

# Solomon Schechter Day School

## Fall 2020 Back to School Plan

Companion Guide to Slide Presentation

### A Message to Schechter Parents

Throughout the COVID19 pandemic, our Schechter community has demonstrated tremendous strength, resilience, and support for one another. As we prepare for the 2020-2021 school year, we are grateful for the extensive research, time, and devotion of our educational and administrative leaders, as well as our Board and volunteers. We are proud to share our plan for a safe return to campus for all students, five days a week, beginning on August 19, 2020.

This plan incorporates the latest science and data, guidelines, and best practices in education currently available, and has been unanimously approved by the SSDS Board of Directors. Thank you for the trust you place in our school as we continue to navigate this new reality together as partners to educate your children.

**Dr. Lena Kushnir (SSDS '88)**, *Proud Head of School*  
**Liesel Jankelowitz**, *SSDS Board President*

### MEDICAL ADVISORY TEAM

Dr. Aaron Epstein (Emergency Medicine)  
Dr. Judith Glassenberg (Pediatrics)  
Dr. Larry Jankelowitz (Pulmonary Disease)  
Dr. Laura Levin (Pediatric Endocrinology)  
Dr. Josh Levin (Pediatrics)

### BOARD TASK FORCE

Medwin Dayan  
Liesel Jankelowitz  
Gil Soffer  
Staci Studnitzer  
Marc Yoskowitz

### Guiding Principles

#### Physical Health and Safety

It is always a priority to keep our students, faculty, and staff safe and healthy. Given the COVID19 pandemic, we will be implementing additional protocols and procedures to maximize the safety of our community. It is imperative that everyone in our community follows these protocols to guide our safe return to on-site learning at our Ginsburg Early Childhood Center and Sager School.

#### Emotional Well Being

We place as much emphasis on our community's emotional well-being as we do on their physical health and safety. We pride ourselves on creating an environment that educates the whole child, providing skills and support to build resilience, perspective-taking, empathy, and other essential life skills. We recognize the additional needs our community will have this year, and will support them as we continue to navigate this uncharted territory.

#### Exemplary Education

We remain committed to providing an outstanding educational experience for our students. While our classrooms and instructional strategies will be modified to meet the requirements to keep our community safe, we will engage our students actively in their learning and work to ensure that they continue to make progress across the academic disciplines. We will adjust our plans so our students can participate in Jewish life and learning meaningfully, praying, studying Torah, and preparing for and celebrating the holidays.

July 28, 2020

#### **GUIDANCE ISSUED BY**

- Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)
- Illinois Department of Health (IDPH)
- Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) - ECC

#### **NETWORKS OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS**

- Prizmah/Local Jewish Day School Council
- National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)
- Independent School Association of Central States (ISACS)
- National Business Officers Association (NBOA)
- Lake Michigan Association of Independent Schools (LMAIS)

#### **LOGISTICS TEAMS**

#### **CONSULTATION WITH SCHOOL LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES**

#### **How will we keep our community healthy?** (SLIDE 16)

- Daily screening at home for symptoms and submission of information in health screening app (students, faculty, staff)
- ECC daily temperature and symptom screening on site (DCFS requirement)
- Flu shots strongly encouraged and documented (students, faculty, staff)
- Hand hygiene - teaching and reinforcing
- Wearing masks/face coverings
- Distancing 6 feet
- Each grade is a cohort and only students only mix with others in their cohort
- Minimizing shared supplies
- Regular sanitizing
- Enhanced ventilation and air flow
- No parents, guests or volunteers in the building
- Staggered drop off and pick up
- Safety protocols on buses

#### **How will we prepare our students?** (SLIDE 17)

- Videos and information to preview the building and new protocols
- Meetings with teachers before school:
  - Sager School 1-1 Zoom sessions with kehillah teacher
  - Ginsburg ECC home visits
  - First two days of school: Half attendance (Sager School)
- Wednesday, August 19th
  - Thursday, August 20th
  - Friday, August 21st: All students
- Kehillah time: time to process changes and emotional experiences

PHASE 4	PHASE 3	PHASE 2
<p>On campus learning</p> <p>No more than 50 students in a cohort</p> <p>All IDPH and ISBE* requirements and guidelines will be followed</p> <p>Virtual access will be provided for students who are unable to attend in person (Sager School)</p>	<p>On-campus, in-person learning <i>IF we have enough faculty</i></p> <p>If we do NOT have enough faculty, some students will be remote and some on campus</p> <p>No more than 10 students in a cohort</p> <p>We will survey our parents to determine more details</p> <p>All IDPH and ISBE requirements and guidelines will be followed</p>	<p>100% remote learning</p> <p>Remote learning website will be activated</p> <p>Daily schedules will be provided</p> <p>School will provide technology to those in need</p> <p>Students will take materials home if possible, or we will arrange for pick-up of student materials</p>

**We will move to remote learning in phases 4 or 3 if:**

- We feel the safety of the community is in jeopardy for any reason pertinent to our school context
- We have inadequate faculty to run full programming due to illness, childcare, or other COVID19-related issues

