

# Welcome Back Rapids

## Guide 2020-2021





MRS. CB NEUGROSCHL  
Head of School

MRS. NINA BIELER  
Dean of Ninth Grade

MRS. DENA BLOCK  
Director of Admissions

MRS. TAMAR APPEL  
Associate Principal

RABBI ZEV PRINCE  
Assistant Principal  
of Co-Curricular Life

MRS. RACHEL FELDMAN  
Executive Director

MRS. BAILEY BRAUN  
Dean of Students

## Dear Ma'ayanot Family,

Over the last few months, the Ma'ayanot community has been a source of great pride reflecting the key values of our yeshiva- the primacy of taking care of each other in the fullest way possible and the commitment to being a vibrant and dynamic learning community that is unified by our mission no matter the challenges we face. We are very proud of how our students, teachers and staff rose to the many initial challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Last semester, your creativity, support and commitment to a Ma'ayanot education allowed us to successfully complete our academic program despite an unexpected shift to online learning.

Now, in little more than a week, we will face the next challenge, our reopening of school with a hybrid educational model that will allow for as many students as possible to safely learn in-person while supporting any students who need to learn remotely to do so as seamlessly as possible. In preparation, we are excited to share the following detailed vision for the safe reopening of our campus. This plan is guided not only by our commitment to the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff but also by the recognition that, whenever possible, in-person learning is the most effective way to educate the broadest range of our students. From our "Welcome Back Rapids Week" to new classroom spaces, from Grade Community Time to Rapids Remote schedules - our faculty members have been planning diligently and our students have a lot to look forward to.

To create this plan, Ma'ayanot formed a Reopening Task Force made up of lay and professional leaders as well as faculty and parents. The Task Force, led by Mrs. Rebecca Kurz and Mr. Daniel Altman, worked tirelessly to research the issues and consult with medical experts; followed the recommendations of the CDC, the New Jersey Board of Health, the State of New Jersey Board of Education, and our local public health authorities; and shared in the collective wisdom of our colleagues across the United States. Additionally, our plan includes recommendations from the New Jersey Yeshiva Day School Joint Medical Committee, which will continue to serve as a resource to our community as we navigate the changing conditions of this coming year. This pandemic's challenges will continue to shift, and this plan will evolve as needs and opportunities change.

At this time, we believe that Ma'ayanot's reopening plan will provide our community with the necessary safeguards to allow school to begin as planned on August 31, 2020. Our plans include both in-person and online learning so that our students have the opportunity for continuous growth and learning all year. We recognize that over the course of this year there will be students who can not, or choose not, to attend school in-person, for any variety of reasons. We are committed to ensuring that these students and families are supported and integrated into our school community to the best of our abilities. Our Ma'ayanot community will remain committed to taking care of each other while returning safely to the vibrant space of learning together.

**Ma'ayanot is an extraordinary community. Together, we have overcome so much, and together, we will care for each other, work with each other, and inspire one another.**

B'vracha,  
Mrs. CB Neugroschl  
Head of School

# THANK YOU

## TASK FORCE COMMITTEES AND MEMBERS:

### Co-Chairs

Mr. Daniel Altman  
Mrs. Rebecca Kurz

## HEALTH, SAFETY, & WELL BEING COMMITTEE:

Dr. Burt Appel  
Nurse Tali Feder RN  
Dr. Howard Friedman  
Dr. Lorie Greenberg  
Dr. Dora Suldan

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Tamar Appel  
Mrs. Gillian Cofnas  
Mrs. CB Neugroschl  
Mrs. Tammie Rapps  
Rabbi Dr. Aaron Ross

## COMMUNICATION & PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Mr. Daniel Altman  
Mrs. Shira Hochberg  
Mrs. Rebecca Kurz  
Mrs. Lori Linzer  
Mr. Elie Rosenfeld  
Mrs. Vivi Rosenfeld

