



Last Updated: Nov 16, 2020

# Return to Shule COVID-19 Safety Plan\*

Morris Winchevsky School

Fall 2020

\*Please note that our protocols may change in response to public health developments related to COVID-19



## Introduction

The Morris Winchevsky School is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for our students, staff, families, and our greater community. We have therefore taken the time to develop this safety protocol, hoping to minimize the risks of our physical return to our location at 918 Bathurst St. in Toronto. The second wave of the pandemic began in September 2020 in Toronto and is continuing. The Greater Toronto Area is now in the Red – Control category of the Province's colour-coded system for COVID-19 restrictions.

Our COVID-19 Safety Plan follows the provincial, federal, and Toronto District School Board regulations, and errs on the side of caution wherever possible. For general updates regarding the COVID-19 pandemic in Canada, please visit the designated federal [website](#).

On Nov 13, Eileen de Villa, the Chief Medical Officer for the City of Toronto issued a special Order, supplementing the Regulations legislated by the Province of Ontario at the onset of the pandemic. According to these, our shule falls well within the allowed capacity for both indoor and outdoor [community gatherings](#). Our teachers have been trained on how to reduce surface- and community-transmission, and wear personal protective equipment while on-site and all students keep their [masks](#) on the entire time they are indoors.

## Changes to Class Structure

We are taking measures to ensure each student's safety and health is protected as much as possible. As you may know, the Ontario government has expanded the number of people allowed to gather indoors to 50, as of August 21st, 2020. In order to meet these requirements we have decided to take a number of steps to reduce the number of people gathered on our floor at any given time. For this reason, we ask all students to remain in their [class cohorts](#) from the beginning of the school day until its end, including during snack breaks. We have thought through how to maximize each space we occupy in the building to ensure students are as distanced from each other as possible. Lastly, we intend to take advantage of [St. Alban's Square's](#) (the Parkette on Barton St.), located within a 5 min walk of 918 Bathurst to hold as many classes [outdoors](#) as weather permits.



Unfortunately, we have also decided to cancel the communal **snack-time** for now. While this was a central part of our community at the Shule, it was also a time when there were many interactions between students, parents, and staff. We therefore invite you to send your children to the Shule with snacks and drinks, and a staggered Snack Time will take place in the classroom. **Chug** (art/music/podcast/cooking clubs) and all other activities, as described in the class schedule (in blue) will continue to take place on a staggered class-by-class basis, with increased disinfecting and PPE supplies. Going forward, we will also split the **Kinder Kapers** class in two and run weekly programs. Each family will be given the opportunity to choose whether they will prefer to follow **Schedule A** or **Schedule B** as outlined in the schedule below.

We will be adopting a policy of **staggered** arrival and departure times, to reduce interactions among students. Upon arrival and before departure, each student will be greeted by a staff person, ensuring that they disinfect their hands and that their mask is being worn properly (covering their mouth and nose).

Class	Arrival Time	Snack Time	Departure Time
Kinder Kapers	1:00pm	1:45pm	2:30pm
Senior Kapers	1:00pm	1:45pm	2:30pm
Grades 2-3	1:00pm	2:15pm	3:30pm
Grades 4-6	1:00pm	2:15pm	3:30pm
B'nai Mitzvah	1:00pm	2:15pm	3:30pm

While we understand that such a tight schedule will be difficult to maintain, we ask for your support and cooperation in making sure the students arrive and leave at the designated times. Exceptions can be made on a person-by-person basis, and following consultation with the Education Director. Other exceptions will be



made for students whose **siblings** are in different classes. In this case, we ask that all siblings arrive at the earlier time and leave at the later departure time, to minimize disruptions to classes.

Parents who attend shule with their children for the Kinder Kapers class can enter 918 Bathurst and are asked, like all students, to **remain** in their classroom for the entire duration of the school day (with the exception of washroom breaks). See KK Schedule [here](#). We ask that all other parents **drop off and pick up** their children outside the building. If a parent needs to enter the building they must first contact the Education Director.

The 918 Bathurst St. building will be **sanitized**, including railings, chairs, tables, and bathrooms. We ask that no more than 2 people be present in the bathroom at a given time. All students will wash their hands before eating during their Snack Time. Parents are asked to **screen** their children each morning before Shule using the Ontario [Self-Assessment form](#) or the questionnaire below.

