

Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan

2021-2022



Agamim Classical Academy

Updated: 10.22.2021

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For the 2021-2022 School Year:

Full-Time In-Person Learning details are covered in detail on pages 13-23 and 28-32. All other pages largely deal with Hybrid and Distance Learning models should the school be required/decide it necessary to change into one of those models for the health and safety of our students, staff, and community.

LETTER FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL – WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Dear Agamim Families and Staff,

Our school's number one priority is to ensure the health and safety of all students and staff so our vital classical education program can continue without disruption. As an act of virtue and sacrifice for the benefit of our entire school family, we ask that our caring community pledges to do whatever we can to keep each other safe and healthy during the COVID-19 global pandemic, especially when our community is suffering from a high transmission of the virus and its variant forms. This collective effort of care this year will ensure our school is able to:

- **remain fully in-person for our students**
- **maintain full staffing throughout the year**
- **protect the immunocompromised and most vulnerable members of our school community (which includes many children in our program)**
- **avoid critical funding loss due to drops in enrollment and attendance**
- **prevent unnecessary quarantining from exposure**
- **allow our students the potential to have the full complement of academic and enrichment offerings we hope to deliver this year (field experiences, sports, clubs, etc.)**
- **demonstrate our commitment to *E Pluribus Unum* ("from the many, one") and help all children have the opportunity to continue their daily education regardless of means**

We have worked hard as a school community throughout the last year and a half to go above and beyond, responding to this pandemic by doing not what is typical but what is extraordinary because that is our calling as a school of virtue. Our small school was able to keep our community free of school-based transmission of the virus, avoid whole class or grade level quarantines, allow those with serious health issues to have the option to come to learn in person, balance an in-person and online school even though it was difficult to afford, and to not compromise on our mission and vision.

Thank you, Agamim Community, for helping us do it again—fight the good fight and remain open and united through whatever comes our way. We are grateful for your commitment to our academy, and we will return the gift with the utmost dedication to our scholars.

With gratitude and hope for our shared health and success,

Miranda Morton

Head of School and Executive Director

THREE LEARNING MODELS OVERVIEW & MODEL SWITCHING—IF NEEDED

Agamim's three Learning Models include

- 1) Full In-Person Learning (***Beginning Fall 2021-2022**)
- 2) Hybrid Learning
- 3) Full Distance Learning

The school may employ all three learning models throughout the course of the school year as determined by several factors—Governor's Order, MDH and Hennepin County COVID-19 prevalence data, and school-level needs including staff and student exposure or confirmed illness with COVID-19. Schools have been asked to prepare for all three learning models as school may go in and out of them at any time in the school year.

Changes In School-Wide Learning Models

Unplanned/Emergency Change: For The Next Day

- The school may need to change the learning model overnight for a grade level or for the whole school due to a confirmed virus exposure and need to contact trace, violations of masking and social distancing rules, state-mandated changes, Hennepin County virus prevalence percentage, or lack of staffing.
- If the school needs to change the school model for the next day, Agamim will try to alert families the night before or at the latest will notify families by 6 AM the day of the change using the following notification methods:
 - Blast text and voicemail messages, email, website, social media notices, and alerts via WCCO/KSTP/FOX9/KARE-11.
- Emergency or unplanned school model changes are determined by the Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Education, and Agamim Classical Academy. Agamim's Incident Response Team may be contacted to meet as well.

Planned Change—School-Wide: On A Set Date

- Agamim will monitor county-level virus prevalence data every two weeks along with school-level virus prevalence data each day to determine if the school is able to move to a less restrictive model.

Individual Change Requests: From Distance Learning to Hybrid

If needed, Agamim may set official, potential changes dates for families to switch from Distance Learning to a Hybrid A or B Learning Model.

The Learning Model Selection Form due date is firm and is needed to prepare the building for student influx and outflux as well as to allow for meal and transportation changes.

Change requests may not be honored due to space limitations that do not allow us to exceed whatever standard is applied at the time of the learning model change (e.g., 50% capacity for all school rooms and ability to staff appropriately for the additional students).

- School-level or county-level virus prevalence may cause these Learning Model Selection Change dates to change or be cancelled.

Change Request Due Date & Start Date	
Form Due Date	Change Start Date
TBD	TBD

Individual Change Requests: From Hybrid to Distance Learning

Students may switch to Distance Learning at any time of the year with two school days’ notice to account for changes in meals and transportation.

SAFE LEARNING MODEL PLAN COMMUNICATION & FEEDBACK

Stakeholder Feedback Is Key To Our Success

It is important to acknowledge that any of Agamim’s learning plans for the school year will evolve and improve over implementation as we learn more from all stakeholders involved. We will be working with staff and families to assess if we are delivering a meaningful, relevant, and equitable learning plan to address the needs of all Agamim students.

Agamim also will turn to and collaborate with our community partners such as our school nurse, social worker, school psychologist, special services providers, and cultural liaisons to assess how our programming is meeting or not meeting the needs of students and their families.

How To Share Feedback, Ideas, Needs, With The School

Parents/Guardians and students are urged to be in regular contact via email, calls, and Seesaw learning app messages with the following Safe Learning Plan lead staff:

DAILY/PROGRAM NEEDS: **Your child’s homeroom, skill group, and specialist teachers**

OVERALL COVID-19 RESPONSE NEEDS: **Executive Director, Ms. Morton, mmorton@agamim.org**

COVID-19 MEDICAL/HEALTH CARE NEEDS: **Licensed School Nurse and COVID-19 Coordinator, Ms. Smitkowski, carly@agamim.org**

ACADEMIC/TECHNOLOGY/GRADING/ATTENDANCE NEEDS: **Dean of Teaching and Learning, Mr. Rehwaldt, srehwaldt@agamim.org**

SPECIAL SERVICES NEEDS (Special Education and 504) : **Special Services Coordinator, Ms. Donofrio, idonofrio@agamim.org**

MULTILINGUAL NEEDS: **ML Coordinator, Mr. Haggerty, thaggerty@agamim.org**

Stakeholder perspectives, feedback, and ideas for what is and is not working for them will help us make our Safe Learning plan a success for all involved.

We plan to call all families to check in on how they are doing. We also will send regular surveys or all school messages to solicit feedback to ensure we continue what is working and learn about and help address student/family needs to the best of our ability.

Access/Opportunities for All

We especially will be working with families and staff to determine if our Safe Learning Plan is creating barriers to learning and/or is not benefitting all students. This is a critical priority for our school that believes in a just and excellent education for all, and we thank families in advance for helping us do our best for their children and for their individual circumstances.

Communication with Families Around Plan Improvements/Changes

As adjustments are made to the plan, they will be shared immediately and directly with the parties affected by the improvements or changes (e.g., grade levels, IEP teams, etc.).

For program-wide changes, we will continue to relay those messages to families on the Safe Learning Plan section of our website, in our weekly school e-newsletter The Friday Bulletin, in social media (Facebook and Instagram), and our school-wide blast messages in text/email/voicemail.