## BUSINESS, OPERATIONS, & LOGISTICS COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Rachel Feldman  
Mrs. Rebecca Kurz  
Mr. Michael Raskas  
Mrs. Ruchi Tiger



## WELCOME BACK RAPIDS GUIDE

Please note that this document is a living document and will evolve to reflect any changing conditions in our community. Ma'ayanot reserves the right to alter its policies and rules, without notice, as it deems advisable with respect to COVID-19 procedures. Parents and students must abide by the new policies as they are developed, communicated and implemented. We recognize that these processes are extensive. Each component of this plan requires the collaboration and cooperation of the entire Ma'ayanot family so that we will be able to have as healthy and successful a year as possible. Therefore, the act of sending your daughter to Ma'ayanot, in-person or on Zoom, constitutes an agreement to follow the COVID-19 Safety Policies and Procedures outlined below.

### **THIS DOCUMENT DOES NOT PROVIDE MEDICAL ADVICE THAT SHOULD BE RELIED ON BY INDIVIDUALS.**

The information, including but not limited to, text, graphics, images and other material contained herein are for informational purposes only. No material in this document is intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Always seek the advice of your physician or other qualified healthcare provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition or treatment and do not disregard professional medical advice or delay in seeking it because of something you have read herein.

## **I: Educational Philosophy**

The Ma'ayanot Mission statement reflects our belief that each student is capable of multiple levels of growth within the supportive and dynamic learning community that we have created. Ma'ayanot is a school where individuality is cherished and the community is thriving precisely because each person is valued and contributes to a vibrant and dynamic learning experience. This year we will take care of each other in new ways so that what we cherish in each other is safe and so that our community can continue to learn and grow together.

We have adopted a hybrid educational model that privileges in-person learning and integrates distance learning so that we are able to safely implement the health and safety recommendations as precautions against COVID-19. Our approach and our decisions reflect thoughtful, deliberative, impassioned discourse with stakeholders and our commitment to the Ma'ayanot mission. We recognize the complexity of education during a global pandemic and have created a flexible approach that demonstrates resilience and creativity based on the following priorities:

- We prioritize the health and safety of our students, teachers, families, and staff.
- We prioritize the needs of a holistic educational model that addresses the social, emotional, academic and spiritual well being of our students, teachers, and families.
- We prioritize our faculty's abilities to teach and reach our students with creativity and the best practices of pedagogy.

## **Daily / Weekly Learning Schedule & Operations**

### **Student Class Schedules**

In order to limit the number of people in the building and to facilitate social distancing best practices, on each full school day of the week (M-Th), we plan on having three grades in the Ma'ayanot building and one grade attending "Rapids Remote" classes.

## Weekly Rotational Schedule

**Mondays** - 9th, 10th, 11th grades in school & 12th Grade on Zoom

**Tuesdays** - 9th, 10th, 12th grades in school & 11th Grade on Zoom

**Wednesdays** - 10th, 11th, 12th, grades in school & 9th Grade on Zoom

**Thursdays** - 9th, 11th, 12th grades in school & 10th Grade on Zoom

**Fridays** - All grades will be able to safely come to school since there are fewer classroom spaces needed during our Friday schedule.

## Classroom Tech Setup

We recognize that the pandemic has created concern among families for a variety of reasons and that a number of students may be at home on any given day. Our goal is to enable students to access their classes as seamlessly as possible. Students who are unable to attend school for any reason will have the option to join classes remotely. All classrooms will have webcams and screens installed so that students will have the ability to participate remotely each day. Every space will be different, but the possibility of remote learning will exist in every classroom setting. Teachers have been trained on the use of this technology and students will be given instructions as to how to participate remotely. Any misuse of this system will result in repercussions.

## Daily Schedule

This year, daily school hours will be Monday through Thursday **8:00 AM - 5:05 PM**, and Friday, **8 AM to 1 PM**. The building will be open to students at 7:50 to begin the entry/screening process. The day begins with Tefillah. Students will arrive at school and head to their assigned davening locations. Dismissal will be at 5:05 and all students must be picked up by 5:30 PM. Mishmar will take place on Thursday evenings at 8 PM and will be held remotely, on Zoom.

