OVERVIEW

- The Covid19 pandemic situation in our local communities and in Massachusetts is **fluid and rapidly changing**. Accordingly, these guidelines and protocols are also fluid and subject to change. They are being developed in consultation with the JCDS medical task force, and are informed largely by the guidelines of the Massachusetts DESE and the CDC.

- **We CANNOT expect to fully eliminate Covid-19 transmission in school. We believe we can significantly REDUCE transmission to an acceptably low level and keep school open safely.** The recommendation to open JCDS is based upon the current low prevalence of Covid19 in our community and the school's ability to adopt and implement appropriate Covid19 safety protocols.

- Creating a safe school environment depends equally on specific school practices and protocols **AND communal responsibility (*Areyvut)*** towards pandemic safety measures.

- JCDS staff and faculty will work diligently to foster within the student body a culture of an age-appropriate understanding of COVID prevention and safety, of the Jewish concept of Areyvut as it relates to the health of the entire JCDS community, and of positive reinforcement for student covid-related adherence to its covid guidelines.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES (JCDS On-Campus - *JCDS Babinyan*)

- We firmly believe that the social/emotional and academic needs of children are ultimately best served by having school in person to the extent possible, as endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

- Students and staff MUST stay home when feeling sick, or if one has any potential Covid19 symptom or cluster of symptoms, or has been exposed to someone who is Covid19 positive.

- Students will be placed in cohorts by grade in order to minimize potential contacts, facilitate contact tracing should the need arise, and minimize disruptions to the school as a whole should a case of Covid19 occur. Each grade will be a cohort and within each grade, students will split into two subgroups throughout the day, allowing for even greater distancing.

- Masking will be mandatory for all students and staff, with an awareness that the youngest students (K - 2) will have increased difficulty complying with this requirement. With appropriate teaching, adult modelling, and strong family and community reinforcement, we believe even these cohorts will be able to effectively mask. There will be supervised and safe mask break sessions (primarily outdoors) woven into the daily schedule across all grades. All teachers will have face shields or facemasks accessible should a teacher want or need to use this additional protection.

- Social distancing will be mandatory at all times, **minimally at 6 feet**. It is important to understand that exposure potential depends on primarily three factors: **VIRAL LOAD** (eg. coughing/sneezing vs regular breathing), **PROXIMITY**

(eg. 1-2 feet vs 6+ feet), and **DURATION** (brief vs > 15 minutes). Closer, brief masked encounters (eg passing in the hallway/bathroom) is NOT considered a breach of this guideline. Similarly, brief in-classroom interactions at a desk for teaching purposes are also not considered breaches of this protocol.

- Hand hygiene practices will be practiced frequently throughout the day (hand sanitizing and washing and keeping hands away from faces). There will be multiple hand sanitizer stations located throughout the school, and the school has invested in extra hand washing stations Effective hand hygiene will be taught, monitored, and practiced regularly throughout the school day at scheduled times.

AREYVUT

PARENTAL and STAFF RESPONSIBILITY

To emphasize the importance that each of us plays in keeping our community safe, we will ask families, teachers and staff to acknowledge that they have read a "pledge of communal responsibility" - a promise that we will all do our part to adhere to protocols that hopefully will allow us to hold in-person schooling all fall. The pledge will be a way for each of us to indicate our personal commitment to the effort to keep our community safe. This pledge has been developed by the CJP Heads of School Committee.

- It is critically important that there be a clear understanding between JCDS's teachers, administrators and the parent community that NO ONE EVER comes to school sick. Parental, teacher and staff fidelity to the guidelines below are the basis upon which we believe, at this time, that JCDS can effectively mitigate risk and open the school for its students.

- **By coming to school, a person is AFFIRMING his/her health; by being permitted to enter the school, the ENTIRE JCDS community is TRUSTING that affirmation to be true.**

In addition to the communal pledge, JCDS will be asking parents to perform a symptom screen and temperature check each school morning and to then attest to their child's health by dating and signing a standard form which will be delivered to the school attendant at drop off. JCDS is working towards utilizing an App-based attestation system. Please be diligent to send your child daily with this attestation to avoid delays at school entrances.

When you send a child to school, or arrive personally to school (teachers and staff) you are attesting that ALL of the following potential Covid-19 symptoms are ABSENT:

- Fever (temperature greater than 100 F) or chills, (AND fever reducing medication has not been taken in the last 24 hours to reduce fever)
- **New** unexplained cough or worsening of chronic cough - *children with chronic cough need documentation from their physician*
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Significant, persistent sore throat
- New loss of taste and/or smell
- Nasal congestion/runny nose (not known to be due to allergies)
- unexplained vomiting or diarrhea
- Headache (in combination with other symptoms) - *children with chronic headaches need documentation from their physician*
- Fatigue (in combination with other symptoms)
- Unexplained muscle or body aches
- Unexplained nausea/abdominal pain

If a teacher, staff member or student has any of these symptoms, they must remain at home and get a molecular (PCR) test for active Covid-19 infection prior to returning to school.

