

SY 2021-22 LEA Health and Safety Plans

School Name: Milton Gottesman (Jewish Day School of the Nation's Capital)

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School Type: Private, Parochial or Independent School

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Background and Purpose

[OSSE's Health and Safety Guidance for Schools](#) is issued for LEAs and private, parochial and independent schools (schools). LEAs and schools must develop and submit to OSSE comprehensive health and safety plans. This plan is intended to provide the public with information on how the School will support the safe reopening and operation of school buildings, including guidelines on masking, social distancing, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, and appropriate response to a positive COVID-19 case.

OSSE reviewed each School's responses to the questions for clarity, completeness, and compliance with the DC Health and OSSE health and safety guidance for schools and provided feedback to the School. Before publication, School's were given the opportunity to revise their responses based on OSSE's feedback. LEAs and schools are responsible for incorporating additional or updated public health guidance into their policies and procedures throughout the school year as such guidance is released.

Face Masks

1. Provide the School's plan to comply with the requirements to:

- a. except for specific circumstances (e.g., while eating) articulated in OSSE's guidance, all students, staff and visitors, including those who are fully vaccinated, must wear non-medical face coverings or face masks at all times while on school grounds, on school buses and while participating in any school-related activities, including physical education and sports; and
- b. masks must be worn correctly.

Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School faculty, staff, students and visitors will continue to wear snugly-fitted masks while in our school buildings, on school-provided transportation and on school field trips. Our community is well-versed in proper mask fitting and we will remain vigilant in ensuring consistent and correct mask usage.

2. Provide the School's policies and procedures in the event that a student, staff member, or visitor is unable or unwilling to wear a face mask at all times.

Checking for mask-wearing is now part of our building entrance procedures. When any constituent enters the buildings through our security areas, they would not gain admittance without a mask. If one were to arrive without an appropriate mask, we have child and adult-sized masks available for them at our front desks and would meet them at the door where they would put it on before entering. Although we did not encounter any such incidents in 2020-2021, if a constituent refused to stay masked during the day, they would have to leave campus. In the event of a student refusing to wear a mask and awaiting pickup, they would be seated in a private space until they could be picked up.

3. Provide the School's policies and procedures to support physical distancing between individuals and within and across groups, including in classrooms, common spaces, during arrival and dismissal procedures, and during extracurricular activities.

On our North campus for 2-8th graders, student desks in classrooms will be positioned at least 3 feet apart. At our early childhood campus for grades PK-1, a maximum of six students will be seated at tables that measure 30x44 or 30x30. This is essential operationally for us to return all students to our campuses full-time due to our very small classrooms on that campus. On both campuses, we will use multiple entrances for arrival and dismissal. Furniture in common spaces will be spaced at a minimum of 3 foot distance. Afterschool and extracurricular activities will follow the same spacing expectations as our school day programs. We will work with our afterschool partner organization, Wonders, to ensure shared expectations and adherence to health protocols.

4. Provide the School's policies and procedures regarding the use of cohorts for students and/or staff, including steps to minimize interactions between cohorts, as applicable.

Cohorts will be grade-based so students can participate in appropriately calibrated coursework for their learning and social needs. If necessary, any essential, cross-grade events in the fall would be outdoors or in our gymnasium, in case of inclement weather, with strict spacing and masking to limit exposures. Though the grades will only mix seldomly, we will consider our (almost universally vaccinated) 7th and 8th graders as one cohort and will intermittently bring middle school (6,7,8) together. Since we only have one section of Pre-K, they may share outdoor space and time with Kindergarten to ensure sufficient outdoor play time for all students.

5. Provide the School's policies and procedures to support handwashing and respiratory etiquette including frequent, proper handwashing strategies and encouraging covering coughs and sneezes.

Students will continue to sanitize or wash hands frequently, at a minimum before and after eating and when returning from recess. We have added and will continue to maintain hand sanitizer stations in every classroom and throughout the building, as well as several additional sinks. Our young students are taught and reminded about respiratory etiquette and this continues to be reinforced in older grades when non-compliance is seen by our teachers or staff members.

6. Provide the School's plan to make available adequate supplies (e.g., soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, tissues) to support healthy hygiene practices including, as relevant, in classrooms, bathrooms, offices and common spaces.

