

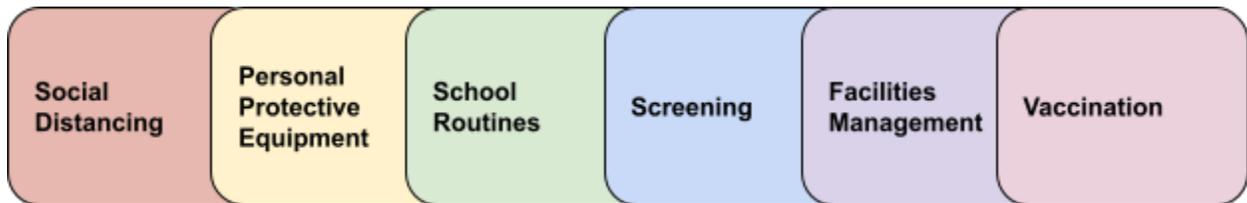
Hebrew Public Health & Safety FAQs

2021-22 School Year

General Questions and Concerns:

What is Hebrew Public doing to keep our students and staff members safe?

Hebrew Public is committed to providing in-person learning for all students while maintaining our high standards for health and safety for our students, staff, and visitors. To achieve this, we apply a **layered mitigation** approach based on the following principles.



We believe that strictly and faithfully applying measures within **all** of these critical categories allows Hebrew Public to create the safest possible environment in our schools.

Is Hebrew Public doing anything different to address the Delta Variant of COVID-19?

In 2020-21, Hebrew Public schools were successful in preventing the *spread* of COVID-19 in our schools. We believe our layered mitigation strategy was critical in that effort and we will continue to employ almost all of the same strict measures that were in place last year.

How will Hebrew Public schools handle lunch time?

As per CDC and State recommendations, all Hebrew Public schools will make every effort to maintain as close to 6 foot distancing as possible during meals. In some cases this will be easily achieved, in others we may be employing different strategies to maximize social distancing during meals. Examples include using a staggered meal schedule (students in the same class eating at different times), and eating outside when weather permits.

How can a parent/guardian help?

The most important thing you can do as a parent/guardian to a member of our school community is to reinforce our Health and Safety strategies whenever possible. Make sure your students understand the importance of mask wearing, maintaining

social distancing, speaking up when they have a cough, etc. For those of us with students who are 12 years of age or older, we strongly encourage you to consider scheduling your student for COVID-19 Vaccination (appointments can be found at <https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov/>)

Will I have an opportunity to do a walk through of my students' school building?

We are limiting visitor access to our buildings, even before the school year is in session. Please contact your school's main office to determine if this is a possibility.

I understand that Friday's will have early dismissal. What should I do if I can't pick up my student early?

Each of our schools will be offering free aftercare for students from Fridays from 1pm to 3pm through a partnering aftercare program. If you would like more information on your school's program, please contact your school's main office:

Harlem Hebrew: info@harlemhebrewcharter.org, 212.866.4608

HLA: info@hlacharterschool.org, 718.682.5610

HLA2: info@hla2.org, 718.377.7200

Will Hebrew Public schools conduct remote learning the week after a school break as we did last year?

No. We plan to be fully in person, even after holiday breaks.

Social Distancing

What social distancing rules will be in place at Hebrew Public Schools?

We will be following federal and state guidance for social distancing within our school buildings.

For students: Whenever possible will maintain 3 feet of social distancing during class and 6 feet during meals.

For adults: Whenever possible we will maintain 6 feet of social distancing between adults and between adults and students.

What will happen if the school can not accommodate all students with the recommended social distancing?

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) guidelines state “Because of the importance of in-person learning, schools should implement physical distancing to the extent possible within their structures but should not exclude students from in-person learning to keep a minimum distance requirement.” This sentiment is also echoed by the [NY State Department of Education](#).

Hebrew Public will make every effort to maintain the recommended distances wherever feasible. Aspects of our program -- such as small group instruction -- may at times result in less than the recommended distances for periods of time. Some classrooms may have students podded together in pairs or small tables to accommodate the class. Please note that this is allowed under CDC and State guidelines, and that all of our other mitigation strategies will still be in place at these times, including mask wearing and effective ventilation.

Masks

Will everyone have to wear a mask in school?

Yes. Face masks or coverings must be worn by any adult or student at all times while inside the school building except when eating or drinking, when instructed to remove by a nurse or other staff member, or if a student has an exemption on the basis of health or developmental need.

What if a child has difficulty breathing with a mask?

If a student has a health or development condition that makes mask wearing difficult, they may be eligible for exemption. If you believe your student may qualify for an exemption, please contact your school's main office.

Busing

Will school buses have social distancing rules?

Most of Hebrew Public schools' busing is provided by the New York City Department of Education's Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT). This year, OPT has announced that their buses will be running at full capacity and, therefore, will not maintain social distancing rules. Because of this, we will be making every effort to ensure that

drivers and students follow mask-wearing rules on buses and that bus windows are open whenever possible (see below).

Will school buses require masking?

Hebrew Public conduct expectations for students include the expectation that all students will wear their masks at all times on buses. We will make sure that expectation is understood among students on buses as well as bus drivers and any other adult on a bus. Failure to comply with mask wearing on a bus could lead to removal from busing.