ACCESS TO LEARNING & LEARNING MATERIALS

How Are We Ensuring Students Have Access To Appropriate Educational Materials, Including Technology For All Learning Models?

Agamim Classical Academy's Safe Learning Plan was created to demonstrate our yearlong mission of providing a safe, excellent, and inspiring education to all students in a manner that underscores our guiding principle of E pluribus unum (Latin for "from the many, one") and where each member of our school community works hard together for the common good and protection of all. We also are committed to outreaching to and supporting communities disproportionately and negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and by Distance and Hybrid Learning models.

We are ensuring all students have access to appropriate educational materials, including technology, in several ways:

- First, Agamim teachers, paraprofessionals, specialist/support teachers, and administrators will work on a daily basis with families to ensure they have adequate technology and internet services.
- Second, staff will help each family log in and practice access to our two online platforms used to deliver instruction for Distance Learning days.

- Third, staff are working with case managers and specialist staff to ensure all students who have individualized educational plans and modifications receive differentiated support and the services they are entitled to in all learning models. (Please see section on Special Education and English Learners.)
- Fourth, each student with IEPs, 504s, or EL Plans have support staff assigned to him/her, and the staff member's role is to support learning either during the daytime or during other times as scheduled between staff and parents/guardians.

GRADING—IN FULL DISTANCE OR HYBRID LEARNING MODELS

In the event of Full Distance or Hybrid Learning, grading may be done using the traditional grading scale for the age group.

- Grades K-4 will use the E, S, or M model—Emerging, Satisfactory, or Mastery.
- Grades 5-8 will use a traditional A-F model and may use Pass/Fail for some courses.
- Mid-Semester reports will be given to families at conferences and Final Semester Report Cards will be given at the end of each Semester.

STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENT—IN FULL DISTANCE OR HYBRID LEARNING MODELS

Statewide Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (grades 3-8) and ACCESS testing for English Learners may still be scheduled to occur during Distance and Hybrid Learning. Testing dates and parameters such as opt-outs are established at the direction of the Minnesota Department of Education. If the state makes changes to this state testing plan, we will notify Agamim families.

Agamim is using NWEA MAPS Reading and Math as a baseline assessment in fall and spring for K-8.

ATTENDANCE—IN FULL DISTANCE OR HYBRID LEARNING MODELS

How Are We Taking Attendance?

Agamim Classical Academy's Attendance Expectations for all three learning models is that every student receives daily contact with his/her teacher(s). **It is very important that the student connects with the homeroom teacher each school day. We use this check in not only for attendance tracking but also to ensure our students' and families' safety and wellbeing.**

In-Person Attendance

Attendance is taken in the AM in homeroom or upon arrival. If a student leaves midday, the absence will be tracked in the main office.

Distance Learning Attendance

Attendance is taken in one of two ways for a student to be marked as PRESENT for the day:

1. By 4 PM, your child attended a live Zoom class/session
2. By 8 AM the next day, your child completed all assignments and activities listed in Seesaw

Absences

If your child has not followed the attendance guidelines listed above for each of the three learning models, your child's teacher will contact you to schedule daily contact and a plan for work completion.

If we do not receive any contact with you regarding an absence, your child will be marked as ABSENT UNEXCUSED. Students marked with an ABSENT UNEXCUSED will receive a call and/or email from the main office the next school day about the unexcused absence.

Absence Due To Illness

If your child becomes ill, report to the school via the form online found [HERE](#), or by calling (952) 856-2531 before 9:30 AM each day. *For Covid-related illness, please call (612) 564-0612.

Absences With No Valid Excuse/Truancy

Please know that our students' safety, health, and wellbeing is our first concern all year long and in any in-person or remote learning setting. We use daily attendance/check in data to track academic progress and the welfare of our students. For families who do not respond to repeated attempts from the school to obtain a student's attendance information, this may result in a wellness check with a school resource officer or support from the county for truancy or other needs.

Per Minnesota state law (*please see Agamim Attendance Policy #502), truancy is defined by students in elementary grades having three or more days of unexcused absences. For middle school, truancy is classified as being absent unexcused for three or more class periods on three school days. For students in Distance and Hybrid Learning Models, we know attendance reporting may be complicated, and we have built in some flexibility around attendance into our reporting procedures, such as having an evening check in before 8 PM. If a student is habitually truant (7 or more unexcused absences) Agamim will work with families and other agencies such as be@school to support families whose students are struggling with truancy.

DISTANCE LEARNING MODEL DETAILS

Distance Learning: Full-Time Model

In the case of Governor's orders or state and federal mandates, Distance Learning may need to be offered as a Learning Model option during the 2020-2021 academic year. This model allows for families to have their children learning from home every school day. This learning model requires students to have adequate access to technology (home- or school-provided) and reliable internet service.

Distance Learning in the Hybrid A or B Models

Distance Learning is required in the Hybrid Learning Model options. The learning model requires students to have adequate access to technology (home or school provided) and reliable internet service.

Agamim's Distance Learning Mission

Agamim Classical Academy's Distance Learning Model continues the tradition of our regular academic programming to help our scholars refine both their intellect and virtue. We believe this balance between a strong mind and heart benefits our scholars, their families, our community, and our nation. Our program is unique even amongst classical schools as we focus on classical teaching and learning, classical virtues and values, and classical languages that include Hebrew, Latin, and Greek.

Distance Learning Academic Program Overview

To deliver instruction in the Distance Learning Model, Agamim is using two online platforms: **Seesaw and Zoom**. Below is a description for how Agamim uses each platform and information on how students and parents access each one.

Seesaw: Online Instruction and Location for Daily Assignments/Activities, Instructional Videos, and More

In Distance Learning, all daily lesson videos and accompanying assignments and activities will be posted in the student's individual Seesaw account by 9 AM each day. Seesaw enables all the child's teachers' assignments and lesson videos to flow into one centralized assignment page. There is no need for changing out of the app to find assignments for each teacher. Seesaw also allows for students and staff to send typed, screen-drawn, in-app photos, audio and video recordings for completing assignments. We selected the Seesaw app in the 2020-2021 school year in response to requests by families to remove the need for any at-home printing of materials and to help keep students and staff more personally connected with the option to send audio/visual responses. Each student will have his/her own unique Seesaw account, and families will have access to all student accounts in one app and one centralized page.

Please note: There is a family seesaw app as well where parents/guardians can monitor all work submissions and communication between staff and families and staff and students.

ZOOM: Video Conferencing for Live Instructional and Group Times

Live times will be conducted using Zoom. Students will receive the Zoom login information within the Seesaw app. Teachers each have their own unique Zoom user ID codes and passwords.

Live Video Conduct Expectations

To participate in live conversations and ensure students are engaged in the work of the class, students and families must abide by these three rules for decorum.

