

What is recommended for safe admission?

The MD State Health Department recommends each parent bring their own thermometer and take their child's temperature when you arrive. Virtual inspections by the MD State Health Department will be taking place and the school will need to show our logs and health screenings. All screening questions and temp checks will be logged prior to admittance to school.

Please keep in mind your plans 2 weeks before school starts to give time for self-quarantine. For best practices, be mindful of where you are going, where you have been, and who you have been around for contact tracing.

How will kids feel part of a larger community if they are restricted to their “pods”?

With consistency and routine. They will be able to get to know teachers and new students in their room. This will become their community initially. Rabbi Gruenberg, along with the new Hazzan, Cantor Herman as well as our Specialists, will be on rotation visiting each classroom. Just coming back into their classrooms will feel like a new community to them too.

Who are behind these precautions and knowledge?

We are following various guidelines from the CDC, MD Department of Licensing Protocol, and with support from the CAC COVID committees. Our Synagogue and Schools are working very closely with Hospital CEOs, Mental Health professionals, educators, clergy, supply-chain and nurses. Our school heads meet regularly and are on the COVID committee together.

Our COVID Committee communicates daily and holds weekly meetings to share policies within our organization of schools as well as other schools in the area. Although all of the Chizuk Amuno Schools share policies for re-opening, they are not all the same at this time. Please confirm with the Director of each school as to what their specific re-opening plans and protocols are for each student attending.

Comforting News...

Any school in MD is allowed to open on their own. If there's a state mandated closure, there will probably be an option to apply to be an essential school to open and remain open as long as we can.

The JCC in Owings Mills, operated as a preschool over the past few months and they used as much of their indoor space as their outdoor. Along with other local camps such as Coppermine, who held programming for children all summer, and had great success.

How is re-opening going to look different this year?

As of September 1, 2020 we are open for school. Hours from 8am - 3:30pm

First and foremost we believe a partnership is what is going to make all of this work!

With conscientious participation from parents and staff, we have a great chance in making this happen with success. We can't wait to rekindle our friendships and for new ones to be created.

The **COVID COMMITTEE** has been working endlessly to put into place all of the new health protocols.

In conjunction with creating a warm, loving environment for the kids to return to.

We ask everyone to be highly responsible. If you're going to a risk state, you must quarantine for 2 weeks.

Upon screenings, we ask you to be HONEST, it can affect the entire closing of school. Although you may have a meeting to get to, the screening and honesty of your child's health and where you have been is ultimately what is going to keep us open and everything flowing properly long term.

We know there's a lot of fears and anxieties of returning. Things are changing regularly and rapidly.

We will be operating on "red level" and adhering to strict protocols – starting with:

NO child will be admitted without current health forms and updated immunizations.

WE ASK YOU FILL IN A NEW FORM VS UPDATED FROM LAST YEARS

Every morning teachers will have health and temperature screenings upon their arrival. Hands must be washed with soap and water upon entering the building. ALL staff of Chizuk Amuno and Schools will wash hands and will be wearing a face mask when in the building. Parents and visitors will not be allowed to enter the facility at this time. All hugs/kisses/goodbyes will happen outside of the building.

Once your children arrive to school, their classrooms will feel normal to them, simply with masked teachers. The first thing children will do when they enter the classroom is wash their hands with soap and water. We **WILL NOT** be using hand sanitizer with our children because there is alcohol in there and we are not permitted to do so. **TIP:** Practice **FREQUENT** hand-washing with them at home, to mirror what's happening in school. We will not be using sanitizers at school.

REMINI is going to be 99% of how we communicate with you. We ask that 1, pref both parents are registered to receive notifications from Remini. If you still need help getting setup, please contact Mona to assist.

Dropoff will be staggered. There will be no early arrival. Classrooms will open at 8am.

HIGHLY HIGHLY HIGHLY recommended that you and your kids get **FLU SHOT** this year, **BUT** it's recommended to wait until late Fall.

Toys will be sanitized after each use. We will be rotating toys frequently while they are sanitized. Using color tape and Hula hoops so that we can better social distance. Kids may have their own "space" to play. Kids will still be able to play together, but we will be limiting the numbers of children playing together in one space.

Dress up clothes will **NOT** be in the classrooms. Books and paper materials will still be used. We may limit them so that we can sanitize them and rotate items.