## Arrival Procedures

Students and Staff arriving at school will only be admitted to campus after submitting a self-monitoring health screening survey as described below, in the “Stay Home and Stay Healthy” section. Specific instructions about pre-arrival procedures will be shared before the start of school.

## Rapids Remote Plan

As noted above, for each grade, one day a week will be designated a “Rapids Remote” learning day. On that day, the grade at home will have a full day of school scheduled, with a balance of dynamic synchronous and asynchronous lessons with their usual teachers. On Friday, we will be fortunate to be able to have all grades in the building.

## Masking Policy

- Everyone inside the school building will be required to wear a mask that properly covers one’s nose and mouth at all times.
- This includes in class, as well as in the hallways and bathrooms.
- Masks with exhalation valves, bandanas, and neck gaiters are not acceptable.
- Face shields alone are also not sufficiently protective and will not be an acceptable replacement of masks.

When students are outdoors and properly socially distanced, masks will not be required. We will be incorporating outdoor time as much as possible during the regular school day to provide students with mask breaks. Students can look forward to receiving a Ma’ayanot-branded mask at the beginning of the school year. Go Rapids!

## Cohorting

Each grade will be considered its own cohort (with very limited exceptions). This will enable students to be placed in their appropriate academic track for individual subjects. Each grade will be assigned specific classrooms in the building in order to limit exposure to the other cohorts in the school.

## Lockers

While lockers can pose a challenge for social distancing, we plan to offer lockers to our students with the following guidelines in place: Students will be able to visit their lockers at three times during the day; after Tefillah, before lunch, and at dismissal. Students must wear masks at their lockers and should plan to visit briefly in order to retrieve the belongings they need. Students will not be allowed to eat or snack at their lockers. We understand that this is a significant shift in the way that lockers have been used in the past at Ma'ayanot. **Still, we are confident that our students will embrace the importance of this new policy to create a safe environment.**

## Lunch Periods

Students will remain on campus throughout the day, including during their entire lunch periods. We want students to be able to socialize with their peers during lunchtime; however, we also want them to be safe and reduce potential exposures. To provide for adequate space and social distancing, there will be two lunch periods each day, arranged by cohort/grade. Students will be allowed to eat while socially distanced and only in designated areas on campus. After students finish eating their lunches, they should resume wearing their masks so that they can enjoy spending time with their friends for the remainder of the lunch period. When students are eating outdoors and are able to maintain social distance, they will have the opportunity to enjoy mask-free time with their friends.

We are working with local vendors to provide various food delivery options for lunch, and we look forward to providing more details as they become available.

**Eating and Drinking During the Day** - There will be designated times and places for eating during the day. This will include times to eat breakfast and lunch. Students will not be permitted to eat in hallways, near their lockers, or in their classrooms. However, when a class is scheduled to meet outside and students are sitting socially distanced, snacking will be permitted. We recommend that students bring water bottles with sip tops or straws so that they can easily and safely drink in their classrooms when needed.

**Outdoor Time** - Time spent outdoors will be an important part of each day at Ma'ayanot. We are contracted to install temporary tents to be used as outdoor classrooms, spaces for breaks, assemblies, and lunch. We look forward to sharing more information as it becomes available.

**Physical Education** - There will be no in-school gym classes, due to space and safety concerns. Instead, students will have an individualized PE plan as part of their Rapids Remote schedule. Students will receive instructions for setting up a personal health and fitness plan from Coach Jen Sanders, which should be implemented at home.

## Busing / Carpool

We will require masks to be worn by students and drivers on their way to and from school. If a car contains only family members, masks need not be worn. In all other cases, masks must be worn by everyone in the carpool. Carpools may include students from different grades.

For those traveling to Ma'ayanot by bus, the following general procedures will be in place:

- All students will be required to wear masks the entire time they are in the vehicle.

