

YESHIVA OF CENTRAL QUEENS
RE-OPENING PLAN
September 2020



Yeshiva of Central Queens, serving students in UPK through grade 8, is dedicated to providing its students with the best possible educational, social and emotional experience. Our goal is to cultivate in our students a desire for knowledge and a love for a *Torah* way of life. We want to celebrate each achievement as our students journey through our stimulating educational environment where they will find a high standard of learning, along with mutual respect and warmth: where every student feels welcome.

To help us navigate during this difficult time, we have established a task force made up of teachers, parents, administrators, medical professionals and board members to create the safest possible environment to bring our students back into their classrooms.

Through a partnership between administration, faculty, and parents, we hope to create an atmosphere where students are engaged in learning, while working on their social and emotional well-being for all children to reach their fullest potential. Our below *Re-Opening Plan* is based on New York State and City guidelines and ongoing communication and guidance from a group of medical professionals including Dr. Aaron Glatt, Chief of Infectious Disease at Mount Sinai Hospital; Dr. Rachel Sisser, pediatric specialist; Dr. Alysa Frenkel, pediatrician; Dr. Edward Bennett, emergency medicine specialist; and Clemence Cherson, MPA, Assistant Director in Infection Prevention at South Nassau Communities Hospital and community advocate agencies such as TeachNY, a division of the Orthodox Union and Agudath Israel of America.

I. Health and Safety

- Students (via parents) and staff will be required to complete the health screening app daily to receive clearance to come to school (as per CDC/DOHMH guidelines).
- School nurse trained to recognize symptoms of illness and trained in protocol in the event of illness will be on premises during school hours.
- School nurse and Director of Immunizations and Compliance will oversee contact tracing along with DOHMH and CDC in event of a positive case of COVID-19.
- Prior to entrance to building, all students and staff will pass through a temperature scan.
- Students exhibiting symptoms or with a temperature $>100.0^{\circ}$ will be escorted by a staff member to a safe-space designated for this purpose where they will meet with school nurse and await parent pick up.
- Parent will be notified immediately to pick up child with a recommendation to have child seen by a medical professional.
- Parents will be required to provide the school with the name and number of an additional emergency contact within a 45-minute range of the school.

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- Staff exhibiting symptoms will be asked to immediately return home with a recommendation to see a medical professional.
- Masks are required at all times by staff members. PPE will be provided by YCQ for all staff.
- Students will be required to wear masks prior to entering their classroom/cohort and when traveling outside of their classroom.
- It is recommended that students in grades three through eight wear masks at all times except for eating, drinking and for short mask breaks while seated behind their desk barrier.
- Early childhood students who are unable to wear masks will not be required to do so.
- YCQ will provide each student and staff member with a mask, or he/she can choose to bring one from home. Students will be advised to bring a second labeled mask in book bags.
- Proper hygiene including hand washing will be taught and monitored and hand sanitizers will be readily available in all classrooms.
- Additional no-touch hand sanitizing dispensers have been installed throughout the building, especially near high traffic areas.
- **All students and the entire staff should receive the flu shot as soon as it is available. Medical professionals have stated that it is likely for a resurgence of both the flu and COVID-19 virus early fall. Based on their advice, we strongly recommend receiving the flu shot as soon as possible.**
- Fire and Lockdown drills will take place following guidelines for social distancing/masks. Standard emergency drill procedures will continue as per Educational Law and the Fire Code.

II. Communication

- Staff and families will receive weekly updates on any changes in guidelines and scheduling. The YCQ Task Force will continue to meet to monitor and re-evaluate protocol and safety measures.
- Questions can be sent to Mrs. Jaffe, director of immunizations and compliance at jjaffe@ycq.us or 718.793.8500 ext. 336 or the school nurse at 718.793.8500 ext. 314.
- All cases will be reported to the Department of Health. All families will be notified of cases in school, quarantine requirements, and steps necessary for return.
- The name of any student or staff member testing positive will be kept confidential.
- Changes and additions will be available in the weekly digital newsletter.

III. Protocol for Incidence of Infection

- The school nurse along with the director of immunizations and compliance and designated administration will supervise and monitor any incidence of infection. They will wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and following infection control practices designed to decrease the risk of transmission.
- If student has been in class, entire cohort and staff members will be asked to remain in classroom and continue with lessons while awaiting further instructions.
- CDC/DOH will be contacted as per guidelines.
- Contact tracing will begin with the earliest identifiable location of individual with symptoms.

- Following possible contamination, Department of Health decision will be followed in classroom management and other school space disinfecting processes.
- If school needs to be closed for any period to allow for disinfecting, students and staff will immediately revert to our distant learning model.
- The Department of Health will be notified to begin contact tracing.
- Parents will be notified of any new cases.
- Students will be allowed to return to school based on guidance from the Department of Health.

IV. Lunch Program

- Nutritious school meals will be available to students delivered daily to their classrooms. Students can opt to bring home lunch.
- Students will remain behind barriers in cohorts while eating meals.
- There will be no sharing of food or utensils.
- Students will wash their hands using proper hand washing techniques before and after meals.
- Teachers, administration and lunch staff will be made aware of students with allergies and provide for accordingly.
- All kitchen staff will be trained in health and safety procedures when handling food and additional sanitizing of workspace before and after preparation.

V. Social-Emotional Wellbeing

- School social work department under supervision of school psychologist will be available during school hours.
- Social work team will provide support to staff, students and parents.
- Outside referrals will be made when deemed necessary.
- Support will be ongoing during transition period, continuing throughout school year.
- Transition programs will be provided in classroom for staff and students.
- Webinars addressing issues related to the pandemic will be presented in the evenings for parents.
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL) models will be integrated into the daily curriculum.

