

COVID-19 Clause - Rules and Policy (as of October 6, 2020)

The rules and policies in this section supersede rules and policies elsewhere in this handbook where noted.

Mesivta is committed to partnering with our parents and families to provide a safe and meaningful learning environment during the pandemic. Our school is taking COVID-19 seriously and has developed new protocols and procedures that adhere to the current medical guidelines. These policies and procedures supersede those stated in the handbook for the duration of the pandemic. This COVID policy of the handbook is designed to provide you with the essential information you will need to help us accomplish our goal. As the information regarding COVID-19 is continuously changing, this plan will be updated as required. Also, while health and safety are at the forefront of this plan, some decisions are dictated by logistics or outside issues beyond the school's control. Please note, in addition, that we will be making changes to our programming and student supports to address the social-emotional needs of our students during the pandemic.

The Mesivta endorses the American Academy of Pediatrics statement that in-school learning is most beneficial for the student's holistic development. There may be familial concern directly related to COVID-19, where a family feels uncomfortable having their son attend in-person learning. Mesivta respects a family's right to choose virtual instruction proactively and will support distance learning. We will be offering a robust virtual synchronous learning experience for students who are in general uncomfortable or unable to come to school. We will run live synchronous classes through Google Classroom and convey assignments through this platform, and students will be required to submit work and attend a class as it happens. Students/families who are responding to a specific event/acute situation are also permitted to opt into virtual learning for a selected duration of time, until they feel comfortable to resume in-person instruction. For a student who is physically unwell and cannot attend virtual learning, we will make course requirement accommodations and offer asynchronous instruction if needed.

COVID-19 Health Policy Students can only attend school if they are feeling healthy. By walking into the building, students and their families, as well as staff, affirm that they are feeling healthy, and assure that they are not currently symptomatic for COVID (symptoms listed below). The school will be conducting temperature checks and health screenings after shacharis daily. Temperatures may be taken at other times during the day if the need arises based on symptoms or concerns regarding exposure. Students presenting with a temperature above 100.4 will be sent to the quarantine room, and parents will be required to promptly pick up their son.

Please contact our Pandemic Response Facilitator if anyone in your household feels ill with COVID-like symptoms (see the symptom guide below), he/she should seek testing at the onset of symptoms and engage in quarantining. Your son may not attend in-person learning until that person's PCR test results are confirmed as negative or after a 14 day quarantine period.

If your son has had close contact with someone who has COVID symptoms outside of school, your son should not attend school, and you should contact our Pandemic Response Facilitator to discuss the particulars of the situation and receive potential quarantine requirements. Please err on the side of caution -- communicating with the school and being conservative in this area allows us to remain open and safe-- this protects our school, our community, and our county.

COVID-19 diagnoses for purposes of determining return to in-person school must be made by a clinician and/or PCR test. In the absence of clinician diagnosis or PCR testing, children will be expected to learn from home for 14 days following exposure to an individual with COVID-19. For purposes of rapid disease containment and contact tracing, the Department of Health assigns "probable" COVID designations to those with exposures and symptoms (without clinician diagnosis or PCR testing); probable-COVID designation is insufficient to shorten duration of exclusion from in-person school.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS Warranting Exclusion from School

Two of the following symptoms: Fever (measured or subjective), chills, fatigue, myalgia, headache, sore throat, congestion, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea

OR

One of the following symptoms: Cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or new loss of taste or smell

For more detailed information on symptoms, quarantining, and familial exposure, please see

<https://www.montcopa.org/DocumentCenter/View/28942/COVID-19-School-Exclusion-Guide-v7>

document from the Montgomery County Office of Public Health, as Mesivta Return to School Policies follows the guidance delineated there.

