@akiva Reopening

Our aim is to return to school for in-person learning while doing our best to mitigate health risks in developmentally appropriate ways. We recognize the importance of in-person education as an ideal. The opportunities for collaboration, connection, and relationships with both teachers and peers is critical for our students’ growth. That can best be done in person.

Assessing for Symptoms

Parent must click on this link and fill out the @akiva Daily Health Checklist for each of their children who are attending an in-person @akiva Program (click on the Link). Students who have not submitted the Daily Health Checklist will not be permitted to enter the Mandel JDS building for @akiva classes.

Individuals with symptoms as described on the form must be evaluated and cleared by their primary care physician before returning to school.

If a student develops symptoms during class, or is found to have had an exposure to COVID-19, the student will be separated from the class and parents will be asked to pick him/her up within 30 minutes. There will be designated, clean, supervised and well-ventilated areas set aside for symptomatic students who are awaiting pickup.

Face coverings

All adults and students in the building will be required to wear face coverings at all times. In instances where wearing a mask will be difficult (for learning or comfort purposes), face shields will be allowed as an alternative. The face shield should be properly fitted to cover the entire face from the forehead to well below the chin and should extend laterally well beyond the lips and mouth. Families will be expected to provide face coverings, though we will have an emergency supply of disposable masks should one be necessary.

Environmental Cleaning and Hand Hygiene

Mandel JDS places a high priority on cleaning and sanitizing the school building. Their staff will be responsible for the following deep cleaning and disinfecting each day before @akiva students enter the building:

- The Mandel JDS building has a hi-tech ventilation system, which pulls fresh air from the outside every 10 minutes and purifies it instead of recirculating inside air. They switch out Merv-13 air filters every 3 months instead of the recommended 6 months.
- All surfaces in @akiva classrooms will be sanitized after use by Mandel students and before @akiva students
- Water fountains will be turned off
- Bathrooms will be cleaned
- Sanitizer dispensers have been placed throughout the building.
Protocols for attending in-person @akiva Programs:

- All students and teachers will wear masks at all times while in the building.
- All students and teachers will submit the Daily Health Checklist prior to entering the building.
- Students and teachers will be required to maintain social distancing at all times. We have confirmed the size of our classrooms allow us to maintain our class sizes while meeting state guidelines for distancing and ventilation.
- Students and faculty will be encouraged to frequently wash and sanitize their hands.
- When weather permits, @akiva break will be taken outside. Students will be supervised to maintain socially distant and small group (6 maximum) interactions.
- Following CDC guidelines, @akiva will not be providing snacks at break times. Students are permitted to bring their own Kosher snacks but they may not share their snacks with other students or teachers.
- Parents and visitors will not be permitted to enter the Mandel JDS building.

All cases of COVID-19 will be expected to quarantine for up to 14 days, and to return to school only after being cleared by their primary health care physician. Should there be multiple positive cases within one classroom, we will follow the guidance of the health department. It is impossible to predict the full range of scenarios that could arise so we will work with CCBH closely with the goal of maximizing the safety of all members of our @akiva community.

Of course, this plan can only be successful with the full commitment of our entire community - parents, teachers, and students. Though it will be hard, we - especially the adults - have to educate our children and model for them what it means to care for the health and safety of others. That’s what it means to be a part of a community.