

YST/RBY TARGET: RE-ENTRY!

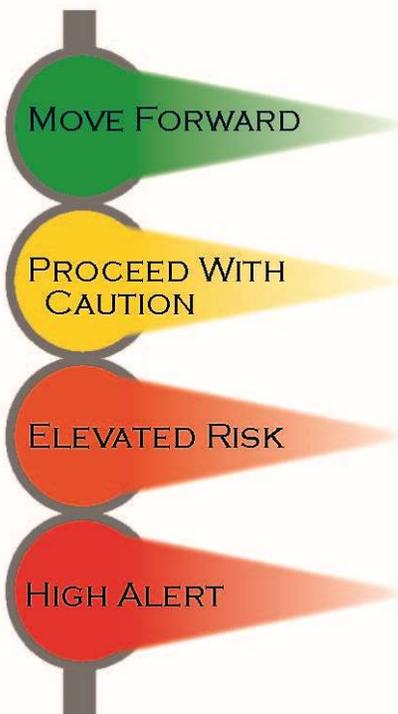
Update August 19, 2020

"וּבְאֵוֹ צִיּוֹן בְּרִנָּה וְשִׂמְחַת עוֹלָם" (ישעיהו. פרק לה' פסוק י')

Dear YST/Reenas Bais Yaakov Family,

As opening date for school inches closer, we continue to invest much thought and consideration into the task of defining the details of the ebb and flow of a school day. Our goal is to responsibly address all health and safety concerns, while maintaining a warm, comfortable and joyous learning experience for each YST/RBY student.

- The **health and safety** of everyone in our school community will continue to be our top priority as we bring students and staff back to campus.
- To be **successful** in our efforts to maintain in-person learning experience we need all YST/RBY community members— students, families, and staff—to join together in taking **personal responsibility** to keep our community healthy.
- Our plan is aimed at **mitigating transmission of the virus** and **minimizing risk**, with the clear understanding that we cannot eliminate this risk altogether.
- We are committed to **communicating with our school community with transparency** as details and decisions emerge.



While this coming school year will be different than anything we've seen before, we look forward to re-connecting with our students to provide a robust learning experience within a wholesome environment based on the Torah values that we share. We thank you for the trust you place in Yeshiva Shaarei Tzion and Reenas Bais Yaakov as we weather this storm together, growing closer and stronger in the process.

Given the fluid nature of the current situation, we are proceeding with an approach that is designed to be nimble and responsive to rapid changes. The system consists of four color-coded levels that provide the YST/RBY community with clearly-defined school protocols for a variety of potential risk levels. By using these color-coded categories, we can readily raise our levels of vigilance, reacting quickly and reasonable to the fluctuation of the pandemic. Please read through these pages carefully, so that you and your child(ren) are well acquainted with the expectations of each color band. Using this common language will allow the YST/RBY community of stakeholders to shift gears smoothly and effectively.

MOVE FORWARD

BUSING

As per the NJDOE Restart and Recovery Plan, the anticipated minimum standards call for face masks to be worn by all students if social distancing cannot be maintained, which would be applicable whenever the bus is more than half full. Siblings are encouraged to sit together, and the brand-new buses will be kept clean and sanitized.

No eating or drinking is permitted on the bus.



HEALTH SCREENING & PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

Screening: Parents are encouraged to take students' temperature before sending them to school each morning and keep students at home if there are any signs of illness. The school will ALSO screen each child upon arrival. Any student who exhibits flu-like symptoms (coughing, sneezing, and shortness of breath) or an elevated temperature (**over 100.4**) will be sent to a designated quarantine room, and parents will be required to pick up their child as soon as possible. **Students who are sent home from school will not be re-admitted without a doctor's note.**

Quarantine: According to the CDC's latest recommendations, anyone who has been in **close contact with someone who has COVID-19 should be quarantined.**

Quarantine helps prevent the spread of disease that can occur before a person knows they are sick, or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms.

What counts as close contact?

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes
- You provided care at home to someone who has COVID-19
- You had direct physical contact with someone who has COVID-19
- You shared eating or drinking utensils someone who has COVID-19
- Someone who has COVID-19 sneezed, coughed, or got respiratory droplets on you

MOVE FORWARD

How long should you quarantine?