- Bus seating will load from back to front and skip rows when possible.
- Buses will operate with windows open for maximum air flow, if weather allows.
- Larger size vehicles will be used for routes whenever possible.
- Buses will be cleaned and sanitized prior to our students boarding, and if used for other routes, in between uses.
- To reduce students' time on the bus and maximize efficiency due to daily changes to ridership reflecting each grade's Rapids Remote Day, centralized group stops will be implemented as much as possible.

## **Student Life @ Ma'ayanot**

The relationships we develop in and out of class are key aspects of the Ma'ayanot experience for students and faculty. After months of too much time apart, we are eager to see each other and to reconnect with friends and mentors. Still, this year will have certain restrictions and challenges and we are cognizant of the need to plan for even more opportunities to build our community. Our **Grade Community Time** and **Grade Teams** initiative are proactive structures designed to help support our students and ensure that everyone is known, heard, seen and connected.

### **Grade Community Time**

This year each grade will have a weekly assembly designated as **Community Time**. During Community Time, students in each grade will have the opportunity to learn and bond together, in dynamic programs, or hang out with each other and with their teachers.

### **Grade Teams/Faculty Advisors**

Additionally, each student in Ma'ayanot has been assigned a faculty advisor who will be her "go-to" person for any questions. Faculty advisors will schedule 1:1 check-ins with students, small group lunches and be active members of that grade's **Community Time**. Together, the faculty advisors assigned to each grade will serve as a **Grade Team**, working to support the students in their grade. Faculty Advisors/Grade Teams are composed of faculty members and members of our Student Activities Team, our Guidance Department, our Torah Enrichment and Programming Team, and the Grade Mashpi'im. Faculty advisors will reach out to their respective teams prior to the start of school.

### **Athletics**

In accordance with the decision of the Metropolitan Yeshiva High School Athletic League, no contact sports and no indoor team sports will be permitted this season. Instead, the league is exploring the possibility of postponing those sports to the spring season. This decision will be reassessed as the health conditions of our metropolitan area change over the course of the year. We are exploring the possibility of including some outdoor spring sports for a shortened fall season. The following sports have been approved for the fall season: Tennis, Softball, Track and Field. Each sport will implement relevant safety guidelines that must be adhered to by all participants. As the year progresses, we will reassess what additional sports/teams are possible for us to field safely.

### **Committees & Clubs**

Committees and Clubs are integral parts of the Ma'ayanot experience. Clubs and Committees will be meeting online or outdoors. All inter-Yeshiva meets such as Model UN or Model Congress competitions will be online as well.

While we wish that these programs could meet in person, at the same time, the online format will allow students

from neighborhoods that are geographically farther from Ma'ayanot to be more involved in these extracurricular activities. Details about tryouts, participation and the meeting schedule will be forthcoming.

### **Campus Cleanliness and Hygiene Preparations**

Classrooms have been re-arranged so that students are seated six feet apart with very limited exceptions such as the science lab. As each student enters a classroom, she will take a disinfectant wipe from the wall dispenser, clean her desk, and dispose of the wipe.

Hand sanitizer stations are being installed in the lobby and in every classroom. Additional cleaning staff have been hired to clean the bathrooms and communal areas throughout the day and perform more intensive cleaning and disinfecting procedures every night.

The HVAC filters in our building are being updated to MERV-13. Custom signage and floor markings are being added to facilitate social distancing and limit occupancy in smaller spaces, such as bathrooms.

### **Closed Campus**

In a typical year, Ma'ayanot is pleased to welcome visitors and family members alike. This year, however, for the health and well-being of Ma'ayanot students and faculty, we will maintain a closed campus, with only Students, Staff, Faculty, other school personnel, and essential vendors permitted to enter the building. All parent-teacher, college guidance and other such meetings will be held remotely.

### **Deliveries**

All deliveries must be labeled for a specific student and left outside at a security table to be picked up by students during their free time.