- **Camera Turned On**
Camera is on during class time as much as possible for academic engagement, student support, and social-emotional reasons for all students seeking connection with peers.
- **Uniform Top When On Camera On Zoom/Recorded Video Responses In Seesaw**

In keeping with our school's commitment to E Pluribus Unum and to our formal culture for learning, your child must be wearing an Agamim logo top to participate on camera in any live Zoom video sessions or in any Seesaw videos. If your child is not in uniform, his/her video may be blocked or the video work submitted in Seesaw may be rejected and required to redo.

- **Background Noise/Activity**

Please know that Zoom video, Seesaw audio/visual recordings, and phone calls pick up a lot of background noise and activity. To protect all students from intentional or unintentional inappropriate background activity or other forms of noise/visual disruption, we ask families to help their children find an appropriate place to do quiet work during live conversations, group meetings, and recorded answers submitted in Seesaw.

Seesaw, Zoom, & School-Issued Device Support

If you need any help for your parent or child account in Seesaw, with Zoom, or with tech needs for a school-issued device, please email info@agamim.org.

Technology Access For All Students

For families who have no device access or who have several children sharing a device for schoolwork, Agamim will lend the appropriate technology and assist families in procuring internet access, if needed. Families will borrow devices using the Technology Checkout Form located in the Safe Learning Plan section of the Agamim website. Devices will be arranged for pick up and/or delivery in compliance with all health and safety protocols and any statewide mandates. The [Technology Assistance Form](#) is required to receive a device as it includes required statements of assurances for proper device use and responsibility for damages devices.

Internet Access

Agamim works with families who have limited or no internet access. If families do not have the ability to obtain internet access, alternate instruction (e.g., a paper packet and daily phone plan) will apply until the issue is resolved.

Distance Learning Daily Academic Overview

Students in Distance Learning will have daily access five days per week (M-F) to 15-/20-minute recorded lessons for each core subject or live lessons posted after the class ends (see your child's daily schedule for details), a set of activities to complete each day that are listed in the student's Seesaw page, and opportunities for live times with teachers and or whole group peer time (e.g., homeroom) on a daily basis. Teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators will work closely together to ensure daily school connection and rigorous learning occurs in every learning model.

Skill-Grouped Math, Reading, Hebrew Plan

Skill groups and specialist courses continue in Distance Learning. Courses are specified in Seesaw.

Daily Interaction With Licensed Teacher(s)

Agamim is a small, close-knit community where all our students are well known and connected to many staff members each school day. It is deeply ingrained in our school culture to connect with one another in meaningful and caring ways, and Distance Learning will be no exception to this.

To accomplish our daily goals to show virtue to and promote academic excellence for all students, our Distance Learning plan ensures they receive **daily interaction with their licensed teachers**.

This daily interaction can take many forms and times of day/evening to accommodate the needs and schedules of our students and their families. Students will interact with their licensed teachers in the following variety of ways: during live times (group online meetings, help sessions/office hours, live classes via Zoom); completing assignments/activities in Seesaw; sending messages between teacher and student in Seesaw; in phone calls with the student and parent/guardian; in small group phone conferencing; and more.

All licensed teaching staff including specialists (e.g., Art, Music, Hebrew) and special services teachers (e.g., ESL, special education, Title I), our administrative team, and our paraprofessionals are members of the connection team reaching out to our students each day at different times of day. The diversity of our methods of instruction and of our team member expertise, and the range of times they can connect with students/families will ensure that differentiation and modification can occur for required services (e.g., IEP or 504 accommodations, ML plans) and that all students have equitable access daily to a licensed teacher and a support system for parents/guardians/childcare providers.

Special Services

Students who receive special education, Multilingual Learning, Title I or 504 services and accommodations will have their service plan designed by the service team consisting of specialist staff, parents/guardians, and the student. The Special Services Coordinator, Title I Teacher, and ML Teacher/Coordinator will reach out to families in the beginning of the school year, or at the time a child enters a special service program, to plan the student's service amount and create their service schedule via Zoom.

Cyber-Bullying

Agamim's bullying and harassment policies apply during Distance Learning. If any students are being bullied by members of the Agamim community online or in person outside of school, please contact the Executive Director.

HYBRID LEARNING

Agamim's Hybrid Models include a Hybrid A Model and a Hybrid B Model.

HYBRID A MODEL (More Restrictive)

The Hybrid A Model is a more restrictive Hybrid model that divides the student body into two separate in-person groups (Group I and Group II) who come to the school building on opposite school days. Group I will have in-person instruction in the school building on Monday and Tuesday with Distance Learning Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday (whole school). Group II will have in-person instruction in the school building on Wednesday and Thursday with Distance Learning on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday (whole school).

HYBRID B (less restrictive)

The Hybrid B Model is the less restrictive model of the Hybrid plans. This plan allows for in-person schooling to occur in one student group attending classes in the school building Monday through Thursday with Friday being an all-school Distance Learning Day. Depending upon how many students are enrolled in the Hybrid B Model, students will receive instruction from a Homeroom teacher in one or two rooms. By state requirement, Agamim may not exceed 50% maximum occupancy for any school room or school space. This maximum number includes students and staff. Grade levels will be treated as a pod with students housed in one or in two separate homerooms for instruction and as one group for outdoor/recess times. For safety/space reasons, Agamim may divide grade levels into two pods.

Overview of Distance Learning for Hybrid A and B Models

When activated as a learning model choice, Distance Learning may occur one or three days per week (depending on the Hybrid Model) throughout the academic year. Additional distance learning programming may be required during all-school or grade-level quarantining and for state-mandated Distance Learning periods. This model requires children to learn from home. This learning model requires students to have adequate access to technology (home or school provided) and reliable internet service.

Distance Learning Schedule In Hybrid A Model: Three Days Per Week

- Group I—Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday
- Group II—Monday, Tuesday, and Friday

Students in the Hybrid Model A will be in distance learning three of five days per week. Students in Hybrid Model B will be in distance learning with the whole school on Fridays.

- Please note, additional distance learning days are included in the Academic Calendar to account for shortened holiday weeks and for conference days.

Distance Learning Schedule In Hybrid B Model: Whole School Distance Learning Fridays

Distance Learning on Fridays may have an emphasis on Classical Education techniques that will be practiced and refined in the next week's lessons. Fridays will include recorded lessons for many but not all core subjects to allow for specific Classical Education-focused work (e.g., Debate, Seminar, Question Sequences, Recitation, Speeches, Writing, etc.). Activities and recorded lessons will be listed in the student's Seesaw page. Live times will be reduced to one per day to allow for teachers, specialists, and paraprofessionals to work with individual students on work completion or questions and to conduct assessments. Teachers also will use Fridays to work in grade level teacher teams to plan for the next week's lessons.

Distance Learning Days Lesson Types (For The Hybrid A Model)

Hybrid A Model Students in their Distance Learning days will have access to 15-/20-minute recorded lessons for each core subject (approximately 1.5 or 2 hours of video max per day), a set of activities to complete each day that are listed in the student's Seesaw page, and opportunities for live times with teachers and or whole group peer time (e.g., homeroom) on a daily basis. Teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators will work closely together to ensure daily school connection and rigorous learning occurs in every learning model.

