

INSTITUTIONAL PLAN FOR RESTART

Cover Sheet

Institution Name: Bais Medrash Toras Chesed
910 Monmouth Avenue
Lakewood, NJ 08701

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Components of Institutional Plan for Restart Checklist

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11. Athletics
12. Other Information/Appendices (as needed)

By signing below, the institution certifies that all statements provided are true and correct and that the institution will comply with all applicable requirements set forth in the Governor's Executive Orders.



August 4, 2020

Signature of President or Appropriate Designee

Date

Revised August 18, 2020

Introduction

As per OSHERestart.pdf, “New Jersey is home to a diverse community of higher education institutions. Accordingly, institutions should be allowed to develop a restart plan that best fits their communities’ needs and context, while at the same time adhering to state restrictions. Institutions’ plans must balance the health and safety of the entire institutional community, including students, faculty, and staff, with the need to resume activities.”

Bais Medrash Toras Chesed has developed its Institutional Plan for Restart based on the standards for Restart published by the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education of New Jersey and on the Governor of New Jersey’s Executive Orders pertaining to Institutions of Higher Education. The following plan has been reviewed and revised in consultation with faculty and staff, parents and students, and a panel of medical advisors.

We have surveyed all students and staff in order to determine the protection that may be afforded by herd immunity, and have concluded that 55% of our students and staff have had Covid-19 and/or have antibodies.

Quarantine

As of the date of this writing, Governor Murphy has designated 35 states, districts and territories as having high rates of Covid-19 and is strongly recommending quarantine when entering New Jersey.

We have surveyed our students both for those who live in the designated states and those whose summer travel plans may include visiting one or more of those locations. All students in those circumstances will be required to come to New Jersey 7-10 days before the beginning of the term to quarantine either in the dormitory, which will be open for this purpose, or with family in New York or New Jersey who are willing to host them.

General Safeguarding

Bais Medrash Toras Chesed has instituted the following general guidelines regarding sanitation and social distancing to protect the health and safety of all students, faculty, staff and visitors.

Cleaning and sanitation protocol :

- entrance halls and common areas will be cleaned twice a day
- classrooms will be cleaned before and after use
- restrooms will be cleaned and sanitized 2-3 times daily
- food preparation and service areas will be sanitized before and after each meal service
- High touch areas: Lights will generally be kept on all day and doors will be kept open, thus minimizing contact with these areas. Will be cleaned three times daily.
- Total cleaning has been increased by 100%.

Face masks:

- students, faculty, staff and visitors will wear face masks in common areas
- students, faculty, staff and visitors will wear face masks whenever social distancing is difficult or not practicable
- students will wear face masks whenever they interact with outsiders such as going to stores etc.
- Students and staff will be requested to bring their own masks.
- BMTC will have a supply of masks available in the office for those who need one.

PPE Supplies:

BMTC will keep adequate supply of personal protective equipment such as cleaning spray/ wipes, soap and hand sanitizer, paper towels, masks, and gloves, to be located at each sink area.

East Coast Total Maintenance, our contracted maintenance company, as well as student representative Yaakov Samet, will be responsible to notify the office when supplies are running low. Mrs. H. Weiss will thereupon transmit orders for further supplies in order to keep adequate stock of supplies, and restock on a regular basis.

Social Distancing:

- Everyone on campus will be required to engage in social distancing. All chairs and desks will be set up apart with six feet between students.
- Additional classrooms and lunchroom have been created so that students can maintain distancing (See Dining below).
- The maintenance company will check and adjust the setup of all furniture every morning, to ensure that it is properly distanced with chairs six feet apart.
- Gatherings and assemblies will be limited to when absolutely necessary. All participants will adhere to social distancing or wear masks at any gatherings whenever possible.
- Students will social distance in residence rooms.
- Students will be told to avoid any common areas unless there is room to maintain social distancing.
- Restrooms on campus are all private and will be used by only one person at a time.
- Students will social distance in any other area of campus.

Student and Staff Training:

Bais Medrash Toras Chesed has developed a program to train students and staff regarding COVID sanitation and social distancing practices.

We have emailed notices to students and parents regarding the states which currently have upticks in infection rates, and have instructed students to come to campus and quarantine before school starts.

We have also warned students that if they attend any large function they will be required to quarantine before returning to school.

We will have a conference call before the beginning of the semester with one of our medical panel to explain guidelines and answer questions.

Staff will distribute pamphlets to students detailing all sanitation and social distancing protocol, and educate them how to recognize COVID symptoms and where to get tested if COVID infection is suspected.

Screening, Testing, and Contact Tracing Protocols

Bais Medrash Toras Chesed has implemented protocols for COVID testing, contact tracing, and safely handling any positive or suspected cases of COVID. Bais Medrash Toras Chesed will be following all state and CDC guidelines for safe COVID handling and will be working with the Ocean County Health Department.