We will continue to have ample supply of all materials necessary for supporting healthy hygiene practices. This priority is reflected in our current supply stock, our existing relationships with suppliers, and in our budget for continuing to replenish supplies as needed throughout the year.

7. Provide the School's policies and procedures to acquire, distribute and support the appropriate use of PPE including gowns/coveralls, gloves, surgical masks, eye protection (face shield or goggles) and N95 masks, as relevant and necessary.

Our health rooms are stocked with PPE, including gowns, gloves, masks and face shields. We continue to stock gloves for cleaning and extra masks in case they are needed during the course of a school day.

Maintain Clean and Healthy Facilities

8. Provide the School's schedule for routine cleaning of rooms, surfaces and objects, including high touch objects and surfaces (e.g., pens, keyboards, elevator buttons, light switches, handles, stair rails, faucets, phones, doorknobs, grab bars on playgrounds).

While our facilities team was very focused on the cleaning of high touch surfaces and objects during the 2020-2021 year, this is not a major area of focus for us in the coming year based on our understanding of how COVID-19 is transmitted. We will, of course, continue to have intensive cleaning protocols in place to maintain hygienic school buildings.

- 9. Provide the School's cleaning and disinfecting protocols in the event that (1) a student, staff member, or visitor develops symptoms of possible COVID-19 while in the school; or (2) if the school is notified that a student, staff member or visitor who tested positive has been in the school.**

a) The symptomatic individual's personal space (desk, office, etc.) is cleaned as well as any isolation space that may have been used; b) In the case of an individual testing positive, if they have been in school over the last three days, the full classroom space will be closed and deep cleaned.

- 10. Provide the School's plan to make available sufficient and appropriate cleaning and disinfection supplies.**

We will continue to stock ample supplies for sufficient and appropriate cleaning and disinfection, working with existing service providers and suppliers. Staff will continue, as they did in 2020-2021, to wear gloves while cleaning and disinfecting building spaces. Though we have not struggled with compliance in the past, supervisors of the facilities team and other members of the leadership and health teams are aware of this requirement and would contact the staff member's supervisor if they were to see non-compliance.

- 11. Provide the School's plan to perform necessary maintenance to ventilation and water systems and features (e.g., sink faucets, drinking fountains, decorative fountains) so that they are ready for use and occupancy and are adequately maintained throughout the operating period.**

In 2020-2021, we upgraded to MERV-13 filters on both campuses to ensure proper ventilation in our buildings. We have a recurring contract with an outside provider to change filters monthly, and those changes are reflected on the school's master calendar. At this time, drinking fountains are closed and all other water systems (water bottle filling stations, e.g.) have new filters and will continue to be monitored for filter change indicators throughout the year.

Response to a Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 Case

- 12. Describe the School's policies and procedures to:**

- a. Comply with the requirement to not admit or to dismiss any student, staff member or visitor who is COVID-19 positive or otherwise meets criteria for exclusion, per OSSE's guidance; and
- b. Dismiss any individual or cohort that is potentially exposed to COVID-19 within the school setting.

Parents (on behalf of their students) and staff fill out a daily screener questionnaire to ensure that no one who meets exclusion criteria is admitted to the buildings. At this time, the screener includes questions around temperature, a variety of COVID-19 symptoms, travel, contact with COVID positive individuals, and pending COVID tests. School also maintains a no admittance 'no go' list of those who are COVID-19 positive or currently quarantining. Any unvaccinated constituents who have been exposed within the school setting will quarantine pending contact tracing from DC Health. Constituents with documented, pre-existing conditions will not be excluded based on those symptoms.

13. Provide the School's plan to comply with the requirements to:

- a. Identify a staff member as the COVID-19 point of contact (POC) to whom families, staff, contractors and vendors should report a positive case of COVID-19 and who is responsible for reporting positive cases of COVID-19 to DC Health;
- b. Report any applicable positive COVID-19 case in a student, staff member or essential visitor to DC Health on the same day the school is notified;
- c. Not exclude students or staff with pre-existing health conditions that present with specific COVID-19-like symptoms on the basis of those specific symptoms, if a healthcare provider has provided written or verbal documentation that those specific symptoms are not due to COVID-19.

The health care team remains the point of contact for all reports of positive cases. Once notified, the health care team will promptly submit the DC Health contact tracing form the same day as the case is reported by student, staff, or an essential visitor. Students and staff may submit documentation from a health care provider about pre-existing health conditions to ensure that they are not unnecessarily excluded from school activities.

