



Brandeis Marin Reopening Plan 2020-2021

This school reopening plan is Cal/OSHA compliant and aligned with all local, state and CDC health guidelines. You may review this plan on our website at www.brandeismarin.org.

COVID-19 is with us for the foreseeable future and our school reopening plan recognizes that aspects of our society are reopening within the confines of this reality. Brandeis Marin is in agreement with public health and educational experts locally and nationally that being at school is good for kids. The peer social connection, positive learning environment, and social-emotional support available to children in school is important to healthy childhood development. Our school's reopening plan is informed by and aligned with evidence-based strategies that lower the risk of exposure and allow for contact tracing if someone becomes symptomatic.

SCHOOL PRIORITIES

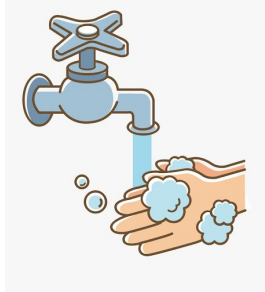
- 1. School will be a safe and healthy place for students, faculty, and staff.**
- 2. All students will have access to high quality, exceptional learning in a warm, nurturing community.**
- 3. Our program will be flexible and prepared in the event that school must return home periodically next year.**

HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES

Specific health and safety measures are fundamental to making our return to learning on campus possible. As a community, we must all be committed to doing our part – families and school – to teach our kids the fundamentals of safe and healthy behaviors.

Fundamental Health and Safety Practices

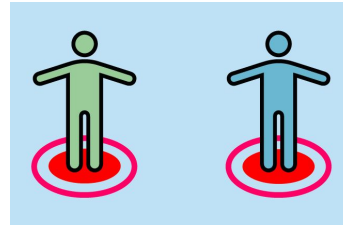
What are the fundamentals of safe and healthy behavior during this pandemic?



Frequent hand washing



Everyone wears an approved face covering



Physical distancing



Frequent cleaning and disinfecting

These four practices have been universally recognized and validated as reducing risk of transmission of the Coronavirus (and other infectious diseases). Together with families, Brandeis Marin is committed to training all students and staff in these practices and making them the highest health and safety priority for our school.

Please ensure your child comes to school every day with a face covering that he or she knows how to wear. According to the California Department of Public Health, a cloth face covering is a material that covers the nose and mouth which can be secured to the head with ties or straps. Cloth face coverings can be made of a variety of materials, such as cotton, silk, or linen. (See examples pictured below.) Students may also wear [face shields with a drape around the head](#) (pictured below). These may be more comfortable and allow others to see one's entire face.



The school will have single use face masks on hand to give to students as needed.

The requirement to wear face covering applies to all students, including students in kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade. A face shield without a drape is approved for those students.

If you believe this guidance is contraindicated for your K, 1st or 2nd grade child, please contact Bev Boorman (bboorman@brandeismarin.org) for an accommodation.

Schoolwide safety measures

Additionally, Brandeis Marin will be enforcing these schoolwide health and safety measures to reduce risk of exposure and promote the wellness of our community.



Daily symptom screening



Staying home when not feeling well



Well ventilated classrooms



Student cohorts by grade level

Daily Health Screening

The school will require a daily health screening for everyone entering campus (including temperature check for all students). We urge everyone to stay at home when not feeling well. In case of fever of 100 or higher, students, faculty, and staff will need to stay home until fever free for 72 hours without the aid of fever reducing medication. Students, faculty, or staff who exhibit the following symptoms: persistent runny nose, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, chills, or muscle pain, will be sent home immediately and are required to stay home until they are symptom free.

Moreover, stay home if someone in your household has come into contact with someone who is COVID positive. Please report to health@brandeismarin.org if you or your child has COVID-19 symptoms or has come into contact with someone who is COVID positive. This information also needs to be reported to Marin Public Health so they can conduct appropriate contact tracing.

The highly contagious nature of this virus means we all must take extra steps to keep one another safe. Families are strongly encouraged to closely monitor the health of all members of the household. When your child is exhibiting symptoms of illness, please keep your child home. We understand that staying home when there is a question about whether your child is exhibiting symptoms is significant. Together we can reduce the risk of exposure to illness by committing ourselves to staying home when sick.

If your student feels well enough to engage in learning but you feel like s/he may be coming down with something, stay home and access our hybrid learning program online. There is no need for your child to worry about falling behind. When each of us makes the choice to stay home when sick, we will make school a healthier place for everyone.