Distance Learning Whole School Friday Lesson Types (For The Hybrid B Model)

Distance Learning on Fridays will have an emphasis on Classical Education techniques that will be practiced and refined in the next week's lessons. Fridays will include recorded lessons for many but not all core subjects to allow for specific Classical Education-focused work (e.g., Debate, Seminar, Question Sequences, Recitation, Speeches, Writing, etc.). Activities and recorded lessons will be listed in the student's Seesaw page. There will be a live homeroom time led by the teacher where distance and in-person learning students can connect with each other, review the week's content, and learn classical techniques (this is similar to the live morning homeroom check-in students had in the spring of 2020. Live times will be reduced to one per day to allow for teachers, specialists, and paraprofessionals to work with individual students on work completion or questions and to conduct assessments. Teachers also will use Fridays to work in grade level teacher teams to plan for the next week's lessons.

FULL-TIME IN-PERSON LEARNING MODEL DETAILS—Beginning the Fall of 2021-2022

This learning model assumes that Agamim has been permitted to return to a traditional academic format with all students invited back into the school building. A Full In-Person Learning Model may at some point in the year (if we were in Distance or Hybrid) be dependent upon state approval and may need to take into account significant diminishment of county-level and school-level viral prevalence, possible widespread vaccination against the virus, and/or other public health and safety factors. Agamim may not be able to make the decision to employ this learning model after being in a Distance or Hybrid Learning model without MDH and MDE approval.

If in a Full In-Person Learning Model, the school will continue to monitor closely county and school health data, follow any state requirements and school nurse recommendations for health and safety, and may continue to offer Distance Learning for the remainder of the school year for students who do not wish to return yet to the school building.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Click [HERE](#) for the school's current academic calendar.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Overview Of Health And Safety Practices In Effect For Any Learning Model

1. The health and safety of our students and staff is our highest priority.
2. Agamim Classical Academy will follow all required health and safety guidance as outlined in the Minnesota Department of Health's Best Practices Guides for Schools.
3. Agamim will continue to follow safe reopening guidance (if applicable) developed by the Department of Labor and Industry.
4. Agamim will observe strict cleaning and sanitation practices following guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Health.

5. Agamim will have a designated school COVID-19 Coordinator (Agamim’s Licensed School Nurse) who will liaise with state agencies and ensure that Agamim has access to most up-to-date information on how to limit the spread of the virus.
6. Agamim will have a designated quarantining location for all students and staff who develop COVID-19-like symptoms at school.
7. Agamim will have a health room space separate from the quarantining space to ensure all daily medical needs that are non-COVID-related (e.g., medication administration, first aid, etc.) are addressed in a safe space. Families must have updated medical orders on file for all medication administration or self-administration of medication at school. This includes medication that is Over the Counter.
8. Agamim will work with the MN Department of Health and the MN Department of Education to monitor regularly the county-level health data for Hennepin County and school-level health data on a daily basis.
9. Agamim will require all students and staff who develop COVID-19-like symptoms at school to quarantine in the designated location in the building and picked up within 60 minutes. Parent/Guardian and Emergency Contact information must be updated in Infinite Campus Parent Portal at all time.
10. Agamim will require families to have a designated adult—parent, guardian, approved emergency contact—to be reachable at all times students are on the Agamim school campus or are on Agamim school transportation. This designated adult must be ready to pick up an ill student at any time (and within 60 minutes) for when the child is on the Agamim school campus or is on Agamim school transportation.

Resources

Click [HERE](#) for Agamim’s page of COVID-19 community-wide resources for families, staff, and students.

PERSONAL SAFETY & LAYERED MITIGATION PROTOCOLS: STUDENTS & STAFF

Required Daily Health Screenings By Families Before Student Leaves Home

To keep our school building safe for everyone and to allow us to utilize a Full In-Person Learning Model or Hybrid Model, we need the help of all Agamim students, families, and staff. **Families who opt to send their children to the building for any in-person learning are committing to screening their child for COVID-19 symptoms EACH DAY before the child leaves home.**

Self-Screening Questions

If the answer to any of these screening questions is "YES," do not come to school. Contact your health care provider for guidance. Consider these questions for yourself, your student and everyone in your household:

- a. Does anyone have a new or worsening cough?
- b. Does anyone have shortness of breath?
- c. Does anyone have a sore throat?
- d. Has anyone experienced a new loss of taste or smell?
- e. Does anyone have fever, chills, or body aches?
- f. Does anyone have vomiting, diarrhea, or nausea?
- g. Has anyone had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID?
- h. Please pay attention to symptoms if you have traveled to or from an area where local health department is reporting large numbers of COVID-19 cases.

Do not come to school if the above symptoms apply to you! Contact your health care provider for guidance.

- [MDH What to do if you are sick?](#)
- [CDC: What to do if you are sick](#)

Face Coverings

Due to increase in COVID-19 cases at Agamim, in a special emergency meeting on 10/12/2021, the Agamim Board of Directors voted to institute a universal mask mandate effective 10/13/2021 for all students, staff, and visitors in the building. This mandate is up for review again on 12/13/2021 at the December board meeting. This mandate includes all students and staff who are vaccinated. Students and staff do not need to mask when outside. Exceptions will be given to those with an official medical exemption form. (To receive this form, please email carly@agamim.org or [click HERE.](#))

- At this time, no universal mask mandate is in place for the entire state of Minnesota or for Hennepin County. **There continues to be a federal mask mandate for students and staff who ride on school transportation vehicles.**

WHAT IS CHANGING BECAUSE OF UNIVERSAL MASKING:

In a universal masking environment, students who are properly masked as required on a daily basis will not have to quarantine unless they have Covid symptoms or test positive for Covid.

- This includes not having to quarantine if they come in contact with a Covid-positive student who was medically exempt from masking or was masked. The school will conduct contact tracing for the Covid-positive student and alert families whose children would be considered a close contact with the Covid-positive student. Close contacts' families will have the autonomy to determine if their child will quarantine and test or will not quarantine. A test is still recommended.
- Students who were properly masked and who start to show symptoms after being a close contact of a Covid-positive student must stay home and isolate.
 - *Isolation* from others is required for those who are sick. This is different from *quarantining* which applies to those who have been exposed to Covid.
- Isolating students and their siblings who attend the academy will need to stay home and work with our school nurse on their testing and return plan.

AT-HOME COVID-19 DAILY SCREENING CHECKLIST FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

Keep our school building safe for everyone!

All students and staff must commit to self-screening for COVID-19 symptoms EACH DAY before coming to the building for school or work.

Please answer these questions for yourself, your student, and everyone in your household.

1. Does anyone have a new or worsening cough?
2. Does anyone have shortness of breath?
3. Does anyone have a sore throat?
4. Has anyone experienced a new loss of taste or smell?
5. Does anyone have fever, chills, or body aches?
6. Does anyone have vomiting, diarrhea, or nausea?
7. Has anyone had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID?
8. Please pay attention to symptoms if you have traveled to or from an area where local health department is reporting large numbers of COVID-19 cases.

