Temple Beth Ahm Yisrael’s COVID Policies – September 2022

Below are the COVID-related policies for Temple Beth Ahm Yisrael’s Early Childhood Education Program, determined by TBAY’s COVID Task Force based on the CDC’s Operational Guidance for K-12 and Early Care and Education Programs to Support Safe In-Person Learning (August 11, 2022). The policies may be modified at the discretion of the COVID Task Force. Early Childhood families will be notified of any modifications.

Self-screening and Staying Home When Sick

• Students and teachers who have any new symptoms of illness, such as cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting/diarrhea and lethargy, should remain out of school until an alternate diagnosis, including COVID-19, is ruled out. COVID-19 testing for individuals with COVID-compatible symptoms is expected as soon as possible after symptoms begin and before returning to school.

• Regardless of vaccination status, students and teachers should isolate from others when they have COVID-19 or if they are sick but have not tested or do not yet have test results.

Masking

• Masking for students and teachers is optional and at the discretion of families and school staff, except in the 10-day post-exposure period and the 5-day post isolation periods. Please refer to the Management of Positive Cases and the Management of COVID Exposures sections below for more details.

• TBAY leadership and staff will be supportive of individual’s or family’s decision regarding mask wearing.

• The TBAY COVID Task Force reserves the right to institute universal masking during high COVID-19 Community Level, during a school or local community outbreak, or at other times that it is deemed in the best interest of the school communities.

Immunization

• COVID vaccination is not required for students in our Early Childhood Program. In accordance with the Jewish value of pikuach nefesh, saving a life, TBAY encourages vaccination for all individuals who are eligible.

Management of Positive Cases

• Students and staff members must notify ECP administration as soon as possible if they are exposed to COVID-19, have COVID-compatible symptoms, or have tested positive for COVID-19.

• Students or staff who come to school with COVID-compatible symptoms or develop symptoms while at school will be asked to wear well-fitting disposable mask (i.e., KF94 or KN95) while in the building and will be sent home for the day. Individuals will be expected to be tested for COVID before returning to school. If a student is unable to wear a well-fitting mask before being picked up, the student will be separated from classmates and supervised by a designated caregiver who is wearing a well-fitting mask until they leave school grounds.

• Students who test positive for COVID-19 must stay home from school to isolate for the full 10 days. If asymptomatic, Day 0 is the day of testing, and Day 1 is the first full day following the day of testing. If symptomatic, Day 0 is the day that symptoms developed, and Day 1 is the first full day after the start of symptoms.

• Staff who test positive: Once the 5-day isolation period has ended, the staff member will wear a well-fitting disposable mask (i.e., KF94 or KN95) in school through day 10.

Management of COVID Exposures

• Students and staff members must notify ECP administration as soon as possible in the event that they have known or suspected exposure to COVID-19.

• Quarantine is no longer required when a student or teachers is exposed to an individual with a known or suspected case of COVID-19, whether the exposure is in school or elsewhere. Students and staff will be monitored closely for any symptoms of illness.

• Students and teachers who have known or suspected exposure to COVID-19 are expected to wear a well-fitting disposable mask (i.e., KN94, KN95 or surgical mask) for 10 days from their last exposure, regardless of vaccination status or history of prior infection.

• Children under the age of 2 and individuals who cannot wear a well-fitting mask must remain out of school for the 10-day post-exposure period.

Responding to Outbreaks

• The CDC recommends that schools and ECE programs add prevention strategies during a COVID19 outbreak, regardless of the COVID-19 Community Level. In the event of an outbreak in the ECP, the TBAY COVID Task Force will determine any additional strategies to be implemented.

• These additional prevention strategies may include maximizing ventilation (e.g., moving school activities outdoors, opening windows and doors, using air filters), screening testing, and case investigation and contact tracing.

Testing

• Routine screening testing is no longer recommended by the CDC for schools. However, at a high COVID-19 Community Level, the ECP may consider implementing screening testing for students and staff in select circumstances or key times in the year, for example, before/after large events and when returning from breaks. Screening testing would include both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.

• At-home antigen tests are not accepted in TBAY. When testing is required, the test must be administered in a lab or healthcare setting and be a PCR.

Additional Mitigation Strategies

• Ventilation: The ECP will continue to maximize ventilation and improve air quality by opening windows and using air purifiers to reduce the risk of germs and contaminants spreading through the air.

• Handwashing: Students and teachers will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently, especially before and after eating, after using the restroom, and after spending time outdoors. If washing hands is not possible, teachers will provide hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.

• Covering Coughs and Sneezes: Teachers will reinforce covering coughs and sneezes to help prevent the spread of illness.

• Cleaning: Our staff will clean frequently touched surfaces at least once a day to reduce the risk of germs spreading by touching surfaces. Additionally, ECP staff will continue to follow the procedures for cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfection such as after diapering, feeding, and exposure to bodily fluids, as required by the Office of Licensing of the Department of Children and Families.

Considerations for Policy Modifications

• The TBAY COVID Task Force may modify the above policies at any time.

• The COVID Task Force may consider additional prevention strategies to maintain safe, in person learning and to keep the school open safely. The COVID Task Force will take into consideration COVID-19 Community Level, school incidences of COVID, and recommendations from the Bloomfield Regional Health Department.

• Any questions regarding school COVID policies will be addressed by the TBAY COVID Task Force. Please contact Sandi Newman with any concerns, and she will forward your concerns to the Task Force.