Exposure and Contact Tracing To protect students and staff and to mitigate virus spread, we will be conducting tracing, quarantining, and cohorting as needed to slow the spread of the virus. Parents will be notified of incidents both in a text alert and an email. Below are our guidelines:

Confirmed Exposure If a student or staff member has had confirmed exposure and direct contact with a case, students and staff must notify the school. The school will consult with our medical advisors and/or local health departments to discuss the needs around quarantining based on the exposure situation. If deemed a legitimate exposure, the student will be home for 14 days on quarantine. Staff members will need to virtually educate through synchronous learning if they are physically well during their quarantine. Students will need to attend all classes virtually and complete assignments as per due dates during their quarantine time if they are physically well. At the end of 14 days, staff/students are permitted back in the building.

Testing It is required that if you are showing COVID-like symptoms for 24 hours (see list above), that students and staff get a PCR COVID test completed. Below is contact information for three facilities that do PCR tests (please see page at the end of this document for a full and updated list of testing sites.):

1. Vybe Urgent Cares for children and adults. <https://www.vybe.care/vybe-services/covid-19-testing/>

Recommend video visit before PCR test. Lab fee most likely covered by insurance

2. CHOP Urgent Cares do PCR tests ordered from a student's primary care doctor or through after-hour visits without an order from the primary doctor. For 24-48 hour results, you must request that the specimen be sent to CHOP Labs which may result in an additional fee <https://www.chop.edu/urgent-care-locations>

3. Infinity Diagnostic Laboratory - Philadelphia Office 215-519-7878, 2510 South Broad St. Philadelphia

Open 5 days a week from 7:30 am -2:20 pm - M-Th and Friday 7:30 am -12:00 pm

Nasal swab covered by insurance. Do not need a prescription - there is a doctor who telemeds once you arrive.

Once COVID test results are in, it is required to inform the school of either a positive or a negative result, so that we can advise on further protocols and school needs. We need to partner together to ensure the health and safety of our school and community; therefore, openness and early communication is required for the wellbeing of all.

- To retain confidentiality and provide support, please contact Mrs. Yael Stieglitz at ystieglitz@themesivta.org or 610-617-9200 x413. Mrs. Stieglitz will discuss the particulars surrounding the situation with Rabbi Steinberg and/or a medical consultant to determine protocol and next steps.

Confirmed Positive Student or Staff Case:

- Staff case - Based on the guidance of the medical consultants and/or local health departments around the context of an exposure, we will determine if all students and staff or a sub-group of those populations will need to quarantine. Some tangentially-related individuals may be notified to be on heightened alert, but without the need for extended quarantine.
- Student case - Based on the guidance of the medical consultants and/or local health departments around the context of exposure, we will determine if a student tests positive, if the entire student and staff population or a sub-group of those populations will need to quarantine. There may be instances where some staff and students who only had tangential interactions will be alerted but not have to quarantine.

Attendance Students are to attend in-person learning as long as they are healthy and comfortable attending school. Should a student be unable to attend in-person learning, parents must contact the school with the situation by 9 am to allow us to alert staff. If a student is too unwell to participate in learning virtually, this should be communicated to staff. If the child is well enough to attend the virtual class, every effort should be made to do so. Students must log in to class within 5 minutes of the start of the period, or they are marked tardy/absent.

With the increased need for self-quarantine and the need to stay home with any of the COVID-19 symptoms (see above), students have increased flexibility with the attendance policy. Every effort should be made to keep up on work and attend virtual class, but absenteeism is encouraged and understood to mitigate the virus's spread.

School Decorum In the midst of the pandemic, it is essential that all students wear their masks covering their noses and mouths inside the Mesivta building unless they are at a scheduled meal break. Masks are worn both in the classroom and in the hallways. It is essential that students respect a 6ft boundary of peers and personnel to protect against the spread of the virus. Student activities and social time should still respect social distancing. Students who continue to disregard social distancing protocols will be subject to disciplinary action.

Bus Decorum Students will only be permitted to take group transportation to school if they are wearing a mask prior to being picked up. Students not wearing a mask covering their nose and mouth will be denied transportation. Students must wear their face covering for the ride's duration, and they must respect social distancing on transportation wherever possible. Students with 2 infractions in a month will lose the right to transportation for 2 weeks.