Children won't be traveling outside classrooms to community spaces. Specialists will be traveling to each room (Music, Drama, Story Time) so we can continue our routines, but it may look and feel a little different.

Shabbat in classrooms will still happen. **NO GUESTS** will be allowed. For all Birthdays and Shabbat experiences, we will incorporate the honored student's family to celebrate via zoom. You may send a treat with your child for the classroom - but must be individually packaged.

No Enrichments for the Fall semester (1:30-3pm)- we will re-evaluate for December to see where we stand for the winter.

What are the protocols for wearing masks?

All adults in the building **MUST** wear a mask. The only adults allowed in the building will be, screened staff.

Children 3 and under are not required to wear a mask, but if you would like your child to wear a mask, we are happy to encourage that protocol to happen.

Children 4 and older are required to wear a mask.

You will need to send a minimum of 1 face masks marked with the child's full name (preferably 2), inside a bag. Masks then must be washed at night, and a fresh masks must be provided for the next day.

Please don't hand us a face mask on the first day and expect us to teach them to use it. We encourage you to teach your child ahead of time on why, and how to wear a mask, and how to comfortably breathe in the mask.

All teachers will be in masks, so please remind the child that they will be wearing one. A teacher may choose to wear a face shield but a mask will also be worn underneath.

If we needed to go into an communal spaces, they must have a face covering.

Staff is required to wear a mask every day, all day. Anyone in the building will be wearing a face covering.

We will not walking children to the nurses office. We will have a room in the preschool that will be empty, so the nurse can come observe the child, and the child can also be checked by an outside door.

Will parents need to be screened as well?

No because they're not entering the school. All staff or who enter the building will have a temp check.

What is dropoff going to look like?

We will be working in conjunction with KSDS. You can drop off your children at same assigned time, but they will need to go through separate entrances.

Dropoff will be from 8-9:15am; in increments of 15min.

During your designated 15min period, each student will have their health screening and temp check, and go to their classroom. Please bring your thermometer from home. We will have one here, but having yours makes it faster and less sanitizing between screenings.

**Health screen consists of:
TEMP WITH OUR OWN THERMOMETER
TEMPS TAKEN 100.4 IS A FEVER**

If they have a 100, we will send them home for observations, we will be making very strict calls, drippy nose.

If your cant make your designated dropoff time - we ask that you wait until after 9:15 to drop them off. You will need to call the office and let Mona know that you need to be admitted.

GOLDSMITHECC@chizukamuno.org

What are the protocols for someone being considered “sick”?

Having a temperature of 100.4° is officially a “fever.” A temperature of 100.0° sends off red flags. If a child has a temp of 100.0°, they will have to be monitored at home as this will most likely escalate to a fever. If a child looks like they need observation at home (sneezing, coughing, runny nose)— we will ask them to be monitored at home and WILL NOT be admitted to school that day.

If a child becomes “sick” during the day, there will be an isolation room in conjunction with the nurses office for them to stay in until picked up. A parent/caregiver will need to pick up their child ASAP. We will be in contact with our physicians and the health department as they will give guidance to the next steps. We are not going to alarm people until we have all facts on that child. If the child’s test comes back “positive”, we will notify parents, regardless if the child is in your child’s classroom or not. Not by name of course.

IMPORTANT: we must remember that normal child diseases are not scared of COVID, so they will come into the room as in any preschool environment. If your child is sick with any symptoms, we will call you. Readmission requires a doctors note with diagnosis/recommendation, in some cases antibiotic initiation (per doctor recommendation) and/or fever free for 24hrs. If there is a probable case, we will send a letter home, with all the info we need, and let you know the protocol we need to readmit.

What additional cleaning protocols are being done?

Cleaning will be done multiple times a day, with deep cleaning every evening. Cleaning products will be disinfectant bleach and water solutions, used along with an Electrostatic Sprayer. This solution dries quickly, is not dangerous and is safe to be used around children.

What happens in the case of an outbreak?

If there is a case where we have to shutdown a classroom, or the school, we will make sure everyone is informed on that decision and safe protocols are in place for dismissal.

What if we would like to pull our child from school?

If at any point you don’t feel comfortable sending your child to school, and would decide to pull him/her, we would talk about a prorated refund. We are being very flexible and working with you financially as well. If we close and we have to go virtually... there will an option for you to opt in or opt out. If you opt out there will be a prorated refund, but it has to be for an extended period of 2 weeks, not daily. If you opt in to virtual learning, there will be a discounted tuition.