## **II: Stay Healthy & Stay Home - Health Protocols**

### **Immunization Policy / Flu Vaccine**

This year every Ma'ayanot student will be required to have a Flu vaccine before November 1, 2020. Parents will be asked to sign an agreement to that effect before the first day of school and proof of immunization must be uploaded to Magnus Health by November 1, 2020.

### **Daily Screening**

As a member of the Ma'ayanot community, each student has the opportunity and obligation to keep herself and her fellow classmates safe. A key factor in maintaining a healthy environment will be ensuring that students only attend school when they are well. We will be utilizing a daily health screening tool to assist parents and students in assessing and monitoring potential COVID-related symptoms. Each morning before leaving for school, students must respond to a brief health questionnaire on her cell phone. It should take about 1-2 minutes to complete and will include a daily temperature check. Based on the information supplied in the screening, students will receive immediate instructions about attending school, including a "pass" with a barcode to present to bus drivers, where applicable, and upon arrival at Ma'ayanot. Parents who are carpooling with other families should confirm that each girl getting into the car has received a pass to attend school. Daily health screening protocols apply to all members of our Ma'ayanot community including faculty and staff members.

### **Travel limits and Quarantine**

If your child has traveled internationally, or from one of the designated "hotspot" states with significant

community spread of COVID-19, she must quarantine and self-monitor for 14 days upon returning to New York, New Jersey or Connecticut. This quarantine is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and will be required by Ma'ayanot, regardless of a negative COVID-19 test upon return. If this applies to your child(ren), please plan accordingly and ensure that they have 14 full days to quarantine prior to the start of school. [Click here](#) to see the most current list of "hotspot" states.

### **When to Stay Home**

We recognize that this year is very different from in the past. Symptoms that in the past may have seemed mild and inconsequential, can be a sign of new COVID infection. In the spirit of *כל ישראל ערבים זה בזה*, we ask that all parents and students consider it their responsibility to be vigilant and responsive. These parameters are designed as guidelines for parents and will be updated as necessary in accordance with our medical advisory team and other local health organizations.

### **There is to be an understanding that NO ONE comes to school sick, ever.**

The act of sending your child to school or coming to work at school indicates that the following statements are true.

- Our family is adhering to state and local government mandates regarding social distancing and face coverings outside of school.
- No one living in the house has had any of the following symptoms in the past 72 hours, unless cleared by a healthcare professional:
  - New cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - A fever of 100.0°F or higher, or chills
    - ◊ Families must check the temperature of any household member who does not feel well
  - Sore throat
  - Chills
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Muscle or body aches without obvious explanation
  - Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
  - Severe abdominal pain without constipation
  - Congestion/runny nose – not related to seasonal allergies
  - Unusual fatigue

Any of these symptoms might in fact signal the onset of COVID-19. Therefore, **if any of these symptoms are present in one's household** it is required that parents consult with their physician for clearance prior to sending students to school.

### **Students with documented non-COVID Symptoms**

Students who have a regular, documented, or ongoing condition with symptoms that correlate with any of the above listed symptoms will need to submit a doctor's note to the school nurse indicating the condition and its symptoms. This might apply to a student who suffers from migraine headaches or someone who has had recent dental work or sustained an injury. With a doctor's note on file, these students can attend school and take their indicated medications during the day. However, this does not eliminate the need to be vigilant and to self monitor on a daily basis. In all circumstances, a parent is required to conduct daily checks of these symptoms and consult with the family's pediatrician before sending any student to school when the symptoms listed are not related to a regular pre-condition. Your vigilance is critical to the health of our school community!

