



**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
FALL 2021 COVID-19 STATEMENT
REVISED APRIL 27, 2021**

Introduction:

The following protocols and procedures have been developed in accordance with rules set out by the CDC and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. We are instituting these protocols so that we can return to in-person Religious School in the safest and most educationally appropriate way. You will see changes to how we used to do things, but in the long run, they are temporary. All of these protocols are subject to change if/when the above organizations change their requirements, or if we find that there are better ways to do things. We are a work in progress!

We return to religious school having benefited from a wealth of experience. We have been learning about how to bring students back safely to our campus since Temple Judea's ECC reopened for in-person learning in September 2020. And we are in constant communication with religious schools across the city about their plans and experiences.

Our Community:

If we've learned anything this year, it is the power of community and how important in-person contact is for maintaining and growing relationships. We seek to maintain that community as we transition back into classes with teachers and teaching assistants (*madrachim*) who care about your students, who care about Temple Judea, and want to help grow the love of the Jewish tradition in these students and your families.

The Reality of this Protocol:

This document will be transparent about what we know, and what we do not. We commit to openness about the steps we've taken and the assumptions we hold. When we can state the policies/procedures we know will be in place come October's first day of school, we will tell you.

However, there are plenty of realities and assumptions that we realize may change between now and October. Some of these include but are not limited to: LA County Public Health's (LACPH) Tier level; LACPH Guidance relating to religious institutions, camps, and supplemental schools; LA's percentage of vaccinated adults, teens, and children; LACPH guidance about required distance between students; LACPH guidance around how many groups of students a teacher can interact with.

Many of these changing assumptions – affected by our county’s experience with a return to in-person learning and the upcoming summer camp experience (including Camp Sababa) – may change the details of your child’s school schedule, class size, interaction with specialists, pickup and drop-off procedures, etc.

Rather than lay out a comprehensive plan in April only to have it change, we commit to letting you know a definitive set of Religious School procedures well in advance of the start of school in October. We welcome any and all questions.

Here’s What We Know and Do!

Upgrades to our Campus Facility and Maintenance Regime

We have made significant upgrades to our campus in the wake of COVID to follow the policies set out by various agencies and follow best practices as suggested by scientific data and as implemented by the wider field of educational and religious institutions.

All classroom and bathroom faucets have been replaced with touchless faucets.

Maintenance does a deep clean and disinfection of all classrooms using Bioesque Botanical Disinfectant Solution and an electrostatic sprayer.

All classroom air systems have been upgraded to use HVAC MERV13 air filters.

Most importantly, our ECC students have been happily and safely learning in their classrooms since September 2020.

Current Temple Judea Procedures:

- Masks are required for entry and must stay on the face, covering nose and mouth, the entire time on the Temple Judea premise, including parking. Anyone who refuses or takes off their mask will be asked to leave.
- Everyone entering the building will have their temperature taken with a non-touch infrared thermometer by the Security guard or another member of the staff. The CDC considers a reading of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or lower as acceptable temperature. Anyone with a temperature reading higher than 100 will not be admitted.
- Symptom and exposure screening: If anyone has any symptoms of COVID19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell), they will not be allowed to enter. If anyone has been in contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID19, they will not be allowed to enter.

- We ask you wash/sanitize your hands often, especially after touching anything that others may touch, including, but not limited to car doors and handles, telephones, door knobs, stair bannisters, elevator buttons, etc., using the sanitation stations and bottles or restrooms around campus.
- Maintain at least 6 feet from any and all individuals. Do not crowd staff desks or ask anyone to come close to you.
- Observe per room limits, if any, that are posted for that room.
- In the restrooms, wipe down toilet seats, flush handles, sink faucets, etc, or anything that you touch. (This is not necessary if there is a member of the maintenance staff stationed at the restroom.)
- No sharing of books, documents, electronic devices, etc.
- Follow all directional signs and instructions from staff, especially when one-way signs are posted.

What We Plan

- We will publish before the start of our program:
 - An appropriate and safe pickup and drop-off procedure.
 - Clear illness policy guidelines that account for various factors, including age, vaccination status, etc.
- We currently assume that:
 - Students and staff will wear masks at all times.
 - Classroom doors and windows will remain open as much as possible to provide ventilation.
 - Maintenance will do a deep clean and disinfection of all classrooms every afternoon using Bioesque Botanical Disinfectant Solution and an electrostatic sprayer.
 - We will display posters reminding about COVID safety and good hygiene in every room.
 - Bathrooms will be deep cleaned by the maintenance team before and after school and throughout the school day.
 - Classes will work with specialist teachers one class at a time. We will hold *tefilah* for one class at a time in person, while maintaining physical distance. All other classes will participate through Zoom from a large SMART TV in their classroom. Classes will rotate with attendance at the live service.

We appreciate your partnership with us as we work to bring our students back into physical community in our Religious School and work to keep all members of our community healthy and safe.