Procedure for responding to COVID or suspected COVID cases in our community

Scenario	Action	Communication
Student or staff member exhibits COVID-19 symptoms or answers “yes” to health screening questions or has a temperature of 100 or above	Student or staff member is sent home or stays home Cohort remains open	Family is advised to contact physician
Family member or someone in close contact tests positive for COVID-19	Student or staff member sent or stays home; family in quarantine Cohort remains open	Get tested Notify cohort
Student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19	Cohort closed for quarantine for 14 days from last known exposure	Cohort gets tested Notify cohort
Student or staff member tests negative for COVID-19	Return to cohort 3 days after symptoms resolve	Notify cohort

The State of California has provided guidance for closing the entire school when multiple cohorts have cases OR more than 5% of the school is COVID positive.

Community Responsibility and Partnership

Families play a vital role in keeping our campus safe. Your ongoing support and cooperation will make it possible for us to keep school safe and healthy for everyone. Any effort we put into maintaining physical distancing and cohort groups on campus will not be effective unless students and their families exercise a similar level of caution in the evenings and on the weekends. For this reason, we urge you to follow all state and local guidelines regarding physical distancing and wearing a face covering. **Please stay within your child(ren)’s cohort as much as possible outside of school. We also ask that families avoid large social gatherings. Finally, we ask families to avoid all unnecessary travel and self-quarantine for 14 days following air travel and/or if potentially exposed to COVID-19.**

Visitors on campus

In an effort to minimize the risk of exposure, we are adhering to Marin County Public Health guidelines to minimize visitors on campus only to essential visitors, such as repair and delivery workers. Parent volunteers and tutors will not be permitted on campus in compliance with this guideline. Parents will be permitted on campus only in cases of emergency.

Additionally, we will not be holding large in person gatherings in compliance with state and local Marin guidelines. All large events such as tefillah will be fully accessible via Zoom.

Classroom health supplies

Each classroom will have a full supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) which will include extra face masks and gloves. Each classroom will have a full supply of hand sanitizer that will be frequently used throughout the day in addition to regular hand washing. Each classroom will also have its own supply of first aid equipment, including bandaids so kids will not need to walk to the front office to get them. We will continue to keep fully stocked emergency bags in each classroom as well.

We have installed four additional exterior hand washing stations on Swig Field to allow students to wash their hands more regularly.

Cleaning

We have developed and will maintain a rigorous daily cleaning schedule. This cleaning schedule complies with Cal/OSHA and CDC standards for cleaning and disinfecting workplaces and schools. Surfaces will be cleaned and sanitized multiple times each day. A deep cleaning (including disinfecting) will occur each day (and more frequently for spaces such as restrooms). All classrooms and offices will be stocked with a cleaning supply kit to facilitate regular cleaning of heavily used surfaces (such as desks, doorknobs, countertops, etc.).

All disinfectants are approved by EPA for effectiveness against COVID-19 and will be kept out of the reach of children.

Spaces: Indoor and outdoor

Outdoor spaces will be heavily utilized for learning as well as physical activity and recreation.

Classrooms will be well ventilated. The heating and air conditioning system has been upgraded with MERV 13 air filters. Window fans have been installed in all windows to promote ventilation. All classrooms will be regularly monitored for adequate ventilation using our air quality and CO₂ monitors.

Within classrooms, physical distancing will be implemented by seating students four feet apart at desks that are facing forward. Teachers will maintain six feet of distance where practicable.

Classes will use designated entrances and exits to avoid bottlenecks and minimize contact between students of different grades. Additionally, movement through the hallways will be limited for the same reason.

There will be no entry through the JCC.

Personal classroom supplies

Each student will have personal school supplies that will not be shared with other students. These supplies will be stored in a closed container and will remain in the classroom. We ask that you limit the personal items your child brings to school and make it clear to your child that personal items may not be shared with other students.

Restrooms

Our restrooms have been modified to enhance safety during the pandemic. For example, all toilets in the restrooms have had lids added to them. Students will be instructed to close the lid prior to flushing in order to reduce aerosol transmission. Additionally, we have installed touchless soap dispensers and towel dispensers.

Use of the restroom will be limited to two students at a time. The middle stall in each bathroom will be out of service to allow for appropriate distancing. Each grade will have access to our restrooms at set times so as to limit interaction between students of different grades. Of course, students will also be able to use restrooms as needed.

Restrooms will be sanitized frequently throughout the day and disinfected multiple times each day. A deep clean of the restrooms will occur at the end of each day.