All students will be trained to recognize symptoms of Covid via conference with health professional and signs throughout campus.

Students and staff will self-assess daily and follow the protocols below:

- Any staff or non-resident student who does not feel well should quarantine at home until his symptoms resolve.
- Any resident student who has any cough, fever or other symptoms will immediately be taken to a medical professional (by a student or faculty member who has had Covid-19).
- All visitors and delivery persons will be required to sign in to the office and have their temperature checked.

All testing and contact tracing will be executed in a manner that will protect the privacy of those tested or confirmed to be infected with COVID. All confirmed cases of COVID will be reported to the local health department in a timely manner to ensure that proper measures and contact tracing can be put into effect. All students and personnel are required to be tested and have a negative test result before they can return to campus. Testing is available at the following locations:

CHEMED Health Center:
1771 Madison Avenue, Lakewood NJ, 08701
732-364-6666 (Appointments may be required)

Chai Urgent Care
400 New Hampshire Avenue, Lakewood NJ, 08701
732-994-2424 (Appointments may be required)

Due to the limited staff, Bais Medrash Toras Chesed will not be offering on-campus testing. Once returned to campus, any person displaying COVID symptoms such as fever, difficulty breathing, and lack of taste and smell will be required to be re-tested. Should any person on campus test positive, Bais Medrash Toras Chesed will notify the Ocean County Board of Health and follow their protocol.

Should a local student become sick with COVID, Bais Medrash Toras Chesed will make arrangements to safely transport the student to his home. If the situation requires more serious and immediate attention, Bais Medrash Toras Chesed will contact Hatzolah of Central Jersey, the local first aid squad.

If a student is not local, or cannot return home for any other reason, Bais Medrash Toras Chesed will consult with his family to safely transport him home.

If transport is not safe or practicable, the student will be able to quarantine in an isolated wing on the third floor of the dormitory at 901 Monmouth Avenue which has been designated for this purpose. This area has a dedicated air conditioning system which will further help maintain isolation.

Student volunteers will be assigned to bring meals to anyone in the infirmary, with proper precautions.

Yeshiva will keep a log of all students, faculty, and staff that have returned to campus, in order to trace contact should someone on campus become sick with COVID.

Visitors will be discouraged, and will only be allowed in for urgent and essential reasons. Should someone need to visit, they will be requested to sign in at the office and have a temperature check. Signs will be placed prominently in the entrance way, reminding anyone returning to or visiting campus to sign the log. Anyone who had returned to campus prior to reopening, such as administrative and janitorial staff, will also be added to the log.

For additional information about the state contract tracing initiative, visit: <https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20200512a.shtml> For additional information about the PPE supplier registry, visit: <https://covid19.nj.gov/forms/supplier>

Instruction

Stage 1

All instruction will be performed through distance education.

Stage 2

All instruction will be performed through distance education unless authorized by Governor. As per Executive Order 175, schools may open for in-person instruction subject to critical health and safety protocols. All classrooms will be set up with proper social distancing as noted in Stage 3 below.

BMTC will accommodate faculty and students who cannot attend in person classes either because they are immune-compromised and at high risk for catching COVID, or because they are sick with COVID. Students will be able to continue learning via distance education. Faculty members will be accommodated to give classes over the phone if necessary.

Stage 3

Safety protocols will be put in place to ensure that Bais Medrash Toras Chesed is complying with general safeguarding measures as set by the State. Students and staff will be required to social distance in all classrooms and study halls.

In order to facilitate this, the main study hall has been expanded by approximately 34%. Three additional classrooms have been built with over 1900 square feet.

Furniture will be strategically placed to allow for social distancing at six feet. Signs will be prominently displayed, reminding all to social distance. Classrooms and study halls will be cleaned and sanitized daily. Cleaning spray bottles and disinfectant wipes will be placed throughout the facility so that high touch areas and shared surfaces can be sanitized regularly.

Bais Medrash Toras Chessed will accommodate faculty and students who cannot attend in person classes either because they are immune-compromised and at high risk for catching COVID, or because they are sick with COVID. Students will be able to continue learning via distance education. Faculty members will be accommodated to give classes over the phone as necessary.

Note: The Secretary of Higher Education retains authority to grant waivers to degree-granting institutions of higher education on a case-by-case basis to allow in-person instruction beyond that authorized by Paragraph 1 of Executive Order [No. 155](#).

On-Campus Residential Housing

Stage 1

No students will be allowed to reside on campus. Exceptions will be made only if a student has no home to return to or cannot return home due to extenuating circumstances.

