



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
FALL 2021 COVID-19 STATEMENT
REVISED SEPTEMBER 23, 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 (*madrichim*) 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. This document is also subject to change given a number of factors, including but not limited to: LA County Department of Public Health's (LACPH) guidance relating to religious institutions, camps, and schools, LA's percentage of vaccinated adults, teens, and children (when applicable), the reality of LAUSD's vaccination policy for students aged 12-18, the availability of a COVID-19 vaccine to children younger than 12, and Temple Judea's policy.

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 Policies/Procedures:

- Effective September 1, 2021, all age-eligible persons entering the Temple Judea campus are required to show proof of a COVID-19 vaccination to a security officer and/or staff member at the main entrance.
 - **Religious School Families will be asked to submit proof of vaccination to have on file so that we can ease the entry process onto our campus.**
- All people entering the Temple Judea campus, from the time they exit their vehicle until the time they return to the inside of their vehicle, are required to be masked at all times, whether indoors or outdoors, except while eating and drinking.
- Symptom and exposure screening: If anyone has any symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell), they will not be allowed to enter. If any unvaccinated person has been in close contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19, 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 appropriate distance from individuals, even while masked.
- Observe per room limits, if any, that are posted for that room.

Plans for Religious School

- General Procedures
 - Students and staff will wear masks – whether indoors or outdoors.
 - All eating/drinking will occur outside.
 - All staff and teenage teaching assistants (*madrachim*) are vaccinated.
 - 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.
 - Bathrooms will be deep cleaned by the maintenance team before and after school and throughout the school day.

- Dropoff Procedures
 - As a general rule, we ask that parents limit their time on campus during dropoff.
 - No one will be allowed to enter the campus without showing proof of vaccination or having it on file in the religious school office.
 - If you are escorting a younger student to their class, please plan to enter the building through the main doors, and use the emergency exit doors near the social hall to leave campus.
 - Teaching assistants (*madrachim*) will be on hand, especially during the first few sessions, to make sure everyone knows where they are going.

- Pickup Procedures
 - As a general rule, we ask that parents limit their time on campus during pickup.
 - No one will be allowed to enter the campus without showing proof of vaccination or having it on file in the religious school office.
 - Please plan to pick up your student from the **courtyard** — they will be waiting for you at the end of their school day – and use the emergency exit doors near the social hall to leave campus.

Illness Policy

- Children and Adults may not enter campus with the following symptoms: runny nose, cough, red/watery eyes, diarrhea, vomiting, fever, rash, stomach pain, fever of 100 or higher
 - The most common COVID-19 symptoms in children are fever, new cough, diarrhea, and vomiting.
 - The most common COVID-19 symptoms in adults are cough, difficulty breathing, “allergy-like” symptoms, sore throat, headache, sore back, and loss of taste/smell.

- If your child has been sick, please do not send them to religious school unless they have been symptom-free (without the use of medication) for 24 hours.
- “Close Contact” - According to the LA County Department of Public Health, a “close contact” refers to any of the following:
 - An individual who was within 6 feet of someone diagnosed with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period.
 - An individual who had unprotected contact with the patient’s body fluids and/or secretions, for example, being coughed or sneezed on, sharing utensils or saliva, or providing care without wearing appropriate protective equipment.
- Isolation/Quarantine
 - Any child or family member that is diagnosed with COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, must follow isolation protocols. The Religious School office must be notified immediately. We are required to report the diagnosis to the LA County Dept. of Public Health, and the California Dept. of Social Services. They will provide guidelines for our next steps.
 - Unvaccinated children and adults who are considered “close contacts” must quarantine for 10 days from the date of exposure and monitor symptoms for 14 days. A PCR COVID test should be administered on or after day 5 of quarantine. The Religious School office must be informed of all developments for those quarantining.
 - Vaccinated individuals who are exposed to COVID do not have to quarantine, but should monitor for symptoms and remain off campus for 5 days.
- **Communication**
 - **Let us commit to transparency with each other:** Many of your children receive regular COVID-19 tests through their LAUSD or private school. Please notify us if your child tests positive for COVID-19. The intention is not to cast blame—rather we seek to keep our community safe.
 - What you share with us will determine our course of action (e.g. keeping your child(ren) home, closing a class, etc.)
 - We commit to timely communication with you about any exposures and their impact upon our community.

Class Interruptions

- For an individual student who needs to stay home due to quarantine or isolation, there is no make-up session.
- If an entire class needs to close due to quarantine, then we will provide a shortened, online experience for Judaic studies and Hebrew learning.

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.