Kindergarten, first, and second grade each have their own dedicated restroom attached to the classroom.

Lunch program

Given the changing public health landscape, we will not be able to offer a lunch program for the first semester. Please provide your child with lunch and a water bottle. Water fountains on campus will be adapted for water bottle use only.

Transportation

At this time, we are planning on offering transportation to interested families. That said, Marin Public Health has not yet released formal guidance on school bus density. We will communicate the guidance for school transportation when we receive it and will follow their recommendations. We anticipate that capacity for each van may be reduced. Therefore, families who can drive their children to school are encouraged to do so.

After School Program

Due to requirements not to mix student cohorts, our multi-grade PM program and after school enrichment program may not be able to operate for the first semester. We do hope to offer *essential* after school care. If your family situation requires after school care, please contact Bev Boorman (bboorman@brandeismarin.org).

Middle school students will not be permitted to remain after school while the JCC is closed.

CORE EDUCATIONAL PILLARS

Our academic program rests on five core educational pillars:

Creative, collaborative curriculum

Our innovative and rigorous curriculum integrates experiential learning, applied technology, artistic expression, and enduring values in a Jewish context that inspires students to live with purpose.

Project-based, hands-on learning

Our commitment to project-based learning fosters creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and problem solving in every classroom, providing students with the skills needed to succeed in the 21st century.

Child-centered approach

Our child-centered approach to learning honors the curiosity of each student and creates opportunities for all students to pursue their individual interests. Our caring and committed teachers model high expectations and compassion for each child.

Rich Jewish learning made modern and relevant

Our Jewish studies curriculum challenges students to ask good questions, value multiple perspectives, and wrestle with ethical questions while nurturing their spirit to experience moments of awe in life. Our community fosters a sense of connection to the people and land of Israel as a source of spiritual and cultural inspiration.

Warm and welcoming community

We provide a warm and welcoming place for families to build connections. We enable students to develop their passions, understand themselves as learners, and find their place within our learning community.

LEARNING AND SCHEDULES

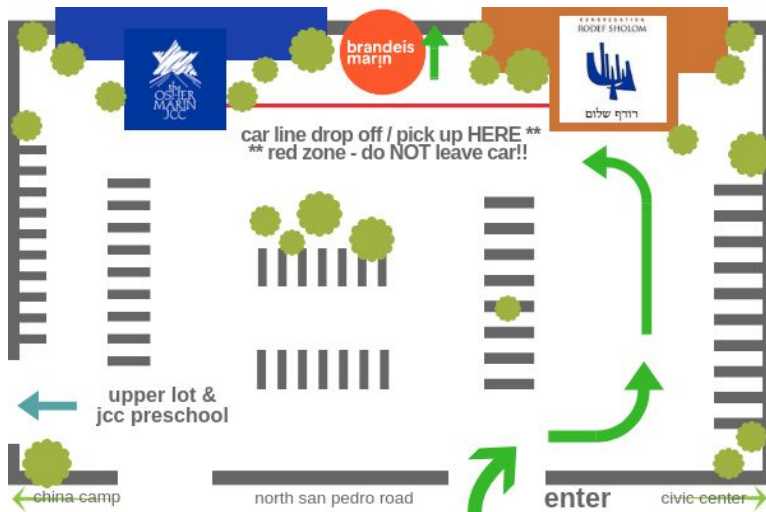
For the 2020-2021 school year, Brandeis Marin is instituting staggered start and end times to the day in order to promote physical distancing between students and reduce bottlenecks when arriving on campus or departing. Staggered start times are:

8:00am for lower school (arrive between 7:45-8:00am)

8:15am for middle school (arrive between 8:00-8:15am)

Arrival procedure

All students will be dropped off in front of the synagogue.



Symptom screening and temperature check will be completed at the curbside before disembarking from the vehicle.

Dismissal procedure

We will use our rainy day dismissal procedure all year. Parents will remain in their cars using the same procedure as morning drop off. Students will be called from their classrooms to be picked up curbside.

Stable student cohorts

Each grade will be a stable cohort, interacting only with one another. This will reduce the possibility of transmission and serve as a “bubble” from a public health standpoint.

Recess and lunch

Recesses and lunch times will also be staggered to minimize contact between cohorts and to maximize space for outdoor physical activities.

Daily schedules

Classes will each have a consistent schedule that will be available for both students and parents online. Students will be taught how to access their schedules digitally. The goal is for even our

youngest students to become independent in accessing assignments, lessons, homework, and announcements.