OTHER SYMPTOMS INCLUDE:
fever, runny nose, diarrhea, feeling nauseous or vomiting, feeling tired, headache, and poor appetite

CDC [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

If the answer to any of these screening questions is "YES," do not come to school. Contact your health care provider for guidance.

Medical exemptions to masking are rare but are allowed with an official doctor's note. (Please send this documentation to our nurse at carly@agamim.org and to info@agamim.org.) **Students who are unmasked for medical reasons and who are deemed a close contact of a Covid-positive student will still have a required quarantine period if they are unvaccinated and have not had Covid in the last 90 days.**

- This quarantine period is still recommended to be at least 7-10 days but may be as few as 4-5 days if the student receives a negative Covid test taken between days 3 and 5 days after exposure to the Covid-positive student.
- Families will continue to monitor their child for symptoms and keep their child home if they have any symptoms listed on the Agamim Covid Self-Screen checklist.
- Students who are unmasked for medical reasons and who are 14 days or more after their final vaccination or who have had Covid in the last 90 days are allowed to return to school without requiring quarantine.

WHAT ISN'T CHANGING:

Isolation is still required for any students and staff who have Covid symptoms or who have tested positive for Covid. Our nurse will work with the isolating child's family to know when they and other household members who attend/work at Agamim may return. We continue to need all families to screen daily using the Covid screener and to keep sick children and staff at home. Again, our nurse will work families on the proper test-and-return plan for those who are sick.

Will The School Provide Face Coverings To Students And Staff?

The state government is providing all students and staff a reusable cloth face covering available to all students and teachers. Agamim also has spare masks on hand for students, staff, and families should the mask become soiled, wet, or damaged. Families may send their child with an additional clean mask sealed in a plastic bag with the child's name clearly marked on the bag. This bag may also be stored in the school locker or left clean and sealed in their backpack.

What If My Child Forgets To Wear Their Mask?

If your child is dropped off and forgets their mask, the school staff will have cloth and disposable masks on offer at the entrance. **If your child arrives at the bus or van door without a mask, the bus company will have extra disposable masks from the school to give your child as they may not ride without a mask.** If your child has received multiple mask warnings or refuses to wear a mask while riding school transportation, the bus company may suspend riding privileges for a short-term period for the rest of the school year. Drivers also have a right to deny entrance to any students who come to a stop without a mask, so please make sure your child has a spare mask with them. Please know that school-issued supplies are limited, and families must make every effort to remember to have your child wear a clean mask as they leave their home.

What Is Considered Being "Properly Masked"?

To be considered as "properly masked," face coverings must cover the nose and mouth completely, should not be overly tight or restrictive, and should be comfortable to wear. Proper masking includes surgical or disposable masks, cloth face masks, religious face coverings, and medical grade masks and respirators.

Does The Mask Have To Match The Uniform Policy Guidelines?

Face masks and coverings should be non-distracting and non-offensive and should avoid slogans and inappropriate content. Solid color or plain surgical masks are preferred but not required as we want to assist families in ensuring their child will comply with the mask wearing policy at all times.

What If My Child Is Bullied For Not Wearing Or For Wearing A Mask?

Agamim's bullying and harassment policies apply in the instance of a student being bullied or stigmatized for wearing an alternate face covering or for not wearing a mask for an approved exemption. The policies also apply to bullying and stigmatizing occurring against students for wearing a mask. Staff will also receive training on how to help prevent student bullying or disruption in regards to any health and safety practices. If students are being bullied by members of the Agamim community, please contact the Executive Director.

Will I Be Notified If My Child Removes Their Mask Without My Consent? (Agamim currently is under a Universal Mask Mandate as of 10.13.2021)

When in a period of no face covering mandates, if a student removes their mask during the school day, we will not notify caregivers unless expressly asked to do so.

Respiratory Etiquette And Proper Hand Hygiene

Students and staff will be trained in and practice appropriate respiratory etiquette, including what to do when sneezing or coughing. Students and staff will be trained in and practice frequent and proper handwashing throughout the day.

Not Sharing Items

Students and staff will avoid to the greatest extent possible sharing items such as technology, school supplies, or food. Students must be trained to not share or trade masks or other face coverings. Please clearly label all of your child's belongings, including clothing on the inside label.

Physical Distancing

- In scenarios with In-Person Instruction, care will be taken to maximize distance between individuals.
 - 6 feet distance between people indoors is not required for in-person learning models, but it is strongly advised for students to remain at least 3 feet apart from each other.
- In Hybrid Learning Models, strict physical distancing practices will be observed, with teachers, staff, and any other persons present in the building maintaining at least six feet of distance at all times.
- Individuals will not be allowed to congregate in common areas or in large groups for significant periods of time indoors.
- Floor markings throughout the building may be used to delineate social distance parameters, if needed. Floor markings and signage may be used to direct traffic through hallways so that it moves in one direction as much as possible.
- To the greatest extent possible, drop-off and pick-up procedures will be conducted outdoors.
- To the greatest extent possible, classes will be organized for group distancing, limiting the interaction between student groups.

Restriction of Visitors For 2021-2022 (Agamim currently is under a Universal Mask Mandate as of 10.13.2021. This mandate includes all visitors.)

- In a full in-person model, depending on the viral prevalence rates in the community, the school reserves the right to limit or restrict guests, visitors, and volunteers.
- Caregivers are asked to consider entering the school only when necessary, or a when a meeting has been pre-arranged to meet in a designated space, or when it is necessary to pick up a student directly from the office.
- Whenever possible, meetings with parents, including parent-teacher conferences, may be held via videoconference or telephone.

Before entering the building, individuals must:

1. Perform the Agamim Daily Self-Screener
2. Use hand sanitizer provided in the vestibule

Before entering the building, as of October 13, 2021, individuals are required to:

1. Wear a face covering while indoors

Ways Families Can Prepare Themselves For In-Person Schooling

- Parents and family members can help support these practices outside of school by encouraging safe behaviors, such as thorough handwashing, observing social distancing to the greatest extent possible, and wearing a face covering when in public spaces.
- If families make an effort to observe these practices outside of the school day, we can work together to limit the spread of the virus in our community and maintain a learning model that allows for a full week of in-person learning.
- Make sure your contact information for each family member and emergency contact is up to date at all times.
- For all families, a designated adult, either a parent, guardian, or emergency contact, must be reachable by phone during all hours that their child is on the Agamim campus or on Agamim school transportation and be able to pick up the child within 60 minutes.

