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Dalia Shabatian  
Principal

Rabbi Yamin Levy  
LIHA, Rabbi

Dear LIHA Family,

I hope this message finds you and your family safe and well. As I told you in a previous email, I'm writing to provide an update about our 2020-21 Reopening Plan, which has already been submitted to the state. While there's still considerable uncertainty surrounding the pandemic and its impact on the coming school year, our plan intends to ensure that our students, families, faculty and staff feel safe and comfortable as we return back to school in September.

The outlines of our reopening plan are enclosed and will shortly be uploaded to our website. The plan also provides detailed information on health and safety measures, building practices, and the social-emotional and mental health needs of our school community.

Based on current guidance and criteria from State officials, we still anticipate reopening LIHA and we are well underway with a massive cleanup and building transformation. However, please keep in mind our plan is dependent upon recommendations from education and health officials, and it may be revised in the weeks and months ahead based on new directives from the Governor, New York State Education Department (SED), and New York State Department of Health (DOH).

The first day of school is approximately four weeks away. As we've witnessed over the past few months, a lot can change in that amount of time. We're doing everything we can to prepare for a safe return to learning in September. No matter what happens, we remain firm in our commitment to delivering an outstanding educational program for all students while being flexible enough to meet the challenges that come our way. We'll continue to monitor developments and share updates so we can all prepare for the start of another successful school year. Thank you for your continued patience, understanding, and most importantly, partnership. We all want what's best for our students, families, faculty and staff, and we appreciate your support during these challenging times.

Mrs. Dalia Shabatian **Principal**

## **Health & Safety Protocol**

Based on guidance from New York State, the CDC, we have developed health and safety protocols built around five key components:

1. Observing mandated and recommended health guidelines
2. Conducting daily health screens upon arrival and with parents before students arrival at school
3. Requiring masks for all faculty and essential visitors. Right now we require all students in grades 1-5 to wear masks at all times. There will be mask breaks throughout the day. Toddler, Nursery, Pre-K, Kindergarten will wear the masks to the best of their ability in the hallways, stairwell, and bathroom.
4. Following protocols for handling possible and confirmed Covid-19 exposures
5. Practicing good hygiene standards for all grades at LIHA

## A) Commitment to Mandated and Recommended Health Guidelines

LIHA as an institution, as well as every individual school family, must abide by guidelines provided by [New York State](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). We must partner together to protect the safety of our students, faculty, families and communities. **LIHA reserves the right to remove any student, faculty member or family from in-person learning based on behaviors deemed to be presenting risk to our LIHA community.**

## B) Mask Requirement for Faculty, Staff and Essential Visitors

- Masks must be worn appropriately (covering both nose and mouth) by all staff. Students in grades K-5 must wear masks from the time they board their bus, carpool, upon entering the building until they get to their classroom. In grades 1-5 masks will be worn until the end of the school day. This includes, but is not limited to, while in classroom during instruction, in restrooms, during resource room, or any student services. Teachers will schedule designated mask breaks, such as during snacks, lunch etc. We will encourage our Kindergarten students to wear masks during instruction throughout the day. The early childhood will wear masks to the best of their ability in the hallways, stairwell, and bathroom.
- All faculty and staff for grades T-5 will be required to wear masks throughout the school day and will have the additional option of wearing clear face shields.
- Students should have 3-4 masks on hand daily as mask efficacy is reduced when the mask becomes damp or wet. Please ensure your child has enough masks to meet this requirement by sending at least 5 extra masks on the first day of school to be kept at school and additional masks in your child's backpack each day.

## C) Student and Faculty Health Screenings

- At this present time, LIHA requires COVID testing for our students and staff prior to school opening. Parents must take their children's temperature prior to going to school each day. Students with a temperature of 100.0 F and above may not be sent to school.
- Parents must submit an online health screening questionnaire every school day between 6am-8am which will be monitored by our staff. Students whose parents have not submitted the daily screening may not be allowed into the building. We will strictly enforce this policy. Failure to complete this for each child will result in the child being kept outside of the school building until a parent can come and pick up the child or take their temperature. This is a government requirement and there will be no exceptions made. If you do not own a thermometer, we recommend you purchase one now.
- School staff will additionally take every student's temperature before he/she enters the building. Students with 100.0 F and above may not enter the building. **Administrators may use discretion to not admit a student who does not have fever but who displays symptoms or behaviors indicative of potential illness.**
- Any student, faculty or staff member presenting or reporting COVID symptoms at school will be relocated to a designated isolation space within 15 minutes of the administration being informed of a fever or COVID symptom event. A parent or designated adult will be notified to immediately pick their child up from school and the need for urgent assessment by the child's medical provider. Any staff or faculty member who leaves school presenting COVID symptoms must be assessed by his/her medical provider and may not return unless they submit written clearance from their physician.
- Any student who has been sent home due to health concerns, regardless of whether the student has a temperature of 100.00 F or above, must be seen by a pediatrician and **will not be permitted to return to school without written clearance from a pediatrician.**

- If a student exhibits any of the following symptoms, they may not attend school and cannot return until at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications:
  1. Fever of 100.0 F or higher
  2. Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
  3. Sore throat
  4. Headache, especially with a fever

If a student exhibits any of the above symptoms in school, they will be moved to a designated isolation room until they are picked up. The person picking up will wait outside and the students will be brought to them.

