



## **BJEP / Boston-area Jewish Education Program**

### **COVID Safe Guidelines**

Effective: 8 Sep 2022

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#### **How BJEP is keeping our families and staff safe:**

We continue to follow Brandeis University guidelines in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for our COVID policies. Based on the latest guidelines, and to ensure the health and safety within our community, we are pleased to share our community wide COVID-safe plans.

#### **By arriving on the Brandeis campus, we agree:**

- to comply with the Brandeis University policies and rules, including but not limited to wearing face coverings over the nose and mouth everywhere on campus grounds and inside.
- to adhere to six feet physical distancing guidelines
- If you feel sick, have a fever, are experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19, or have had possible exposure to COVID-19, please do not come to campus.

#### **Screening/Complete Health Assessment**

As Brandeis is at code Yellow, this will not be required as of this time.

#### **Mask Policy:**

- **Brandeis at this time is at mask optional indoors in small groups, and we will follow this guideline. We welcome mask wearing if someone is more comfortable. It is and remains your choice. We will also monitor the Brandeis dashboard on a weekly basis.**
- **Safety & allowable mask types, if needed?** For even more guidelines than you probably have from your child's school and then some, here's the [Brandeis guidelines on allowable masks](#).
- **When to wear?** Staff and students will be required to wear a mask indoors when in large groups (more than 20, per the Brandeis guideline), unless they can adequately distance (e.g., when having a snack/drink). We respect and support anyone's choice to wear a mask even more than required, and our teachers will support this such that all feel comfortable no matter their decision.
- **Extra mask:** We ask that all students bring an extra mask, and bring a ziplock baggie (with their name on it) where they can place their new (or used) mask, as needed. We will also have extra, disposable, masks at BJEP for use, if even needed.

### **Group Size and Mixing**

- Based on the sizing of our classrooms, we will ensure limiting student numbers inside the classroom to ensure distancing is feasible. As needed, we will divide classes to ensure small cohorts and personal attention from Teachers.

### **Hygiene**

- Hand sanitizer will be available around BJEP and teachers will supervise its use. Students will be encouraged to wash or sanitize hands frequently.

### **Break for Snack (if needed) / Food**

- **Your pre-BJEP Breakfast!** We encourage students to have a good breakfast at home before they arrive, and/or in the Quad before going into the classroom.
- **Water:** we ask that your child bring a water bottle with them on Sunday morning.
- **Snack:** we ask that parents provide a small snack for their child(ren), if needed. We plan to snack outside when feasible, and with distancing protocols in place. We plan to have some back up options.
- **Allergies?** If any specific allergies, we ask for your help this year to ensure a snack is added to your BJEP bag along with the water bottle.
- **Birthdays:** We **love** celebrating a birthday! This year, please do not bring any food items for birthday celebrations. Instead, please do remind your teacher, and we can share this joyous birthday moment in the classroom.

### **Activities: Tefilah, Electives, other**

- We plan to think creatively this year about our music program, and will aim to host Tefilah and our moment of gratitude outdoors at the start of the day, and /or inside with masks. Where possible, with lots of hand motions, continuing past practices with ASL. Please send appropriate clothing for rainy days as we will most likely try to spend some time outdoors. **We encourage parents to join us in the Quad for 15 minutes at the start of the BJEP day**, where our teachers and director will help guide the BJEP community through our Tefillah service. **Take this time to model community for all students.**
- We plan to think creatively about electives this coming year, and where feasible, will consider holding some of these outside. More information to follow throughout the year.
- When weather permits, all-school activities will be conducted outdoors.

### **Vaccines**

- Our Director and teachers are vaccinated, as is required by Brandeis University and Hebrew College. We ask that all children ages 12 and up receive at least one vaccination by January 23, 2022.

### **Travel Policy**

- We will continue to follow the Massachusetts guidelines regarding travel. Currently Massachusetts is under a travel advisory, not a mandate.
- We ask that families be open about travel and exposure in their Brandeis daily screenings, and consider the safety of all when making decisions about travel to the BJEP program.
- We encourage families to rapid test when returning from travel.

### **Surveillance Testing for COVID-19**

- As many schools offer testing as part of city/town requirements, and given our one-day per week status, BJEP will not offer Covid surveillance testing.

- If your student is not tested regularly as part of their primary and middle school programs, we encourage your family to test on your own during the school year when you believe necessary.

#### **Non-compliance**

- Help us this year ensure that our community remains safe, we adhere to Brandeis policies, and we all comply with this policy.

#### **FAQ:**

- **If having a break/snack outside, what if inclement weather?** This will be a quicker break/snacking outing compared with a nice Autumnal or Spring day. When needed (and, it is New England!), we will ensure distancing protocols in place when snack time occurs, per guidance from Brandeis.
- **How frequently will this policy be reviewed?** The Board will review with our Leadership team in conjunction with Brandeis, on a regular basis. We anticipate an update in November 2022, and then in Jan 2023 pre-return to campus following winter break.
- **What if BJEP has to pivot to remote-learning, should Brandeis close the campus again?** This was the scenario we (and the world) faced in March 2020, and in Jan 2021 when Brandeis went remote. Should this scenario occur again, we will be in touch with our remote plans and home supply toolkit.

#### **Brandeis University Covid Dashboard**

- Brandeis regularly updates their dashboard, which can be found here: <https://www.brandeis.edu/covid-19/dashboard.html>.. There is no requirement to read this, however, we share that Brandeis excelled last year in keeping our student teachers on campus safe, and interesting to reference their monitoring protocols.

Please direct questions to Jodi, Board Chair, on behalf of fellow parents serving on the BJEP board: [bjepboard@gmail.com](mailto:bjepboard@gmail.com).