Phase 3: (SLIDES 57-59)

Phase 2: (SLIDE 60)

**Face Coverings and Distancing Guidelines:** (SLIDES 32-35)

- Students, faculty and staff will remain at 6 feet distance whenever possible
- Individuals will be allowed to be within 6 feet of each other for short periods of time (less than 15 minutes) with appropriate face coverings and for specific purposes
- Face coverings will be worn at all times, except during:
  - Snack/lunch (6 feet distanced)
  - Outdoor PE (10-12 feet distanced)
  - Outdoor classes (6 feet distanced)
- Face coverings will be placed in an individual brown paper bag when not work
- Face coverings must cover one's mouth and nose and fit snugly against the sides of the face with no gaps
- Reusable face coverings should be washed and allowed to dry after each use

### **Sager School Classrooms** (SLIDE 37)

- Students will stay in one core classroom
- Teachers will move in and out of spaces, including specialists
- Students will have assigned seats, 6 feet apart
- We are exploring clear desk dividers
- Once math and Hebrew groups happen, they will take place in the grade's core classrooms
  - Students and teachers will sanitize in between usage  
(there will be an entire session during faculty planning days about sanitizing)
- Outdoor classroom spaces are being created

### **ECC Classrooms and Supplies** (SLIDE 38)

- Alim students and teachers will remain in one core class
- Alonim students and teachers will remain in one core class for Core Program and will combine for the PM program
- Students will sit 6 feet apart during Aseifat Kita, snack, and lunch
- Classrooms will have rotating group materials for each day of the week that will be sanitized after each use
  - (blocks, magnetiles, manipulatives, etc...)
- Classrooms will have individual materials for each student
  - (markers, scissors, playdough, etc...)
- Designated spaces being considered for outdoor classrooms

### **Students Supplies** (SLIDE 39)

### **Sanitizing** (SLIDE 40)

### **Ventilation** (SLIDE 41)

### **Music and Band** (SLIDE 44)

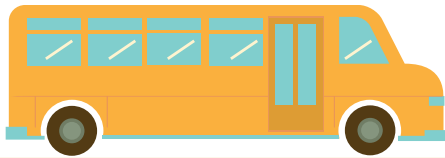
### **Parents, Guests, and Volunteers** (SLIDE 42)

- Until the State of Illinois reaches Phase 5, parents, visitors, and volunteers will not be allowed in the buildings (with the exception of ECC drop off)
- All parent events, such as meeting teachers before school, parent orientation and conferences will be held virtually
- All grade and school-wide events have been moved to second semester, with the hope of possibly coming together in person

### **Before School and After School** (SLIDE 43)

*Until State of Illinois reaches Phase 5, there will be no:*

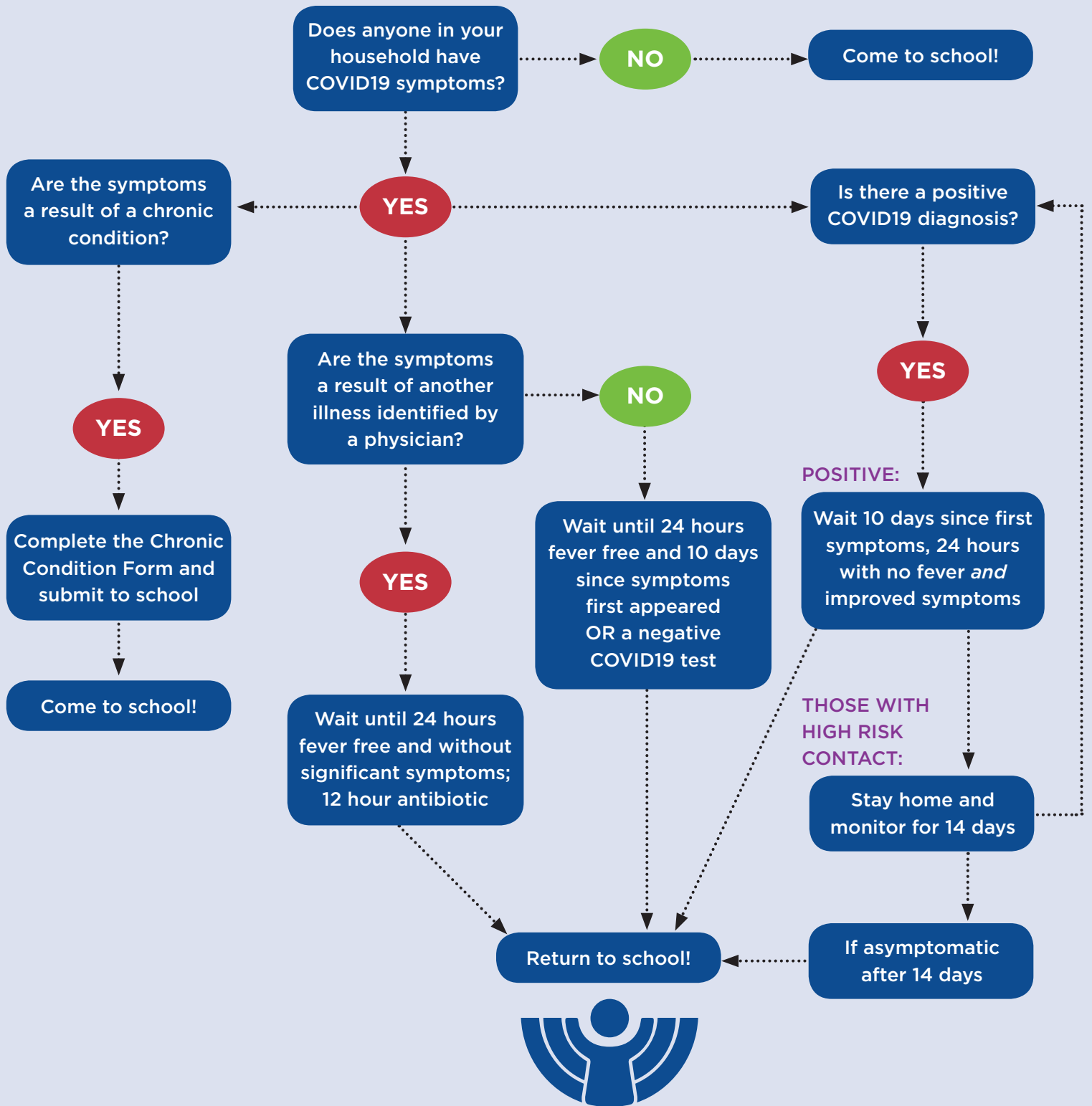
- Early care
- After care
- In-person PO after school activities (there will be virtual offerings in all other phases)
- Athletics (in process - possibly by grade)