#### **D) Protocols for Possible and Confirmed COVID-19 Exposure**

LIHA will follow all local and State mandates related to COVID exposure. We reserve the right to amend LIHA policies. LIHA will share our policies ahead of the start of school.

1. While a student is waiting for test results, the rest of the class will stay in school with extra precaution, until the results of the COVID test are known. If a student's test comes back positive, the rest of the class will need to be tested. This is so because if we require immediate testing of the entire class, when it may be too early to get accurate results, we may get false negatives. On the other hand, if we exclude a class every time a student is tested, we would likely have to exclude students far too often from school. We will focus on increased safety and precautions for tests within the class that are pending.
2. When and if a teacher is awaiting test results, the teachers class, and anyone that came into close contact with (which is any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes with the teacher, will follow the same protocol as above.
3. Per CDC guidance, when a teacher or student tests positive for COVID-19 and they have symptoms, they can return to school 10 days after the first symptoms appeared and resolution of fever for at least 24 hours, without medication. If a student or teacher tests positive for COVID-19 but does not have any symptoms, they can return back to school 10 days after being tested.
4. If a student has been in close contact (per the CDC, “defined as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes”) with someone who has tested positive for COVID 19 outside of school (example - family member, play date etc.) they must notify the school and cannot return to school 14 days after the last exposure.
  - If the student develops symptoms above, they can return back to school 10 days after the first symptoms appeared and resolution of any fever for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medication.
  - This is relevant and extremely important in following the importance of being respectful and mindful that the actions we choose to take will have consequences for others. I urge you to please be fair to others, and if someone is sick do not send your sick child to school rather contact the school and let us know. We all need to be responsible for ourselves plus the other members of our LIHA community.

## E) Cleanliness and Hygiene

- Students will be prompted by faculty to wash their hands regularly throughout the day with soap and water including:
  - Hand sanitizing upon entering the school building
  - Wash hands before and after snack and lunch
  - Wash hands after recess and Physical Education classes
  - and any time observed as necessary
- Students will have access to hand sanitizer dispensers throughout the buildings. Each class is equipped with a hand sanitizing station in the wall. Additionally, we recommend that every student come to school with an individual hand sanitizer to be kept on his/her desk.
- All bathrooms will be equipped with automatic and/or hands free paper towel dispensers, and automatic sinks.
- All water fountains will be closed or converted to filtered water dispensers. Please ensure your child brings a refillable water bottle to school daily. If your child drinks a lot of water, we encourage you to send in more than one water bottle.
- Our cleaning staff will be cleaning bathrooms, hallways and surfaces throughout the day. They will also constantly disinfect commonly used areas in the school such as the railings and door knobs. Classrooms will be cleaned thoroughly every evening.
- Clear polycarbonate desk and table top barriers will be cleaned each evening.
- Since teachers will be the ones switching classrooms and not the students, faculty members may choose to clean surfaces during the day as deemed necessary. Per State guidelines, students will not be allowed to handle cleaning materials.

## Remote Learning

Any faculty member who has a student engaging in remote learning will utilize the Zoom platform. The classroom's assistant teacher will monitor the livestream to ensure that students at home may interact effectively with the head/assistant teacher and the student's classmates to ask questions, participate etc.

### **A) Remote Learning by Family Choice or Health Safety**

Some families may choose to engage primarily in remote learning and that some students with underlying health concerns may choose not to attend school in person either in the short or long term. Such families should notify LIHA Administration **no later than August 17th** so that those students' teachers can arrange for materials to be picked up from school for remote learning.

### **B) Remote Learning While a Student is Home Due to COVID+ Test, Exposure or Any Illness**

A student must remain at home and will maintain continuity of learning remotely if he/she:

- tests COVID+; or
- has been exposed to COVID or
- is exhibiting any symptoms of COVID or any other illness

### **C) Remote Learning In the Event of School/Classroom Closure**

Should we experience a class or school-wide closure as mandated by the State, Department of Health or advised by our medical consultant, LIHA will convert to full remote learning within a 24-hour time period. Schedules and protocols will be shared to allow for continuity of learning within that time period.

## **Change to our Physical location, class structure & school day**

### **A) Physical Changes to our Classrooms include**

- Polycarbonate barriers for all student desks in grades K-5. Every student will have an individual barrier between his/her neighbor on the front and sides.
- Clear polycarbonate barriers at all tables utilized for resource room, teacher workspaces, office areas etc.
- Increased signage throughout the buildings indicating special directional changes and/or any specific safety requirements.