## Protocols If Someone Develops Symptoms at School

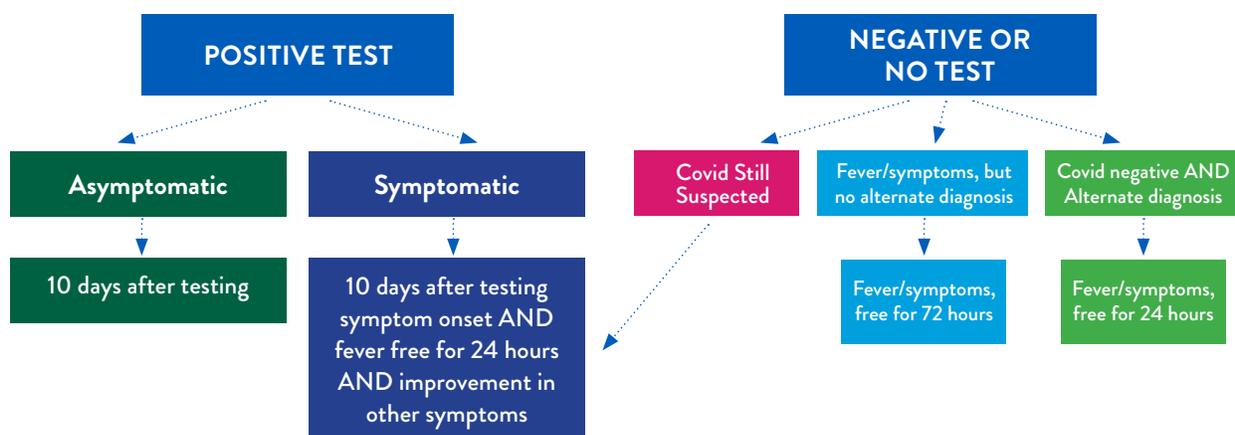
Students are never permitted to self-medicate in school in order to manage a slight headache, to reduce a fever, or in a general case of “not feeling well.” If a student experiences an onset of new symptoms during the school day, she should immediately visit the school nurse, who will admit her to an isolation room where she will remain until she is picked up. Families should have a plan in place for such an occurrence, and will need to arrange for pick up since the student will not be permitted to go home on her regular bus or in her carpool. If it is not feasible for a student to leave in the middle of the day, the student will be isolated until she is picked up from school.

**Protocols for Returning to School after Symptoms** are based on current recommendations from the CDC and the local Board of Health, and are subject to change. A student’s ability to return to school, after experiencing the symptoms listed above will vary depending on whether she receives physician’s clearance, confirmation of COVID-19, or an other identified illness. If COVID is ruled out by the family physician and another illness is identified (such as documented strep), return to school will require 24 hours fever-free and appropriate treatment. If there is no obvious source (flu, COVID and strep tests are negative), the student must stay home and be fever/symptom free for 72 hours before returning to school. This is to safeguard against the possibility that the COVID test was a false negative. If symptoms persist, the family should maintain communication with its physician and consider retesting. Returning to school after experiencing symptoms will require a physician’s clearance.

If COVID is identified, the student must stay home for ten days after the positive test and must be fever-free for 24 hours, along with improvement of other symptoms. Once these conditions are met, students will be required to provide a note from their family physician to return to school.

**If a Student Tests Positive for COVID, parents must notify the school** in order to expedite contact tracing as per Board of Health protocols. The school will, of course, handle this information discreetly in order to safeguard students’ privacy, while at the same time addressing the health concerns in the school community. Ma’ayanot will participate in communal efforts of contact tracing to prevent further spread of COVID.