Will windows be kept open on buses?

We will work to ensure that all buses keep windows open when weather conditions allow it.

When will buses pick up students on early dismissal Fridays?

Buses will leave at 1pm on early dismissal Fridays.

Facilities

What has Hebrew Public done to ensure that air flow and ventilation is sufficient?

Hebrew Public made adjustments, upgrades, and even replaced in some cases our Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems at the beginning of the pandemic. This work, guided by audits and recommendations provided by engineers, focused on maximizing air flow, ventilation, and the pull of fresh air from the outside. We continue to monitor, maintain, and adjust as necessary all HVAC systems.

How will Hebrew Public approach cleaning school buildings this year?

Hebrew Public schools will continue to implement the enhanced cleaning procedures that were introduced at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Enhanced procedures include nightly disinfection of all spaces within the school buildings and extra cleaning and disinfection throughout the day, with increased focus on high touch surfaces.

COVID-19 Testing

Why is Hebrew Public testing staff and students for COVID-19?

We believe that COVID-19 testing is one of the most important strategies in our efforts to maintain the safest possible environment in our schools. Last year, our testing protocols allowed us to act quickly to protect our staff and students when cases of COVID were discovered. For this reason it is critical that we get as much information as possible about the health and status of as much of our community as possible, as frequently as possible.

Is COVID-19 testing required for all staff?

Yes. All Hebrew Public school staff are required to participate in our testing every week. We will test 100% of staff who are on-site weekly. Exemptions may be granted if medical conditions require.

Is COVID-19 testing required for all students?

Because of the success of our testing program last year and the importance of knowing the status and health of as much of our community as possible, we are asking all families to opt in to testing for their children. Testing will not be required, but we hope all families will contribute to the health and well being of our community by allowing their children to participate.

How often will students and staff members be tested for COVID-19?

100% of our staff will be tested each week.

We will conduct student testing every week, but the percentage of our student body that is tested each week will depend on multiple factors including the number of students in the school. We will attempt to test as many students as possible.

What grades will be tested?

Testing will be available to all students. If you have a concern about a younger student (Pre-K - Kindergarten) being comfortable with testing, you may request a spit test or you can simply opt out of testing.

Will vaccinated staff and students be tested?

Yes. For now, we plan to test vaccinated individuals in the same way that we will test unvaccinated.

Who will be conducting the tests?

We have partnered with [LabQ](#) to conduct testing. All tests will be administered by LabQ technicians who are trained in gentle swabbing techniques and are experienced working with children

What kind of tests will be conducted?

The tests are shallow nasal swab PCR tests. Results will be made available in 24-48 hours. In the event that individual students are highly uncomfortable with or have medical reasons to not participate in a nasal swab test, LabQ technicians can arrange for spit tests to be available.

Will I be notified of testing results?

Families will not be notified of negative test results.

Families *will* be notified immediately by LabQ if their child receives a positive COVID-19 test result.

Are students required to be tested before the first day of school?

No. Our planned first day of testing will be conducted on the first full day of school, Thursday, September 8.

What happens if a student or staff member tests positive?

Hebrew Public schools will follow a strict set of protocols in the event of a positive COVID-19 test result among our students and/or staff. We will also follow any direction provided by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), who we are mandated to notify immediately when we are made aware of a positive case. Hebrew Public's protocols include clear directives regarding communication and quarantine/isolation mandates for staff and students. Some key policies in the event of a positive case:

- A staff member who has tested positive or the family of a student who has tested positive will be notified immediately (even if they have already been notified by LabQ)

- A positive individual, regardless of vaccination status, will be required to isolate for a minimum of 10 days.
- All students who share a homeroom/advisory with an individual who tests positive will be required to quarantine for a minimum of 10 days. In most cases, the entire class will be shifted to remote instruction for the duration of quarantine. Communication to these families will happen immediately.
- Vaccinated individuals, as per CDC guidance, will not be required to quarantine, but will be required to get tested 3-5 days after exposure.
- The classroom will be closed until a deep disinfection and cleaning can be conducted.
- The school will conduct immediate contact tracing and any other unvaccinated staff or students who have had close contact with a positive individual will be required to quarantine for a minimum of 10 days.

If a staff member or student has previously tested positive, will they be tested?

As per most guidance, individuals who have had COVID-19 should refrain from testing until 90 days have passed from the day of infection. If your child has had COVID in the past 90 days, please notify your school.

Vaccination

Is Hebrew Public requiring staff to be vaccinated?

Hebrew Public believes that fully vaccinating as many members of our community as possible is a critical element of our layered mitigation strategy. All of our staff are required to get vaccinated with the exception of a very small number who may be exempt under federal or state law. We expect almost 100% of our staff to be at least partially vaccinated by the first week of school and fully vaccinated by mid-October.

Is the school going to require proof of vaccination for staff?

Yes. We are actively collecting proof of vaccination from our staff members..

Will Hebrew Public require eligible students to get vaccinated?

Unless federal or state law requires it, Hebrew Public has no plans to mandate vaccination for students. We strongly encourage all families to consider vaccination for their eligible children, as well as for all eligible members of their households.