TRAVEL POLICY

The State of Massachusetts has implemented restrictions on those coming into our state from states determined to be high-risk areas. This includes restrictions on Massachusetts residents traveling to those regions and then returning to the Commonwealth. Under our protocols, those coming into the state from high risk states must quarantine for 14 days or produce a negative COVID-19 test result that was done 4 days after your arrival in Massachusetts. This also applies to international travel. We ask that our families abide by those restrictions. Please contact the school nurse if you plan to travel to a designated risk area.
COVID-19 Travel Order

ENSURING COVID19 SAFETY AND HEALTH AT HOME

- Model effective masking whenever appropriate. Masks must be either medical-grade 3 layered paper masks (ASTM level 1 certified or greater, preferred for adults), or layered cloth masks (acceptable for children). Neck gaiters or fleeces are NOT acceptable.

- Talk about and model masking in fun, positive ways

- Talk about and model appropriate social distancing

- Talk about the importance of individual and family responsibility towards the JCDS and wider community (Areyvut)

- Develop a Covid19 testing plan in partnership with your physician, should the need arise
    - Testing MUST be a “PCR/molecular” test - NOT an “antigen” test, which is less accurate
    - Understand in advance any potential costs
    - Seek accurate testing with shortest reporting time (to help minimize potential lost classroom time)

- Develop a plan for expedited pick up of a symptomatic child at school. Ideally, a symptomatic child is picked up from school within 1-2 hours of notification.

- Check the COVID19 banner frequently at the JCDS website for updated COVID related information (under development)

- Communicate with the school nurse, Derek Lichter, regarding any concerns you may have about whether or not your child should or should not attend school, and similarly about returning to school. ALL asymptomatic students or asymptomatic cohort contacts of a Covid19 positive student will need a physician or physician-extender’s note to return to school (see Covid19 specific protocols).

- Ensure your child(ren) gets their Influenza vaccine prior to December 1, and is up-to-date with all routine childhood vaccinations, unless medically contraindicated. Individuals who chance to become infected with both Covid19 and Influenza at the same time will be at severe risk for serious illness. Furthermore, infection with either illness will increase susceptibility to become infected with the other.

PROTOCOL IF INDIVIDUAL IS SYMPTOMATIC AT HOME

- Individual must stay at home in home quarantine and consult with their medical provider
- Parent must inform the school nurse in a timely manner
- Asymptomatic school contacts of a symptomatic student should remain in school, **INCLUDING** asymptomatic siblings or a parent who works in the school
- Symptomatic student **MUST** be tested as soon as possible:
    - **PCR OR MOLECULAR TEST IS NEGATIVE** >> returns to school once fever is resolved (without fever reducing medications) for > 24 hrs, **AND** clear improvement of symptoms > 24 hrs
        - Physician clearance note is required
    - **PCR OR MOLECULAR TEST POSITIVE** >> self-isolation in home quarantine at least 10 days **AND** until at least 3 days have passed with no fever and clear substantial improvement in symptoms
        - Physician clearance note is required

PROTOCOL IF STUDENT IS SYMPTOMATIC AT SCHOOL

- School nurse will be informed by the teacher and the student will be escorted to the Nursing office and Medical Isolation Room (MIR) . The student will be briefly evaluated by the nurse to confirm the presence of potential symptom(s) of Covid19. Parents will be promptly informed and asked to pick up the child in a timely manner (ideally within 1-2 hours).
- The nurse will inform the Assistant Head of School
- The student will remain in MIR until picked up by parent (or designee), maintaining 6’ of separation from any other persons and wearing a medical/surgical cloth mask.

- MIR is a specially designated larger room adjacent to the nursing office, wherein up to 4 persons may appropriately space while masked.
- A parent will call or text the school nurse upon arrival at the parking lot, and the student will be escorted to the car by the nurse. Symptomatic students are not allowed to return home on a bus or in a carpool.
- Asymptomatic school contacts remain in school **INCLUDING** asymptomatic household contacts
- Consult medical provider regarding quarantine protocols, family contact testing and quarantining, and reporting requirements to DPH
- The symptomatic student obtains Covid19 testing:
    - **PCR OR MOLECULAR TESTS NEGATIVE** >> returns to school once fever resolved without fever reducing medications > 24 hrs **AND** clear improvement of symptoms > 24 hrs. Physician clearance note is required
    - **PCR OR MOLECULAR TEST POSITIVE** >> self-isolation home quarantine at least 10 days **AND** until at least 3 days have passed with no fever and clear improvement in symptoms. Physician clearance note is required

PROTOCOL FOR ASYMPTOMATIC CONTACTS OF CV-19 POSITIVE PERSON IN COHORT

FOR STUDENTS ALREADY AT SCHOOL

- Close contacts of a positive case are defined as **all members of the class, primary class teachers, household members, and other individuals who have been within 6 feet of distance of the positive case for at least 15 minutes, within 48 hours prior to onset of symptoms (or positive test result if asymptomatic).**