### **B) Class Structure**

Due to our student and faculty utilization of masks and the implementation of individual physical inserts at each desk, we are able to keep our class sizes intact:

Students in grades Toddler, Nursery and Pre-K:

- Will not experience changes to typical class structure.
- Toddler class will include a maximum of 12 students
- Nursery and Pre-K and Kindergarten classes will include a maximum of 15 students
- Pre-K and Kindergarten students will be encouraged to wear masks during class time but will be required to wear them for arrival, dismissal and in hallways. Teachers will wear masks during the entire day.
- Individual classes in grades T, N and Pre-K will remain together throughout the day creating their own class cohort and will not intermingle with other classes.

### **Students in grades K-5:**

- Will remain in the same class grouping as their cohort and physical classroom for both Hebrew and English throughout the school day. Their English and Hebrew teachers will rotate into their classrooms.
- Classes will range in size from 10-23 students.

Students in grades K-5 will continue to receive differentiated instruction within their classrooms and individualized/small group support via our team of therapists and resource room teachers. Therapists and resource room teachers will wear masks and their learning spaces will be outfitted with polycarbonate barriers.

### **C) School Day**

- As of this communication, GNPS will provide district busing. We are awaiting details of the busing arrangements, following which we will reach out to parents so they can indicate to us whether they will utilize busing or drive their children. We will use staggered arrival and dismissal procedures.
- We will maximize use of our outdoor spaces at LIHA. Weather permitting; recess will take place outdoors in a socially distanced manner. Each class will have an assigned recess time. Only upon the return to the class can the next grade go out to recess, as not to mingle with each other in the hallway and stairwell. Masks must be worn by all students when walking in the hallway and when they go outside it can be taken off.
- Art and STEM teachers will travel into classrooms. Any shared technology will be disinfected properly between uses.

- Physical Education and recess will take place in a socially distanced manner outdoors. Students will not be required to wear masks during Phys Ed classes and recess which will be socially distanced.

## D) Ventilation

We are currently making the necessary upgrades to equipment and filters. We are also in the process of purchasing portable air purifiers in each classroom.

## Partnership for LIHA Community Health & Safety

### A) Responsibility Outside of School

Our ability to continue in-person learning is dependent on our actions as a community both inside and outside of school. Families must abide by all CDC, local and State guidelines outside of school including, but not limited to:

- Hygiene and cleanliness
- Mask wearing
- Social distancing
- Participating in parties, dinners, events etc. without proper capacity measures, distancing or mask wearing, including children's birthday parties and Bar or Bat Mitzvah celebrations.
- Adherence to mandated quarantine when applicable

**LIHA reserves the right to remove from in-person learning any family who is observed by the school to be violating CDC, local and/or state guidelines.**

### B) School Visitors

- Only essential visitors such as therapists, contractors etc. will be allowed on to school campuses. Such visitors will be subject to PPE requirements and completion of temperature check and health screening questionnaire.
- **Parents will not be permitted to visit LIHA any time.** All parent meetings with teachers and/or administrators will be conducted via Zoom. Parents who are picking up students will be met at their car by a security guard. **There will be no exceptions to this policy. For the safety of our security personnel and our students/teachers, do not exit your car or attempt to enter any of our buildings.**

### C) Travel Advisory and Mandatory Quarantine

- New York has issued a mandatory quarantine following visits to certain states with significant community spread of Covid-19. We will provide you the list of states that meet the criteria for required quarantine. Please continue to check this list for updates as it can change.
- If you have traveled internationally or from within one of the states that are subject to the travel advisory, you must quarantine when you enter New York for 14 days from the last travel within such designated state, provided that on the date you returned to New York such state was subject to the travel advisory requiring quarantine.
- In light of the above, no student, faculty or staff who has traveled internationally or from within one of the designated states that are subject to the travel advisory will be permitted to enter school during the required quarantine period. Please ensure you keep this policy in mind as you make travel arrangements for your family during the last few weeks of summer as well as

throughout the school year (including travel plans during the Yom Tovim and winter breaks) while the quarantine orders remain in effect. **School start dates vary across divisions. Please ensure you are aware of the date on which you or each of your children start school and plan accordingly.**

- Parents who have a child who is subject to quarantine, due to travel or for any other reason, as of the first day of school must contact a member of the Administration. **Failure to do so places all our students and faculty at risk and may result in your child not being permitted to continue at LIHA.**
- Parents or family members of students or faculty members who have a household member who has traveled internationally or to states on the advisory list for business or personal activities should contact the Administration for guidance.

### **Arrival and Dismissal Policy K-5:**

#### **ARRIVAL:**

Drop offs, car pools and the Queens bus will all be dropped off at the front entrance of the school on Cuttermill. This will promote staggered arrival and social distancing throughout the entrances of the building.

#### **DISMISSAL:**

Parents will not be allowed into the building; Students will be brought outside for pick up and carpools. As it gets closer to the start of the school year we will update how exactly this process will work.