Covid-19 Monitoring Summary

Agamim will have the following protocols in place to monitor for illness and possible cases of COVID-19:

- Agamim will educate families and staff about how to self-screen for symptoms of COVID-19 symptoms and ask that students and staff screen themselves before coming to school each day. Families must commit to these daily, at-home health screenings in order to participate in in-person learning and use school-provided transportation.
- Staff will monitor students for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and encourage self-monitoring throughout the school day. Students and staff who develop signs of illness or symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day will be moved to a designated room for assessment by a school health service assistant. Those who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will be sent home and will be required to be picked up within 60 minutes to reduce health risks.
- For all families, a designated adult, either a parent, guardian, or emergency contact, must be reachable by phone during all hours that their child is on the Agamim school campus or on Agamim school transportation and be able to pick up the child within 60 minutes at all times. Families who are unable to meet this commitment should consider choosing the full-time distance learning model for their child.
- **Agamim Classical Academy will reference but may not always follow exactly the Minnesota Department of Health's Decision Tree for People with COVID-19 Symptoms in Youth, Student, and Child Care Programs** to determine when a student or staff member must stay home and when they may return to school.
***Please note:** School policy for quarantine may differ from the MDH Decision Tree, so please contact Agamim's COVID-19 Coordinator to determine the best plan for your child. See also the Quarantine and Isolation Guidance for Close Contacts – As of 10.13.2021 (included below in the "What to Do if You Have Been in Close Contact with Someone Who Tests Positive for COVID" section of this plan)
 - [MDH Decision Tree](#)
- Any students participating in a Hybrid Learning Model who are directed to quarantine at home as directed by the Decision Tree will be able to participate in distance learning while they are isolating at home, so long as they feel well enough to do so. Once the student receives approval from the Executive Director and

COVID-19 Coordinator (Agamim Licensed School Nurse) to return to school, they may resume their normal hybrid learning schedule and in-person instructional days, and may also resume using school-provided transportation.

What If My Child Becomes Ill During the School Day?

- For all families, a designated adult—parent, guardian, or emergency contact—must be reachable by phone during all hours their child is on the Agamim school campus or Agamim transportation.
- You must be able to pick up your child within 60 minutes at all times.
- Staff will monitor all students for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and encourage self-monitoring throughout the day. Students and staff who develop signs of illness or symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day will be moved to a designated room for assessment by school personnel. Those who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will be sent home and will be required to be picked up within 60 minutes to reduce health risks.

What To Do If You Have Been In Close Contact With Someone Who Tests Positive For Covid?

Agamim Quarantine and Isolation Guidance for Close Contacts – As of 10.13.2021

Close Contact Scenarios for Students and Staff	Quarantine and Isolation Guidance
Positive test for COVID-19	Positive cases must be reported to the school at early@agamim.org and info@agamim.org to allow for contact tracing and state notification. The school also tracks cases on the Agamim COVID-19 Data Dashboard. Minimum period of ISOLATION is 10 days or longer if symptoms persist. This requirement applies to anyone who is vaccinated as well. Contact our COVID-19 Coordinator to make your return-to-school plan.
Student or Staff is a close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19 (<u>all</u> wearing masks)	No quarantine is required unless the close contact has or develops COVID-19 symptoms. The school will contact trace and notify the close contacts of exposure so families/staff may make a determination on their own or with the COVID-19 Coordinator whether to quarantine and test or not. Testing is always strongly recommended for close contacts.
Student or Staff is a close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19 (if the close contact and person with COVID are not both masked)	As of 10/12/2021, students who are properly masked at school and/or on school vehicles but who are determined to be a close contact of someone who is unmasked at school and/or on school vehicles are not required to quarantine but are strongly recommended to consider quarantining and getting a COVID-19 test 3-5 days after exposure. The school will continue to contact trace and notify those who are deemed a close contact so they can make a determination on their own or with the COVID-19 Coordinator on whether to quarantine and test or not. Testing is always strongly recommended for close contacts.
Student/Staff close contact who was unmasked (only with a medical exemption during universal masking periods) and:	No quarantine is required unless the close contact has or develops COVID-19 symptoms. Contact the COVID-19 Coordinator to confirm your plan. Testing is always strongly recommended for close contacts.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is vaccinated and after 14 days since the final vaccination date OR • Has had COVID-19 in the last 90 days 	
<p>Student/Staff close contact who was unmasked (only with a medical exemption during universal masking periods) and is not vaccinated and who has not had COVID in the last 90 days before exposure</p>	<p>Quarantine is required and is recommended to be at least 7-10 days after exposure but by Agamim allowance may be as few as 4-5 days if the student receives a negative COVID-19 test taken between 3-5 days after exposure to the person with COVID-19.</p> <p>Staff will continue to monitor themselves for symptoms and families will continue to monitor their child for symptoms. Staff will remain home and families will keep their child home if they have any symptoms listed on the Agamim COVID-19 Self-Screen checklist. Families and staff may also refer to the MDH Decision Tree linked HERE.</p>

Contact the Executive Director at info@agamim.org and the Covid-19 Coordinator by email at carly@agamim.org or by phone or text at (612) 564-0612 to notify Agamim of the exposure.

- **MDH Guidance: What to Do if You Have Had Close Contact With a Person With COVID-19** **Please make sure to compare this to the 10.13.2021 universal masking and quarantine guidance provided above as MDH may have a slightly different recommendation than the school's mandates/allowances.*
- CDC: [Quarantine](#) if you may have been exposed

Consultation With Regional Support Teams

Agamim Classical Academy works with an assigned Regional Support Team who provide guidance of the implementation and ongoing evaluation of our school learning model for Hennepin County. The Regional Support Teams are a partnership between MDE, MDH, regional service cooperatives and local public health to support school districts and charter schools in navigating the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the school year.

What Will Happen If A Case Of Covid-19 Is Identified Within The Agamim School Community?

When a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 is identified within the Agamim Classical Academy community, school leadership will work quickly and closely with our COVID-19 Coordinator and the Regional Support Team to identify whether the affected individual was present at school while infectious and if any close contact exposures have resulted among students and staff. When notifying identified close contacts of their exposure, Agamim will maintain confidentiality in accordance with state and federal laws.

Please Note: *Having a confirmed case of the virus within the Agamim community does not mean that the school will automatically move to distance learning model nor does it mean that close contacts automatically have to stay home.*

It is not improbable that Agamim, along with other schools in the metro area, state, and country, will have individuals within our school community contract COVID-19. Cases of COVID-19 are not completely avoidable, but, if action is quickly taken to identify and isolate individuals who have come into contact with the virus, we can limit its spread within the Agamim community and maintain a safe environment for in-person instruction.

Covid-19 Testing

- Testing is recommended for all close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases.
- Students will not be tested without parent notification and consent.

The screenshot shows the Minnesota COVID-19 Response website. The header includes the Minnesota logo and navigation links: 'Get Tested', 'Vaccine', 'Data + Statistics', and 'Share Our Message'. The main content area is titled 'Who should get tested?' and contains the following text:

The value of testing is to be able to identify as quickly as possible individuals who are COVID positive. To that end, Minnesota is dedicated to providing no-barrier access to COVID-19 testing for all who need it. Use the criteria below to find out if that includes you.