VI. Facilities

- When physical distancing is not possible, physical barriers and/or masks will be provided in accordance with state guidelines.
- Each student and staff desk will be equipped with a polycarbonate barrier.
- Additional locations on premises will be used to create additional classroom/cohort space.
- Polycarbonate dividers will be used to separate areas with the potential for overcrowding or to separate cohorts.
- All of the HVAC filters will be replaced to help purify and clean the particles in the air.
- Signage will be installed throughout the building to remind people to wear masks, the importance of proper handwashing, and to stay home when sick or exhibiting symptoms of illness.

- Directional signage will be installed on the floors to mark which ways to walk and to maintain social distancing.
- Additional no-touch hand sanitizing dispensers have been installed throughout the building.
- Each reception, student and teacher desk will be equipped with physical barriers (clear polycarbonate).

VII. Transportation and Arrival Procedure

- We anticipate no change to transportation. This includes public busing, private busing, and carpools pending DOE decision. **MASKS ARE REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES ON BUSES AND WHILE ENTERING SCHOOL AND RETURNING HOME.**
- It will be recommended that when possible, siblings or children residing in the same home, sit together.
- All students and staff are required to wear masks during transportation, until arrival in classroom.
- Staff, students and parents will be made aware that hand sanitizer shall not be used while on the bus. It can be applied after exiting the bus.
- There will be no eating or drinking on school busses.
- Students will be assigned an entrance based on bus and/or drop off. There will be four entrances to alleviate overcrowding and to comply with social distancing.
- All students will only be allowed entry through assigned entrance.
- Late students will enter through main entrance, and will be brought to nurse or administrator and then escorted to classroom.
- When the outside temperature is above 45°, windows will remain open for ventilation.
- While disembarking from bus, students will maintain proper social distancing.

VIII. Budget and Fiscal

- Students will be provided with all required textbooks.
- All mandated and funded services will continue while maintaining proper social distancing.

IX. Chronic Absenteeism

- Attendance records will be maintained for both students in class and those participating through distance learning.
- Students with excessive absences will be brought to the attention of school nurse/administrator/teacher/member of social work team.

X. School Schedules

- In-class schedule will coincide with both a full distance learning and a hybrid schedule (part in/part out).
- Each updated class schedule with live links to class will be available on our school 'digital learning environment' webpage (used prior to the summer)

XI. Teaching and Learning Requirements

- Teachers will attend faculty development workshops and trainings to enhance our 'digital' teaching and to learn additional online teaching platforms.
- Based on suggestions from parents we have increased our digital learning access.
- Our goal is to keep all students engaged in learning, in a safe environment.

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- Each classroom will be equipped with surround-cameras and microphones as part of our 'at home digital learning environment' allowing all students the opportunity for equitable instruction.
- Social Emotional Learning models will help guide and support students' developmental needs, allowing for an easier transition back to an in-school learning environment.
- Administration and teachers will collaborate on teaching strategies and solving difficulties on a group and on an individual level, to assure equitable academic success.

XII. Teaching and Learning Flexibility

- As per guidelines, pre-school classes will utilize additional space to maintain a safer environment.
- Students who opt out of in-school learning will have access to teachers and class via a variety of distance learning formats.
- Classroom schedules will continue to follow all requirements using the
- We anticipate beginning our school year with all students attending full time.

A. In-School Model

N-4 8:00am-3:30pm

5-8 8:00am-4:30pm

If an alternative plan is required, we will move to:

B. Hybrid Model- *Division of class into two cohorts– one week in physical building one week at home*

In the case of school-mandated closure we will move to:

C. Full Distance Learning Model: *All students will participate in all classes based on at-home schedule (Link found on ParentLocker homepage).*

- UPK and K classes will be divided into two cohorts to allow for social distancing. Proper hygiene instruction will be ongoing and monitoring of students will be increased with additional staff.

XIII. Specialty Classes

- All specialty teachers will provide class in the individual cohorts.
- Physical education and recess will take place in the yard within the context of each cohort weather permitting.
- Art supplies will be provided for each student individually to obviate sharing.

XIV. Technology

- Students in lower grades with no access to digital learning equipment will be provided loaner equipment.
- Students in grades 5-8 as part of the digital program will continue with their Chromebooks both in school and if we need to return to full or partial distance learning.
- Each classroom will be equipped with a 'surround camera' to make learning accessible for students not in attendance by choice or by mandate. Teachers will wear microphones to help students in classroom and those learning from home, have better clarity.

XV. Resource Room (mandatory)

- Access to the necessary instructional and technological supports to meet the unique needs of students and documentation of programs and services and communications with parents.
- In-person services will be a priority for high-needs students and preschool students with disabilities whenever possible.
- A contingency plan following CPSE/CSE guidelines will address remote learning needs in the event of intermittent or extended school closures.
- Area will be set aside following social distancing guidelines for one-on-one instruction with provider or small groups from single cohort for mandated services.

XVI. Staffing and Human Resource

- Additional staffing will be added to insure proper staffing of all classrooms.
- Assistant teachers will work with head teachers to assure that appropriate levels of learning and classroom support continue.

The above guidelines are posted on our website: www.YCQWeb.com

Contact Information – 718.793.8500

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Mrs. Melissa Cohen, AP General Studies, Elementary

Rabbi Michael Ribalt, AP Judaic Studies, Elementary

Ms. Odelia Schlisser, AP General Studies, JHS

Rabbi Moshe Hamel, AP Judaic Studies, JHS

Mrs. Sharon Korn, Director Early Childhood Education

Rabbi Avraham Kovitz, Administrator

Mrs. Debbie Bermish, Director of Student Services

Dr. Sara Asher, Director of Psychological Service

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