14. Provide the School's procedures to support DC Health with contract tracing in the event of a positive case of COVID-19.

We provide family contact information, as well as class, extracurricular and bus lists to DC Health to facilitate and expedite their contact tracing process in case of a positive case in our community.

15. Describe how the School will notify the school community, as appropriate, of the positive case and corresponding actions taken by the School.

The impacted cohort(s) are notified via email of a positive case and any related quarantine instructions. As part of that communication, we will continue to educate our families/staff members about signs and symptoms of the virus, refer to the close contact guidance from DC Health, share e-testing options and details around school attendance and cleaning/disinfection of the necessary spaces.

We also plan to, at minimum, maintain our online COVID-19 tracker which is updated weekly and accessible to families and staff through our parent portal. Staff members receive a dedicated email when there is a positive case in our community.

COVID-19 Testing and Vaccines

16. If applicable, describe the School's current or planned COVID-19 testing protocol for symptomatic and/or asymptomatic students and/or staff, including steps the School will take to encourage participation in the testing program. Please include the School's plan to ensure that results of such testing programs are reported to DC Health per DC Health's COVID-19 reporting requirements: dchealth.dc.gov/page/covid-19-reporting-requirements.

At this time, we do not anticipate conducting in-school surveillance testing.

17. Provide the School's plans to support COVID-19 vaccination of staff and students, as eligible, including efforts to encourage participation in public and community-based vaccination opportunities.

Vaccination is mandated for all staff. Documentation is uploaded to Magnus Health to ensure compliance. At this time, we will continue to encourage, inform and track student vaccinations as they become available for our age groups.

Students with Disabilities

18. Provide the School's plans to provide appropriate accommodations to students with disabilities with respect to its health and safety policies and procedures.

As an inclusive school, we are committed to providing appropriate accommodations to students with disabilities vis-a-vis health and safety policies and procedures. Our Director of Student Support will work with students' specialized educational plans to ensure full access to the curriculum. For example, teachers can be provided with amplification, clear masks, or other materials/training to ensure that all accommodations are fulfilled.

Training, Technical Assistance, and Monitoring

19. Please provide the School's plan to provide training and technical assistance on its policies and procedures to safely reopen schools in accordance with the DC Health Guidance for Schools and the OSSE Health and Safety Guidance for Schools, including:

- a. who will receive training and technical assistance; while on school grounds, on school buses and while participating in any school-related activities, including physical education and sports; and**
- b. the topics that the training and technical assistance will address; and**
- c. how and by whom the training and technical assistance will be delivered.**

All staff will receive training and technical assistance during Teacher Work Week (August 19-Aug 27) to ensure compliance with the above health and safety protocols. The health team will train our student-facing staff on all COVID-19 protocols, including masking, illness policy, respiratory health and handwashing etiquette. The health and IT teams will also provide technical assistance for use of Magnus Health to ensure staff are properly self-screening daily.

- 20. Provide the School's plan to monitor the implementation of the health and safety plans at each campus, including how, when and by whom the implementation will be monitored, and how the School will respond if a given campus is not adhering to the plan.**

Teachers are our first line of compliance with all health and safety protocols. Our health and leadership teams, in their work with those student-facing staff, will respond to any concerns or lack of adherence they witness or learn about on our campuses. Security and front desk staff will continue to be our gatekeepers, ensuring that all constituents and visitors enter the building both screened and masked.

- 21. Describe the School's plans to communicate key health and safety policies and procedures to students, families, staff and visitors.**

We have already begun onboarding new families into our health protocols through our division-based, new family orientations. This includes transfer families and families beginning in PK or K. Our family handbook, which is distributed over the summer by PDF, will include all health protocols and those will be reinforced by email communication and/or Parent Information Sessions, as needed. Likewise, we will hold new staff orientation in mid-August to assimilate new team members into the protocols. We will conduct health and safety updates and trainings during our staff/faculty orientation the week of August 23, 2021. Health policies and expectations will be codified in our Staff and Faculty Handbook, which will be revised and published by mid-August. Visitors will receive detailed instructions, via email, before their visit about expectations around screening, mask-wearing and any other relevant health protocols. These will be reinforced upon arrival to campus, before visitors enter the building.