1) Anyone with symptoms should seek out testing.

- Symptoms of COVID-19 can include cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell. [Read more about symptoms of COVID-19 and what you should do if you have symptoms.](#)
- Stay home when you are sick, whether you seek out testing or not. If you leave your home to get a test, wear a mask and stay six feet away from other people. The [COVID-19 Test at Home program](#) may be your best option for getting tested in the comfort of your own home.
- If you have moderate to severe symptoms, do not visit a COVID-19 Community Testing Site. Call your doctor or other health care provider or go to the hospital.

2) Anyone who was exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19 should get tested.

- If you had close contact with a person with COVID-19, you need to stay home and away from others (quarantine). COVID-19 can take up to 14 days to make you sick, and some people with COVID-19 never feel sick, so you need to separate yourself from others so you don't spread the virus without knowing it.
- **The safest option is to stay home and away from others for 14 days.** However, updated guidance from the CDC provides certain situations where you may consider ending your quarantine sooner. If you end your quarantine before 14 days, you must still watch for symptoms *through day 14*, and continue to wear a mask and social distance from others.
- You may consider being around others and ending your quarantine after ten days only if:
 - You do not have any symptoms.
 - No one in your home has COVID-19, and you do not live in a building with other people, where it's hard to stay away from others and easy to spread the virus to multiple people, like a long-term care facility.

Who Should Get Tested?

- You may consider being around others and ending your quarantine after ten days only if:
 - You do not have any symptoms.
 - No one in your home has COVID-19, and you do not live in a building with other people, where it's hard to stay away from others and easy to spread the virus to multiple people, like a long-term care facility.
 - You may consider being around others and ending your quarantine after seven days only if:
 - You do not have any symptoms.
 - No one in your home has COVID-19, and you do not live in a building where it's hard to stay away from others, like a long-term care facility.
 - If you get tested for COVID-19 at least five full days after you had close contact with someone with COVID-19, and the test is negative. You must get a PCR test, not an antigen or antibody/blood test.
 - All tests offered at state community testing sites are PCR tests. Visit [COVID-19 Community Testing Sites](#) to find a location near you and make an appointment.
 - **You cannot end your quarantine before seven days for any reason.** Visit [How and When to Quarantine or Isolate](#) to learn more.
 - The [COVID-19 Test at Home program](#) may be your best option for getting tested, particularly if you learn about exposure early in the 14-day window.
 - If you choose to visit a [Community Testing Site](#), it's best to make an appointment ahead of time. If the site nearest you has no available appointments on the day you're looking to get tested, either look at a later date or try finding a testing location a little farther away.
- 3) Anyone who has attended a one-time, high-risk activity, such as a large gathering or an indoor event with people you do not live with.**
- If you start to feel sick, get tested right away.
 - If you do not feel sick, get a COVID-19 test at least five days after the event. If the test is negative and you are worried you might have been close to someone with COVID-19 (exposed), get another test 12-14 days after the event, even if you do not feel sick.
- 4) Anyone who is actively engaged with people outside of their household or is working at places that remain open during the pandemic. This includes critical infrastructure, first responders, health care, retail, etc.**
- If you do not have symptoms and you have not been told you have been exposed to COVID-19, you are still at risk given how quickly the virus is spreading.
 - Make an appointment at a [Community Testing Site](#). Plan ahead to find an available appointment, even if that includes looking at a testing location a little farther away.
 - The [Test at Home](#) program may also be a good option for those getting tested as part of a screening strategy. Ask your employer about how often you need to be tested.

5) **Anyone who is returning to a classroom or campus should get tested.**

- This includes children returning to school, youth sports or extra curricular activities, as well as college and trade-school students returning to classes or campus.
- Elementary school educators and school staff whose schools have returned to an in-person or hybrid learning model are eligible to participate in testing during their school's bi-monthly testing event.
- Child care workers whose programs are participating in on-site testing through the state are also eligible to get tested.

Find Testing Locations

Which test is right for me?

These tests check whether you have COVID-19 right now and can spread it to others.

[Nasal swab test](#)

[Saliva test](#)

Tips for Making a Plan

- While testing sites remain open for walk-ins, we strongly encourage people to make an appointment and only use the walk-in option if you need a test today. Too many people coming without an appointment can create lines and increase potential for unsafe in-person gatherings.
- Testing sites in Greater Minnesota and outer ring suburbs generally have more appointment availability than sites in the core metro. Look at testing sites near you to find one with available appointments.
- Make sure you know what to do while you wait for your test to arrive in the mail and after you've been tested. Visit "[I got Tested - Now What](#)" for more information.

Frequently Asked Questions About COVID-19 Testing

Testing In the Schools

[COVID-19 Testing Options Available to Schools, 2021-2022: Minnesota Department of Education Memo—8/19/2021](#)

MDE is partnering with our colleagues at the Minnesota Department of Health to offer Minnesota's first-in-the-nation statewide education COVID-19 testing program. Schools will now have a variety of testing options available as you work to develop local COVID testing programs to keep kids and staff healthy, safe and in their classrooms. MDE will also provide grants to support testing efforts in schools.

This school year, schools will have access to individual PCR tests, pooled PCR tests and rapid tests—both antigen and molecular. Districts, charter schools, tribal schools, and nonpublic schools will be able to assess which tests work best for their school community and have autonomy in developing their individual testing program.

More information about the resources available for schools, including details information about each individual test option, can be found on the [COVID-19 testing for schools page](#) of the MDH website.

We are asking our schools to help make testing more accessible by promoting existing COVID testing opportunities in their communities and offering testing opportunities for students and staff on-site in school.

SPECIAL SERVICES IN HYBRID AND DISTANCE LEARNING MODELS

Hybrid Model

Services may include a combination of in-person and Zoom-style services. What the child's service grid and format will look like is determined by the IEP team.

Distance Learning

Face-to-face instruction is not allowed, which includes direct services and some of the assessments that may be required during special education evaluations.

We recognize the strain that a distance learning model may put on our parents, and we are striving to find balance between our desire to provide highly rigorous services and our ability to assist you with your students at home. We all want our students to continue to make educational progress while also prioritizing taking care of the physical and mental health needs of our families.

With this priority in mind, Agamim parents/guardians are encouraged to speak candidly with their student's case manager about how much of what we have planned can realistically be accomplished. We have flexibility in our service model, the volume of work we assign, and the timelines that we have established for the completion of work. These can be adjusted as we look to support parents/guardians and students.

We continue to be committed to providing a free and appropriate public education to all students identified with disabilities. During distance learning times, we will be partnering with families to establish a schedule for service delivery in this new format. Service time and the method of service delivery will likely look different than when our students are in school. Our focus will be on providing services to ensure that students can continue to make progress on their goals. Students will continue to have access to accommodations and modifications as outlined in their Individualized Education Program (IEP). If parents/guardians have additional questions, please contact your student's case manager or the Special Education Coordinator.