Classroom Behavior Students are permitted to have their laptops with them throughout the General-Studies portion of the day, and, by special permission of rebbeim, in the morning, as well. However, students are to view these devices as educational material, like a textbook. Students using their laptops for off-topic behavior or where students do not exhibit classroom decorum can have their laptop privileges revoked. To earn credit for attendance in virtual instruction, a student must have his camera on and actively participate in the lesson. Students should not rename themselves when on virtual learning, and, if the need to use a background arises, it should be appropriate and not distracting. Students who do not have their camera-enabled or who do not respond to prompts and formative assessments will not earn credit for the day and will be marked as an unexcused absence.

Student Materials Students are to be responsible for their own personal items, laptop, and school supplies, and these are not to be left around the classrooms or school area. Students are to bring their own items to school; sharing group resources will be limited as much as possible.

Late Work Being virtual does not change assignment due dates. Students are still required to submit materials at the time that they are due, or they will be subject to the Mesivta late policy. Students should actively monitor their Google Classroom calendars and communicate with teachers to ensure that they know all upcoming and outstanding work. Students with a physical illness that prevents them from engaging in the learning will be granted the Mesivta absence/late work policy.

Dress Code Students must wear masks covering both their noses and mouths when in class and anytime while in the school building. We will provide a cloth mask on the first day of school. We will also provide a lanyard for safety and hygienic purposes at the start of the school year. If students opt to wear other masks, please note that no inappropriate words or symbols should be printed on the masks as per the administration's discretion (ex: sports team masks are okay, but rock band masks are not okay).

Visitors Mesivta will be operating a closed campus to decrease the risk of outside exposure. As a result, parents needing to drop off items to their son will need to call the school upon arrival and park in the semicircle driveway. Parents are to remain in their vehicle with a mask until a staff member can assist them.

Food To cut down on the virus's spread, communal meals will be shifted to individually, pre-packaged/pre-divided meals wherever food is provided. Thanks to our partnership with CBS, Mesivta will be providing individual breakfasts, and students can purchase or qualify for CBS's boxed lunch option. Please note that we are only providing cold options. Students can also pack their lunches and prepare appropriately.

Cleanliness and Hygiene Students will need to exhibit increased personal responsibility with hand washing and sanitizing throughout the day. This includes before and after all meals, restroom use, and anytime they touch face/eyes. Students should wear a clean mask every day. Students should limit bringing in unnecessary belongings to reduce exposure on high-touch surfaces. Students should wipe down any common touch surfaces before putting item(s) away or leaving the classroom to ensure a safe environment for all students.

Virtual Sundays All students will participate in Sunday School virtually for this year only. This will allow for a deeper clean, and also mitigate transportation and scheduling issues. Sunday School is still mandatory attendance, and students will need to log in and actively participate to earn credit for virtual Sunday School. See page 33 for the Sunday School Schedule.

Travel In keeping with CDC recommendations, any child who travels to a "COVID hot spot" and/or internationally and/or by airplane should self-quarantine at home for a period of 14 days to monitor for any potential COVID symptoms. Likewise, if a family member/visitor in your home has arrived from a "COVID hot spot" and/or another country, your child should follow the 14-day self-quarantine. Please refer to Pennsylvania's list for travel information and concerns:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx>

Health Screenings and Safety Students will be required to have up to date immunizations in compliance with AAP guidelines, and records need to be provided to the school by September 2. Students will also need up to date medical forms turned into the school to provide a safe environment for all learners.