Stage 2

Only a limited number of students will be allowed to live in the dormitory. The dorm will only be filled to a maximum of 50% capacity. Students with the greatest need will take priority to be allowed into the dorm. All common areas will be closed. And hallways will be cleaned and sanitized daily.

Visitors will not be allowed in the dormitory unless it is absolutely necessary. Students will be encouraged to minimize visits to rooms other than their own.

Outside visitors will be strictly discouraged. In addition, resident students will be encouraged to stay on campus and avoid any outside trip except for essentials.

Stage 3

Bais Medrash Toras Chessed on-campus residential housing will be operating at a reduced capacity. Our regular occupancy rate is %100 and our reduced occupancy rate will be %65 .

Students with greatest need, such as students from out of town, or students coming from emotionally/financially difficult homes will take priority in being admitted to the dormitory.

All common areas will be sanitized by the maintenance staff daily, and bathrooms will be sanitized twice daily. Common areas will be open with clear signage reminding all to social distance. Spray bottles and disinfectant wipes will be placed in strategic locations throughout common areas so that shared space and equipment can be sanitized as needed.

901 Monmouth Third Floor North has been designated for students sick with COVID to quarantine in, should the need arise. The space can accommodate fifteen. Additional rooms with adjoining bathrooms can be designated for quarantine as well, should more space be necessary.

Additional rooms are available at 910 Monmouth Avenue.

Outside visitors will be strictly discouraged. In addition, resident students will be encouraged to stay on campus and avoid any outside trip except for essentials.

Libraries and Computer Labs

Bais Medrash Toras Chessed does not have a designated library. All books are stored on open stacks in the main study hall. Anyone using the books will need to follow the protocol set in place for the study hall.

Bais Medrash Toras Chessed does not have computer lab facilities.

Research

Bais Medrash Toras Chessed does not have a designated research laboratory.

Student Services

Bais Medrash Toras Chesed offers students services such as tutoring and counseling. These services will be available to students both in person with social distancing and by phone.

Laundry: BMTC has installed additional machines in additional locations to allow students to social distance while doing their laundry. Also there will be curbside pick-up and drop-off from cleaners available.

Transportation

Bais Medrash Toras Chesed campus is small, and all buildings on campus are easily accessible by foot.

Students will be strongly encouraged to remain on campus and have all necessary purchases done via delivery, including dry cleaning etc.

Bais Medrash Toras Chesed will provide transportation for students sick with or displaying COVID symptoms.

Dining

All dining and food service will follow the governor's executive orders.

Our Director of Food Service has taken a course in food safety with certification and is fully prepared to be in compliance with all statewide health and safety standards.

All kitchen staff will wash their hands for 20 seconds and wear masks and gloves while preparing and serving food.

Stage 1

All indoor dining facilities will be closed. Grab and go meals will be available to any students residing on campus.

Stage 2

Grab and go meals will be available to all students on campus. Outdoor dining options may be available. Outdoor diners will sit apart and engage in social distancing. Outdoor dining and food service areas will be cleaned and sanitized before and after each meal service.

Signs will be posted reminding students to social distance and to wash their hands before and after eating.

As per State of NJ, indoor dining halls operated by degree granting institutions of higher education may open provided that social distancing can be maintained and access is limited to faculty, staff, and students (not general public). BMTC will comply with this, and will allow students to take their meals outdoors as well.

Stage 3

All dining and food service will follow the governor's executive orders. When indoor dining is allowed, BMTC will have separate meal times for different grade levels, to ensure that the dining room will only be filled to lower capacity and that all students will be able to maintain distance during meals. Chairs will be placed apart. All surfaces will be wiped down and disinfected before and after food service, and in between shifts.

The percentage of capacity and number of students allowed in the dining room will be adjusted as necessary to comply with the governor's executive orders. Student volunteers will be responsible to deliver food to quarantined students in a safe manner.

Grab and go meal options will be available to any student who prefers not to eat in the dining room. If the governor's order does not allow for indoor dining at the time of reopening, adjustments will be made to accommodate outdoor dining or provide grab-and-go meals available for pickup.

Study Abroad and International Travel

Most international travel have been canceled or postponed until covid crisis is over. We are working to place all students who would potentially have done a junior year abroad either on campus or in other programs.

Athletics

Bais Medrash Toras Chesed does not have any organized athletic activity. Students will be to use the outdoor basketball court, with equipment sanitized before and after use. However, direct contact sports will be discouraged.

Disinfectant spray/ wipes will be available to wash off equipment before and after use, with reminders prominently displayed to remind students to sanitize exercise equipment before and after use.

Additional Information

BMTC has greatly expanded facilities in order to accommodate social distancing.

Classroom capacity has been expanded by over 100% in order to promote social distancing.

Indoor dining capacity, when permitted by the Governor, will be spaces that have been expanded by 100% so that students can be seated with social distancing.