Will we be holding Virtual Learning?

RIGHT NOW WE DO NOT HAVE A PLAN TO OFFER VIRTUAL LEARNING IF WE ARE IN SESSION.

What is dismissal going to look like?

If you are signed up for your child to stay til 12:30pm or 1:30pm- Dismissal will be normal. The parent/caregiver cannot walk up to the door to pick up their child; they must remain in the car. The child will be escorted to the car.

Dismissal will only happen through drive up carpool. Please make sure anyone who is picking up your child is aware of these rules. Carpool signs will be distributed on the 1st day of school.

Same arrival and dismissal will apply to Full day students, typically dismissed at 3pm. You will be able to choose a 3pm or 3:30pm dismissal time. We will not be having KSDS dismissal with GECC children. We will give the option for students with siblings in KSDS to wait in their classrooms until 3:30pm instead.

No extended care is available at this time.

What social distancing efforts are being implemented?

We will be encouraging social distancing protocols the best that we can. Class sizes will be smaller. Ratios will be 12 children to 2 teachers max.

Classes age 2 through 5, will hold 8-12 kids. State regulations are 13 students + 2 teachers max. We are not doing anymore than 12 kids + 2 teachers.

When inside,,we will have windows open. We will be using upgrade filters, and the filters in the school will be changed much more often.

We will be teaching "Airplane Arms"-- put arms out like an airplane and person next to you does the same. The distance is approx 6 feet apart from one another. Arms should not be touching.

Classroom Setups: we have removed a lot furniture in the classrooms to allow for more space between the children, thus creating more room for activities. Children will only be staying in their classrooms and/or going outside. No mixing of classrooms. Outdoor learning spaces have also been created.

Only one classroom may use the playground at a time. The playground will be sanitized in between each classroom's use. We will be utilizing our outdoor grounds as much as we can by taking walks and using the fields.

For specials, all specialists will come to the classroom wearing a mask, and will be 6ft social distanced from the children during the special. Becky will have a face shield as well, so they will not be coming in close contact with your kids, no hugs.

No library books this year.

What are the protocols for lunches?

Children will be eating in classrooms only. NO HOT LUNCH will be served at all. (including KSDS) - for at least the first half of the school year. Goldsmith will be providing prepackaged snacks for snack time. Please send 1 labeled water bottle with your child, we will have bottle filling stations around the building. Send it in filled n the am,we will refill as needed, and we will send home each day.

The Marylandf State Department suggests that as little as possible be sent to and from school. It's recommend to have FULLY DISPOSABLE LUNCHESES. Send a large Ziplock bag with their lunch inside it, include a disposeable ice pack if you wish.Try to make the lunch as self sufficient as possible, and send utensils.

There are NO backpacks, NO nap mats and lovies (for age 3 and under) will be sent home every Friday. Please have 2 "lovies"... one for school and one for home.

Do you have any suggestions of how to comfort the children about their new school environment

We are happy to help you with how to talk with the children.

We know there's many resources out there, some are reliable, some are causing anxiety. We are putting together links to resources for everyone so it's available to you. It's important that you are looking realistically at these things. Media is going to talk about 1 day spikes, but try to look at trends over the course of 3 days. Currently Maryland data and hospitalization have been stable for 3-4 weeks which is very promising.

Tell your children not to worry, their classroom will look like their happy class room. Outdoor spaces are setup with big tree trunks and rocks so to take advantage of fresh air and mas breaks. We will keep kids in pods, but with smaller groups in the pods to encourage small group learning.

We will have our playground open, with a designated schedule, disinfecting in between each class. (No public or weekend playground use please.)

Will be playing with the students, enjoying hugging and being warm with them. Smile go a long way with warming them up... we have been practicing SMILING with our eyes!

Practice hand washing routines, because there's no hand sanitizers. Make hand washing fun, or a hand stamp.

Help them understand about symptoms- explain how to describe how to describe symptoms, throat pain, aches, dizziness or nausea. So THEY KNOW they can communicate what they are feeling easily to an adult.

Let them know that we are creating a safe environment for our teachers and students to return to.

First and foremost remember the children are very body language intuitive. The children sense your anxiety. Use language that they can understand, and that won't scare them so they understand coming to school. School should not and will not, be scary for them coming in <3