- **Quarantine** is defined as **staying home for 14 days** after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19.
- Even if you test negative for COVID-19 or feel healthy, you should stay home (quarantine) since symptoms may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus.
- The school reserves the right to **impose a quarantine on any student or group of students** after medical review.

Travel: Per government guidelines, anyone who has traveled to or from designated High-Risk Areas must remain in quarantine for 14 days before rejoining the school community. This includes vacation travel during school breaks and/or Yomim Tovim.



REDUCING STUDENT DENSITY

Classrooms: Since students will spend the bulk of their school day with their cohorts in their classrooms, this setting calls for careful planning. Student desks will be strategically placed to comply with recommended social distancing guidelines. Students will be discouraged from sharing school supplies, snacks, etc. Plastic dividers will be available for students when they are engaged in group work. Teachers will be encouraged to keep classroom windows and doors open, even if the air conditioning is running. (Students who suffer from serious allergies should be in touch with the school nurse.)

Hallways and Common Areas: Masks will be worn by staff members any time they are in common areas. Students will be encouraged to wear masks as well. Hand sanitizer stations will be installed in designated areas.

Recess and Lunch: Large common areas such as the gym, playground and lunchroom will be restricted to limit density. Classrooms will be assigned cohort-specific gym equipment. Teachers will supervise frequent hand-washing sessions for younger students, especially

MOVE FORWARD

before meals and/or snacks. We are also exploring the possibility of putting up tents, if available, alongside the school buildings to allow for more extensive use of the outdoors.



CLEANING, SANITIZING & BUILDING ACCESS

Custodial help will continuously sanitize surfaces, including door knobs, bathrooms, etc. In addition, a rigorous night-time disinfectant routine will be maintained.

Students will be taught to wash their hands with soap and water regularly, before and after eating, after using the restroom, and coming from recess or gym. Teachers of young students will provide time in their daily routine to teach and reinforce proper hygiene practices.

Hand sanitizing stations will also be set up throughout the building. **Students are strongly encouraged to have a personal supply of hand sanitizer readily available.**

Non-essential visitors, including parents and guests, will be restricted from school buildings for the foreseeable future. Signage at all entrances will indicate our health hygiene policy, including masks and hand sanitizing upon entering any of the school facilities.



PROCEED WITH CAUTION

In the event of a spike in positive COVID tests on the:

- class-wide level
- school-wide level
- community-wide level
- county-wide level

YST/RBY may move to a **YELLOW** phase of preventative measures.

In addition to the above-mentioned **GREEN** restrictions, all students will be **required** to wear masks at any point that they leave the classroom.

(Preschool students will be encouraged to wear masks as much as possible.) This includes all common areas, such as hallways, bathrooms, lunchrooms, indoor play areas, etc.

In addition, masks must be worn on the bus at all times.

The following Increased cleaning and sanitation protocols will also be set in place:

- Students and staff will be required to increase vigilance in washing or sanitizing their hands.
- Students will not be permitted to share materials with other students.
- Gym classes or recess breaks will engage in contactless sports activities.
- Increased effort in having students spend time outdoors will be promoted.



ELEVATED RISK

In the event of an extended or intensified spike in positive COVID tests on the:

- class-wide level
- school-wide level
- community-wide level
- county-wide level

YST/RBY may move to an **ORANGE** phase of preventative measures.

In addition to the above-mentioned **GREEN** and **YELLOW** restrictions, all students will be **required** to wear masks during the course of the school day.

(Preschool students will be encouraged to wear masks as much as possible.)

- Busing will be temporarily suspended.
- Use of school or classroom libraries will be temporarily suspended.
- Social distancing restrictions will be carefully maintained, and co-operative grouping of students minimized.
- If necessary, scheduling that would reduce the number of students present in any of the school buildings would be implemented. For example, students whose last names begin with A-K would attend school on Mondays, Wednesdays and alternate Fridays, while students whose last names begin with L – Z would attend school on Tuesday, Thursdays and alternate Fridays. Students would be expected to either join class via Zoom or work on independent assignments on their “off -days.”



HIGH ALERT

In the event of a serious spike in positive COVID tests on the:

- class-wide level
- school-wide level
- community-wide level
- county-wide level
- state-wide level (i.e.: the closing of schools by Governor's orders)

YST/RBY may move to a **RED** phase of preventative measures.