- Students who are identified as close contacts may stay in school the remainder of the day, with full appropriate masking and distancing. The classroom teacher will be informed, as will the parents of close contacts. Parents will be informed that there is a Covid19 positive case in the cohort and that their child is a close contact and will need to follow appropriate guidelines as delineated below. For confidentiality reasons, parents will NOT be expressly informed of the name of the CV-19 positive student.
- If parents prefer, they may pick up their child(ren) whenever desired during the school day. At the end of the day, these students must be picked up by a parent or guardian. They may **NOT** go home by bus or carpool.
- Students who are siblings of the Covid19 positive person will also need to be informed and are permitted to stay in school until the end of the day, or be picked up early by a parent.
- Students are then self-quarantined at home.
- Students should be tested 4-5 days after their last known exposure to the index positive student (in order to minimize false-negative test results)
- **Per new DESE guidance (8.18.20), and in accordance with DPH and CDC guidance, close contacts will be required to self-quarantine at home for 14 days after the last exposure to the person who tested positive, REGARDLESS OF A NEGATIVE TEST RESULT.**

FOR STUDENTS AT HOME

- Remain quarantined at home
- TESTED 4-5 days after their last known exposure to the index positive student (in order to minimize false-negative test results).
- **Per new DESE guidance (8.18.20) and in accordance with DPH and CDC guidance, close contact students will be required to quarantine at home for 14 days after the last exposure to the person who tested positive, REGARDLESS OF A NEGATIVE TEST RESULT.**

- **PCR OR MOLECULAR TEST POSITIVE** >> self-isolation in home quarantine for at least 10 days **AND** until at least 3 days have passed with no fever and other symptoms have clearly and substantially resolved. Physician clearance note is required

NOTE: Household members (and any other close contacts of symptomatic potential contacts) should be more cognisant of potential Covid19 symptoms and be tested accordingly.

PROTOCOL FOR STUDENT OR STAFF TESTING POSITIVE FOR COVID19

- Students, teachers or staff members must remain at home, monitor their symptoms, and consult their physician.
- Inform the proper school official (school nurse Derek Lichter)
- The school nurse will notify school leadership (AHOS Gavi Elkind), who in turn will notify the leadership team, maintenance personnel, and classroom teachers
- Should a positive test become known during a weekend, please inform Derek Lichter, school nurse, by text or phone call to (401) 526-3693 (Google Voice number), and by email to derekl@jcdsboston.org.
    - Please call as soon as possible, so that the school can begin notification of your child's cohort, allowing those students to quarantine at home and make arrangements for testing as soon as possible.
    - Because timely notification of close contacts for the reasons delineated above can prevent spread of infection and potentially save lives, such notification should supersede Shabbat (*Pikuach Nefesh*).

- **School will communicate to the the parents of close contacts of the positive case, the following information:**
    - Home quarantine and obtain a molecular (PCR) test **no sooner than day 4 days after the last exposure to the index case**
    - Remind of importance to strictly avoid contact with higher-risk people (eg grandparents and those with underlying medical conditions)
    - Remind of the list of Covid19 symptoms for which to monitor.

    - **** Specialist teachers, who move from classroom to classroom, who have had contact with the index cohort, and remain asymptomatic, will need to be individually considered:**
        - If the teacher is confident that, when in contact with the index case, that he/she/they remained at least 6' distanced, with mask on, and the index case was masked during the duration of contact, then he/she is recommended to continue to work (is **NOT** a close contact and is not required to quarantine at home) **AND** to obtain a molecular (PCR) test 4-5 days after last contact with the index case.
        - A teacher may, at his own discretion, consider oneself a close contact and proceed to quarantine and test as above; will continue to teach remotely.

TRANSPORTATION

CARPOOLING

Ideally, students **DO NOT CARPOOL TO SCHOOL (unless the families involved already share a Covid "pod" or "bubble")**. If this is not feasible, then it is preferable that children carpool with other members of their classroom cohort. We recognize that this may be impossible due to personal logistics, especially for families with students in multiple grades. Therefore, we ask these guidelines be followed:

- Only asymptomatic children (and adult drivers) may be in a carpool ride
- Car windows remain open for the duration of the ride
- Masks should be worn at all times in the vehicle
- Spread out in the vehicle as much as possible

BUSING PROTOCOLS

- Only asymptomatic children may enter the bus, and they must carry their parental attestation form to school
- Children should sanitize hands before entering the bus, and sanitize again before entering the school
- Seating location will be fixed, and seats 6 feet apart (siblings may sit together on same bench)
- When disembarking at JCDS, students will do so from front to back, in a controlled fashion maintaining 6 feet of separation at all times in the aisles
- When departing JCDS, the bus should be loaded back to front
- Windows should remain open as possible, weather permitting
- Masks must be worn at all times
- Should a child become symptomatic on the bus, upon arrival at JCDS, they must inform the adult monitoring dropoff and student will be taken to the medical isolation room, evaluated by the school nurse and parent will be called for expedited pick up.