Learning Management System (LMS)

This year, we are introducing a single learning management system (LMS) to post content, weekly and daily schedules, course materials, projects, and assignments in all grades and all classes. Every class will post course materials using a consistent, systematic structure. This will make locating the course work simple. This common platform will provide a consistent interface across all classes. The daily and weekly schedule in each class will reveal a predictable rhythm to each day. Lessons will be built to promote learning across multiple modalities (in person, hybrid, and distance learning).

With common, consistent principles and a common platform underlying instruction, student learning will continue seamlessly even if we must toggle between in school learning and home learning due to public health concerns.

Students (and families!) will be trained in how to use this LMS in order to access learning and project materials at any time, anywhere, and to review lessons or feedback on submitted work as needed.

Specialist classes are integral to our program at Brandeis Marin. We expect students to fully engage in art, music, PE, and library assignments and lessons, as they would regard any other subject.

Field trips and access to outdoor experiences for learning will be emphasized as much as possible. The status of grade specific outdoor education trips is still to be determined. Some providers such as Walker Creek Ranch have already notified us that their facility will be closed for the school year. Experiences such as the Middle School retreat will be reconceived to take place during the school day at the start of the school year.

FLEXIBILITY AND ADAPTABILITY

The pandemic has not changed our commitment to our educational priorities. We are committed to nurturing students' minds and hearts, tending to their academic growth, sense of awe and wonder, and emotional well-being.

During the 2020-2021 school year, we will be offering learning in three modalities: in person learning, distance learning, and hybrid learning.

Flexible learning in three modalities:

In-person learning: While possible, we will offer learning in school with peers and teachers. This offers students full access to the rich, hands-on curriculum and social-emotional support that we have all come to expect from a Brandeis Marin education.

Distance learning: Should state or local officials order the closure of school, or in the event a cohort needs to close down for health and safety reasons, all learning will shift to a distance learning format. We have worked to create consistent schedules in classes to make accessing learning simplified. Students will be trained in using the learning management system (LMS) for all of their classes which will make any needed transition to distance learning smooth and simplified. Posted weekly and daily schedules, course content, materials, projects, and assignments will be fully available and easily accessible. Communication between students and teachers will happen through the LMS to make it easy to access lessons, submit work, and receive individualized feedback.

Hybrid learning: For the 2020-2021 school year, we recognize that families may choose to continue with learning from home even while in person learning is happening in school. This decision can be long term (for the entire school year) or short term (for just a day or two while recovering from an illness). Hybrid learning will have asynchronous and synchronous aspects to it. Since all classes will utilize a single learning management system (LMS) to post content, weekly and daily schedules, course materials, projects, and assignments, it will be easy for students to find their daily coursework, connect with their teacher or classmates, access lessons, submit work, and receive individualized feedback. Teachers will provide individualized support through required meetups with students. Students will have opportunities to connect with classmates and participate in things like morning meetings or class discussions.

Our program has been designed with insights drawn from feedback we received during the 2019-2020 school year. We have also relied on research from public health and medical professionals, educators, architects, scientists and engineers to help us create a framework for learning that will allow us to pivot quickly between these three modalities and respond to evolving circumstances. Moreover, we feel that this year, more than ever, our program needs to offer families a degree of choice in how to access learning.

All of our faculty members will have been extensively trained in new pedagogical approaches that support this flexible model of learning and enables us to be flexible and adaptable to the dynamic situation around us. As always, we will welcome ongoing communication and feedback from parents and students to help us learn, adapt and improve the learning experience throughout the year.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Marin County Public Health: A Guided Return to Site Based Classroom Instruction
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mG8uGowT4aZrzHPSu9-rSiRVrqLepiHC/view>

American Academy of Pediatrics: COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Guidance for Re-entry
<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

National Center for Biotechnology Information at the National Institutes of Health
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7273848/>

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health: Risk Reduction Strategies for ReOpening Schools
<https://www.wasa-oly.org/WASA/images/WASA/6.0%20Resources/Hanover/Harvard%20Report%20for%20Reopening%20Schools---June%202020.pdf>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/18/health/coronavirus-children-schools.html?referringSource=articleShare>

Stronger Together: A Guidebook for the Safe Reopening of California's Public Schools
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/documents/strongertogether.pdf>

California Department of Public Health: Framework for Reopening In-Person Learning (7/17/20)
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Schools%20Reopening%20Recommendations.pdf>

California Department of Public Health: Guidance for Schools and School-based Programs
<https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-schools.pdf>

CDC Guidance for Schools
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>