## RETURN TO CAMPUS FOR STUDENT/ STAFF WITH SYMPTOMS



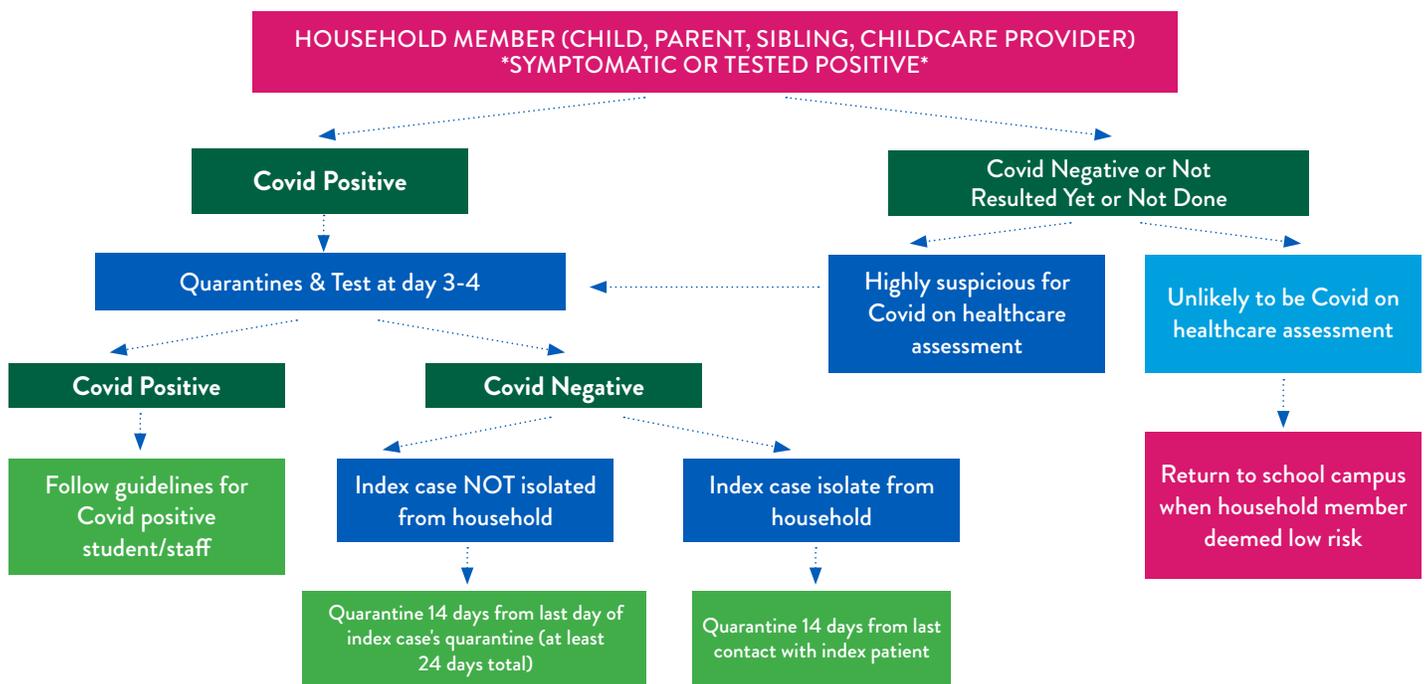
## Protocols Following Known or Suspected COVID Exposure

Ma'ayanot will be implementing the following guidelines, which have been adopted by the New Jersey Yeshiva Day School Joint Medical Committee:

Household members (siblings, parents, child, childcare provider, etc.) of a COVID positive patient:

- Recommended to get tested between 3-5 days after the index case developed symptoms (or 3-5 days after index case tested positive, if index case is asymptomatic). If the student is positive and symptom free, she may return to school campus 10 days after the positive test, as noted in the decision tree above.
- If the student tests negative and is symptom free (or if not tested and asymptomatic), she may return to school 14 days after her last exposure with a COVID positive contact. Testing negative does not shorten the minimum 14 day quarantine period.
- To avoid a 24 day quarantine, encourage family members to get tested AND to have the positive contact be isolated from the rest of the household (as noted in the decision tree below).
- If household members of COVID positive patients develop symptoms during quarantine, follow guidelines for symptomatic individuals, as described in the decision tree above.

### STUDENT/ STAFF WITH HOUSEHOLD EXPOSURE



## Contact Tracing

In the case of a positive COVID case within our school community, Ma'ayanot will follow the regulations of our local Department of Health (DOH) and partner with them to prevent exposure and spread of COVID. Additionally, Ma'ayanot will have formally trained contact tracers to track exposure within our school and to support the DOH and communal efforts to prevent a further outbreak. Prior to the start of school, parents will be asked to sign a privacy waiver allowing contact tracing in the event of a positive COVID case.