10-14 days. HDS students will be welcome to engage in remote learning.

If a member of a student's or staff member's household suspects exposure or is awaiting test results:

- If a student or staff member comes in contact with someone who suspects they have contracted COVID, the student or staff member and all household members should quarantine until the results have been confirmed. If the test is negative, the student or staff member may return to school immediately, so long as no symptoms are present. If the test is positive, the student/staff and family members will follow the quarantine guidelines specified above.
- If anyone in the student/staff member's household has been tested for COVID because of a possible exposure, all HDS student(s)/staff members in that household will not be allowed to learn in person until a negative result has been confirmed. If a positive result is confirmed, HDS student(s)/staff members will be required to learn/teach from home until the quarantine period is over.

HDS Metrics and Modeling

Last year, in partnership with HDS parent, Dr. Joel Rubenstein, HDS adopted a set of metrics to help us predict the risk to our school community related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and a threshold for triggering an action plan. As we head into the 2020-21 school year, Dr. Rubenstein has graciously agreed to continue in this advisory role.

In November 2020, we used publicly available data from the Saline school district to develop a tool based on the incidence of COVID cases in Washtenaw County predicting whether at least 1 person in a school of a given size would be diagnosed with COVID the following week. The probability goes up with a larger size school keeping the county incidence the same, so smaller schools have a higher threshold incidence. For HDS, that threshold was 60 cases per 100,000 individuals per day. Initially, that threshold was used to determine when HDS would transition to remote only teaching.

Once vaccines became available for our teachers, we instead used that threshold to determine when we would conduct weekly COVID testing of our community. With more data from Saline and HDS available as the school year completed, we were able to validate the prediction tool, and have found that it was a conservative threshold. The HDS enrollment in 2021-2022 will be larger than it was last year, but the threshold of 60 cases per 100,000 per day is still a conservative one. Therefore, ***we have decided to maintain this threshold for consistent testing for the start of the 21-22 school year.***

Should the number of cases in the county breach this threshold, this would trigger weekly COVID testing of all students and staff at HDS (specific details to follow with school policies and procedures)

communication). We expect that 95% of weeks with at least one diagnosed case of COVID in HDS would be prevented with this strategy. We will continue to evaluate our plan and adapt our metrics accordingly, in particular in light of data relating to the COVID-19 variants and vaccine effectiveness.

In summary, in order for HDS to offer in-person education for the 2021-2022 school year, we will be employing a robust battery of mitigation strategies which include:

- Beginning the year with required antigen testing for all staff and students before students enter the building
- Universal and correct use of masks, including for individuals already vaccinated.
- Physical distancing
- Cohorting Lower EI (Transitional Gan, Gan, 1st, and 2nd) and Upper EI (3rd, 4th, & 5th) students
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities
- Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the health department
- Air filtration systems in all classrooms, increases ventilation by opening windows whenever it is safe to do so, and holds class outside whenever possible.