This year, we require all students to have the flu shot to combat the challenges of COVID-19 and to maintain a safe environment for our school community. We require that all students vaccinate by October 19. Please save your visit confirmation form indicating that your son had his flu shot and please submit this to the Main Office for our health records. **If a student is not vaccinated with proof submitted to the school by October 26, he will not be permitted on the school premises.** If your son has a medical condition that makes the vaccination ill-advised, please submit a doctor's note confirming this need by October 19 to Mrs. Yael Stieglitz, and our health advisors will consider the request for exemption. You can also reach out to Mrs. Stieglitz directly at ystieglitz@themesivta.org, as she is overseeing our pandemic response.

COVID TESTING SITES

Please remember that you are required to get a PCR COVID test for the purposes of returning to school. You/your son are on quarantine until the results are back; conducting class virtually (if physically up to it) is preferred to ensure that content is not lost and that rigor is maintained. Please send your results to mocchio@themesivta.org once they are back, and we can advise you further on the next steps.

- CHOP Haverford Urgent Care-- 663 W Lancaster Ave. Bryn Mawr, PA 19010. Must have an in-person or telehealth appt prior to testing. Site opens at 2pm. 610-519-1275. For other CHOP Urgent Care Locations: <https://www.chop.edu/urgent-care-locations>
- Janice Nasuti-- 2510 S. Broad Street Philadelphia, PA. 215-519-7878 janice2261@comcast.net. Please call prior to see availability and requirements.
- Vybe Havertown - 1305 West Chester Pike, Havertown PA 19083. 610-482-4949. Vybe.care. A telehealth appt is required prior. For other Vybe Urgent Care Locations: <https://www.vybe.care/>
- Vybe Northeast-- 7390 Bustleton Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19152
- Patient First Cherry Hill -- 2171 W Rte 70, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002. (856) 406-0023. Appointment required. 8am-10pm (testing on 5-year-olds and up).
- CVS Cherry Hill - 1 Rte 70 East, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034. (866) 389-2727. Appointment and pre-qualification required. 8am - 4pm M-F, 8am - 12pm weekends. Testing 12-year-olds and up, 16 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Testing covered by most insurance policies and federal assistance is given for those who qualify. <https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing>

Additional no-cost testing sites for Montgomery County:

There are several no-cost COVID-19 community testing sites located throughout Montgomery County for all ages. No prescription is required. These self-administered tests are by appointment only, do not require a vehicle, are available for individuals who live or work in Montgomery County. The sites are outdoors and are subject to closure on short notice due to inclement weather. To register for testing, visit www.montcopa.org/COVID-19, and select County Testing Information or call 610-970-2937 on the date of the intended appointment. Registration opens at 8:30am. Monday through Friday and will remain open until all slots are filled and as long as testing supplies allow.

- Ardmore – 114 W. Lancaster Ave., Ardmore, PA. Testing is available Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 4pm - 6pm, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12noon - 2pm.
- Green Lane – Deep Creek and Snyder Roads, Green Lane, PA. Testing is available Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 4pm - 6pm, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12noon - 2pm.
- Lansdale – 421 W. Main St., Lansdale, PA. Testing is available Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 4pm - 6pm, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12noon - 2pm.
- Norristown – Delaware Valley Community Health Center at the Norristown Regional Health Center at 1401 Dekalb St., Norristown, PA. Testing is available Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10am - 12noon, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3pm - 5pm.

- Pottstown – Montgomery County Office of Public Health, 364 King St., Pottstown, PA. Testing is available Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 12noon - 2pm, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4pm - 6 pm.
- Willow Grove –First Baptist Church - Crestmont, 1678 Fairview Ave., Willow Grove, PA. Testing is available Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 12noon - 2pm, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4pm - 6pm.

Additional No Cost Testing Philadelphia

- CHOP--2714 South St.Philadelphia, PA 19146; Roberts Building. (800) 879-2467. Drive-thru. Referral Required. A patient must be in the provider's network to receive a test at this site. Appointments are required for testing. 8am - 3pm.
- Philadelphia Dept. of Public Health--301 W. Girard Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19123. (215) 685-2933. Appointment required. Drive thru/walk up testing. 8am - 4:30pm.