- Individual classes or multiple classes would move to a remote-learning platform for as limited a time as possible.
- The schools have purchased Chrome-books for all our students so that each and every child would be sent home with strictly filtered devices and would only be able to access classes via those devices.
- Yeshiva Shaarei Tzion/Reenas Bais Yaakov teachers are prepared to engage their students remotely and will continue to do for as long as classes are temporarily suspended.



Conclusion

Yeshiva Shaarei Tzion, Pre-school, Boys & Girls Divisions, and Reenas Bais Yaakov are committed to reopening school this coming school year **אם ירצה ה'**, providing an as-close-to-normal school experience while respecting the broad range of parental personal preferences.

We will continue to monitor the ebb and flow of the pandemic as we all daven that our families be able to joyfully return to the full richness of our communal Jewish life.

Looking forward to greeting our students shortly!

Rabbi S. Herskowitz
YST Boys

Mrs. C. Eidelman
Reenas BY

Mrs. C. Brudny
YST Girls

Morah M. Kamin
YST Preschool

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- How will the color-coded phases be determined?

The building principals will be in close contact with medical personnel and the local Department of Health who will assist in making the determination based on input from the school(s).

- How will I be notified what phase the school is in?

As soon as a decision is made to either the level of school status, a message will be sent to parents via text and email.

- How will daily temperature checks work?

Each school building is equipped with several digital thermometers. Staff members will be on hand to greet each student in the morning, do a quick screening and take the student's temperature. Any student who exhibits flu-like symptoms (coughing, sneezing, and shortness of breath) or an elevated temperature (**over 100.4**) will be sent to a designated quarantine room, and parents will be required to pick up their child as soon as possible.

[Students who are sent home from school will not be re-admitted without a doctor's note.](#)

- What type of masks are acceptable?

Each student must bring two of their own clean masks to school every day, labeled with their name. Masks must cover the wearer's mouth and nose, and be free of negative or offensive symbols or language. Scarves and bandannas are not acceptable as masks. Face shields do not replace masks, but may be worn in addition to face masks. Every student will receive a personal lanyard with clips to hold their masks and keep them easily accessible. Parents are encouraged to find masks that fit the child as comfortable as possible. In the event that an additional face covering is needed, the school has extra supplies readily available.

- Will gym and recess continue as normal?

Physical activity is important for students of all ages. Our gym activities will follow best practices, opting for activities that allow for appropriate physical distancing between students. Recess activities will be organized and supervised to maintain as much physical distancing as

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

possible among students. Thankfully, all YST facilities have adequate outdoor space to allow for students to spread out comfortably.

- **Will there be before/after school care and/or after-school programming?**

For the time being, we will not be organizing any before or after school programs. Homework Club and after-school programs are temporarily suspended.

- **What about Back-to-School Night & Parent Teacher Conferences?**

Social distancing guidelines prevent the school from holding in-person activities on a large scale. We plan to do a virtual Back to School Night, and will re-evaluate conferences post Yom-Tov. More information will be provided when we get closer to the events.

- **What is the school's COVID-19 Policy?**

1. If a person is **symptomatic and awaiting COVID 19 test results**: he/she should stay home, away from others, until results are available. Once the results are available, follow the recommendations below based on results.
2. If a person is **symptomatic and tested positive for COVID-19**, stay home in isolation until:
At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared AND at least 24 hours have passed since last fever without using medicine AND other symptoms have improved.
3. If a person is **symptomatic and tested negative for COVID-19**, stay home and away from others until at least 24 hours fever free AND other symptoms have improved.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

4. If a person is [asymptomatic and tested positive for COVID-19](#), stay home in isolation until at least 10 days* have passed since specimen collection. If symptoms develop, follow guidelines for [symptomatic and tested positive for COVID-19](#) above.

- [What if my child is quarantined for 14 days due to possible exposure?](#)

If your child is quarantined due to the YST/RBY COVID-19 Sick Policy, they can attend school virtually. RBY students will be given filtered Chrome-books on the first day of school, while YST will provide any student a filtered Chrome-book to take home in the case of a full or partial closure.

- [Will families and staff be informed if someone in the YST/RBY community tests positive for COVID-19?](#)

Under HIPAA regulations, positive COVID results are not shared with school, but are reported to the local Department of Health. The DOH assumes the responsibility of contacting and monitoring all close contacts of identified COVID-19 cases.