## Personal Belongings & Toys

We ask that all students hang their coats and other personal belongings on the **hooks** below the stairs at 918 Bathurst St. This coatroom offers enough space for all the students' belongings and reduces the risk of surface transmission of the virus.

School supplies will be disinfected and divided into **personal kits**, with each student getting their own scissors, glue, pencils, etc. After use, these will be disinfected by Shule staff and stored on-site for the following week. Any supplies or toys that cannot be disinfected between shule weeks will not be used. We ask that families refrain from adding supplies to the personal kits. In the event that a family wishes to bring any items from home, we ask that the Education Director and Teacher be notified in advance and a disinfecting plan be developed for these items.



## Do you have any of the following:



Fever



Cough



Difficulty breathing



Sore throat,  
trouble swallowing



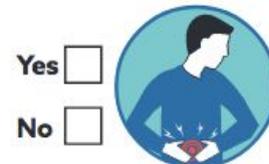
Runny nose



Loss of taste or  
smell



Not feeling well



Nausea, vomiting,  
diarrhea

Yes  Have you been in close contact with someone who is  
No  sick or has confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days?

Yes  Have you returned from travel outside Canada in the  
No  past 14 days?

If you or your child have answered **yes** to any of these questions, please stay home and get a COVID-19 test as soon as possible.



## Remote Learning Options

While we are delighted to return to in-person learning with our Oct 4, 2020 Sukkot/Sukkes Party at Dufferin Grove Park and classes at 918 Bathurst St. on Oct 18, 2020, we want to make sure that students who do not feel comfortable returning in person have the **option** of remotely accessing Shule.

Each class will have a mobile device which will be streaming on Zoom either from the beginning of the Shule day until the end or for a period of time, as set by the teacher, in communication with the parents.. Joining the class remotely is optional, and each parent will have the opportunity to decide whether their child will join the in-person or the remote classroom on a week-by-week basis. The Teacher's Assistant(s) will be in charge of remote learning, developing versions of the lesson plans with their respective teachers in order to maximize the remote learner's participation in the class.

If public health policy in Ontario changes throughout the school year, we may **revert** to remote learning as a school, as we did in the Winter 2020 semester, however, we do hope this will be our last option.

## Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

If a student has had contact with a COVID-19 positive person, has fever or any other COVID-19 symptoms, they **must stay home**, as detailed in de Villa's order, and the Education Director be contacted.

If a student is tested and **confirmed** to be positive for the COVID-19 virus, their parents will be contacted by an investigator from the Toronto Public Health office and they must notify them that the student attends the Morris Winchevsky Shule and share the Shule's contact information with the investigator.

The Education Director will then inform all the **students in that class** who will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days. All MWS staff will then get tested for the virus. For the period of the class' isolation, learning will continue remotely, with the teacher leading the class from home. The remainder of the Shule's classes will self-monitor, continue to attend shule regularly, and get tested for COVID-19 if any symptoms manifest.



If a student develops symptoms **during the Shule day**, they will be isolated on-site and their parents contacted to pick them up. The student's class will then also be sent home and when/if a positive COVID-19 status is confirmed, the above-mentioned procedures will be followed.

Staff will not share personal information, including the name of the individual whose status was confirmed but will contact Toronto Public Health (TPH) for contact tracing purposes. If you have any questions regarding COVID-19, procedures, or regulations, please contact the Toronto Public Health COVID-19 Hotline below.

## Contact Information

### **Toronto Public Health Hotline**

8:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Telephone: 416-338-7600

TTY: 416-392-0658

Email: [PublicHealth@toronto.ca](mailto:PublicHealth@toronto.ca)

### **MWS Education Director**

Lia Tarachansky

(647) 994-3989

[educationdirector@winchevskycentre.org](mailto:educationdirector@winchevskycentre.org)

### **MWS School Assistant**

Sue Goldstein

(416) 822-4935

[sgoldstein@winchevskycentre.org](mailto:sgoldstein@winchevskycentre.org)

### **MWS Executive Director**

Rachel Epstein

(416) 898-3549

[repstein@winchevskycentre.org](mailto:repstein@winchevskycentre.org)