### **Buses** (SLIDE 46)

- We encourage families to drive if possible
- Skokie Buses WILL run during Phase 4
- Buses will NOT run in Phase 3
- Buses will be fogged every 72 hours and wiped down in between use
- Students will only be allowed on the bus if the app screening has been completed
- Students will sanitize hands as they get on the bus
- Students will sit with siblings
- Seating will be staggered
- Students will load from back to front, as possible
- All students must wear a mask for the entire ride
- Windows will remain open as much as possible
- Linda will check in all students and follow the Skokie buses
- Each bus will have a bus captain who can contact Linda

If/Then Flow Chart (SLIDES 21-29)



## **Sager Drop Off and Pick Up**

### **Staggered Drop Off** (SLIDES 47-48)

- Families will be assigned doors and times
- Beginning at 7:50am and every 5 minutes until 8:05am
- We will be using all 3 doors (South, West, and North)
- All parents must stay in their car
- Students will stay in car until security or staff member sees green check in app
- Older siblings MAY walk Kindergarten and first grade students to their classrooms,

OR

- Kindergarten and first grade students will be walked to their classrooms by a staff member

### **Staggered Dismissal**

- Beginning at 3:20pm
- Buses will be called first and leave at 3:25pm
- West Door called at 3:25pm
- South Door and North Door:
  - Two “waves” of pick up for each door – families will be assigned
  - South Door: 3:25pm and 3:35pm
  - North Door: 3:30pm and 3:40pm
- Waiting areas by grade
- Faculty and staff will NOT be buckling students
- Students picked up after 4pm – wait in office/isolation rooms
- Different colored tags will be provided for each student’s backpack

## **Ginsburg ECC Drop Off** (SLIDES 49-50)

### **Staggered Arrival**

- Each class will be assigned a separate designated drop off time and door (siblings will be dropped off with the oldest child)
- Completion of symptom screening app prior to arrival
- Upon arrival, parents should park and follow the designated path to the playground
- At the classroom door off of the playground, parents will present the self wellness check from our app to the appropriate faculty member
- Each child's temperature will be taken upon arrival and recorded as a pass/fail
- Hands will be washed with soap and water prior to entering the classroom

### **Staggered Dismissal**

- Parents/caregivers should arrive no earlier than 5 minutes prior to assigned pick up time
- At the assigned time, parents/caregivers will wait by the assigned door and teachers will bring children to them
- While waiting, all adults must maintain 6 feet distance
- Once the child has been handed off to the parent or caregiver, they should return to their car immediately

### **Additional Information for Sager School**

#### **Bathrooms** (SLIDE 51)

#### **Hallways** (SLIDE 52)

#### **Lunch** (SLIDE 53)

#### **Recess** (SLIDE 54)

**Thank you again for your trust and partnership. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at [covidresponse@schechter.org](mailto:covidresponse@schechter.org)**



**SOLOMON SCHECHTER  
DAY SCHOOL**  
OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO  
בית הספר ש. זלמן שכטר

A partner with the Jewish United Fund in serving our community.

We appreciate the generous assistance provided by the Bernard Heerey Family Foundation Seventh Grade Scholarship Program for our Schechter families. Solomon Schechter Day School accepts students and parents of any race, color, national and ethnic origin, sexual orientation or gender identity.