Evaluations

If a student in Distance Learning needs a special education evaluation or re-evaluation or is in the middle of an evaluation or re-evaluation when the student goes into Distance Learning, parents/guardians will work with the Special Services Coordinator or Special Education Director on a plan to complete this testing remotely. Initial evaluations and re-evaluations will be completed to the best of our abilities and in partnership with families as we navigate the complexities and limitations imposed by health and safety requirements. In times of Hybrid Model or Full In-Person Instruction, Distance Learning only students may come to the building for services and testing but must follow all health and safety requirements while in the building. In times of whole grade or whole school required Distance Learning, any face-to-face component required to meet state special education criteria may be allowed to be completed when Distance Learning ends and students return to school.

If Parents/Guardians Are Concerned That Their Child May Have A Disability And Would Like To Request An Evaluation

Please reach out to the Special Services Coordinator. Please be aware that due to the nature of the Distance Learning Model, we may not be able to complete a full evaluation for distance learners as some components require students to be in the school environment for testing and observation.

IEP Deadlines And Meetings—

Annual IEP meeting timelines will continue to be followed during Hybrid and Distance Learning Models.

IEP Meetings

These will take place virtually either by phone or in a video chat format. As we recognize it may be difficult to have all parties in attendance at the meeting, case managers or the Special Services Coordinator may contact parents/guardians with alternatives to the traditional meeting including:

- The case manager collects information from members of the team and works with parents/guardians virtually to complete the IEP
- Small virtual meetings in which the case manager again collects information from most team members and meets with parents/guardians and a few essential members of the IEP team
- Virtual meetings that include all essential team members

504 Plans

We continue to be committed to providing a free and appropriate public education to all students identified with disabilities. Students will continue to have access to accommodations as outlined in their 504 Plan in all three Learning Models. If you have questions, please contact the Special Services Coordinator.

Confidential Documents

During Hybrid and Distance Learning Models, all communication from special services will be via email. This includes due process paperwork (e.g. IEPs, Evaluation Reports, etc.). Please note the following:

- We will use the parent/guardian email addresses that are listed in Infinite Campus. If parents/guardians would like to provide an alternative email address, please contact the student's case manager or the Special Services Coordinator.
- When safe to do so, printed paperwork may be sent through the U.S. Mail.

Paraprofessional Support

In all three Learning Models, paraprofessional staff will continue to be available to support with service delivery for students who require this support per their Individualized Education Program (IEP). As each student's team determines service time and the method of service delivery, case managers will communicate with parents/guardians regarding what this support may look like if conducted via Distance Learning.

Note to Families: In this time of the COVID-19 pandemic and the potential for changes in and out of the three learning models, we continue to take direction from the State and Federal government regarding special education services. As questions arise, please reach out to your child's Case Manager who will serve as the primary point of contact for you during throughout the year. Please also monitor the Safe Learning Plan webpage for updated information.

Contact Information For Agamim's Special Services Team

Special Education Director: Ms. Tammy Pulver, tapulver@comcast.net

Special Services Coordinator: Ms. Jackie Donofrio, jdonofrio@agamim.org

ML Coordinator & Teacher: Mr. Thomas Haggerty, thaggerty@agamim.org

Title I Teacher: Ms. Miranda Plaisance, mplaisance@agamim.org

Special Education Teacher/Case Manager: Ms. Jessica Ford, jford@agamim.org

Special Education Teacher/Case Manager: Ms. Christine Manteufel, cmanteufel@agamim.org

Special Education Teacher/Case Manager: Ms. Camryn Rettig, crettig@agamim.org

504 Coordinator: Ms. Jackie Donofrio, jdonofrio@agamim.org

Autism and DCD Consultant: Ms. Sharon Lovegren, sharonlovegren@outlook.com

Developmental Adapted Phy Ed (DAPE): Ms. Wendy Toops-Lauer, wendy.dape@gmail.com

Occupational Therapist: Ms. Kayla Schulz, kayla@agamim.org

School Nurse: Ms. Carly Smitkowski, carly@agamim.org

School Psychologist: Dr. Doug Anderson, douganderson@solutionsandstrengths.com

School Social Worker: Ms. Michelle Davis, mdavis@agamim.org

Speech & Language Clinician: Ms. Kerry Schmidt, kerry@agamim.org

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Therapist: Mr. Jason Milano, Jason.milano@gmail.com

English Language And Multilingual Learning Services

Agamim's [Language Instruction Education Plan \(LIEP\)](#) outlines the school's typical schoolyear plan to identify and serve the needs of students who are English Language Learners (ELLs) and Multilingual Learners (MLLs). Some adaptation to that LIEP may be necessary to meet the needs of our students within the limitations of Hybrid and Distance Learning Models. Any adaptations to the service model will be made in consultation with the English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher, the child's parent/guardian, the child's homeroom teacher, and the Executive Director. Service delivery in Hybrid or Distance Learning models may include a variety of online and live lessons with individual and/or small groups (in compliance with social distancing and other required health and safety protocols), modified lessons and work, and phone calls with families and students. This work is concentrated on students' individualized needs in speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

Our ESL staff works with students' families to help them understand the Distance Learning or Hybrid Plan for educating their children. They also support families to ensure they have the resources they need, including technology, internet, school supplies, and food. ESL staff find interpreters or gather materials translated into their home language so families know current public health directives and guidance from the MDH and CDC on COVID-19.

Our ESL Coordinator, Special Services Coordinator, and Executive Director will work to support general education teachers in providing appropriate, relevant, and equitable scaffolding for instruction to our English Language Learners/Multilingual Learners. We also partner with the Regional Centers of Excellence for ESL professional

development for the entire Agamim faculty. These trainings will focus specifically during this time on how to deliver effective instruction for ELLs/MLLs using Distance and Hybrid Learning Models.

Students Experiencing Homelessness

For Agamim students experiencing homelessness, we work directly with the family and any relevant agencies and county partners to ensure students have their basic needs met first and then to address how to help students connect with their teachers, access all learning opportunities, and receive all educational materials/technology. Connecting with their licensed teacher each day is a key part of ensuring our students are well and are being supported fully.

For all Agamim families experiencing homelessness or who have changing circumstances during this time of health crisis, please contact the school at info@agamim.org or call 952-856-2531. We are here to partner with you and connect you to all available resources and supports in our community.

Food Shelf—May Open in a Full Distance Learning Model

For families in need of extra food or household and personal care supplies, we will continue to take donations for and provide opportunities for families to do curbside pickup of Food Shelf and supply items by appointment. All mandatory guidelines for masking, social distancing, hand sanitizing, etc., must be followed at all times.

Fill out the [Educational Benefits Form](#) for more support.

If your family is experiencing a need for food/supplies, please contact the school at info@agamim.org or (952) 856-2531. The Food Shelf will need to remain closed through all times of mandated Stay at Home Orders or if the school has a confirmed exposure to COVID-19.

HEALTH & WELLNESS IN HYBRID AND DISTANCE LEARNING MODELS

Agamim is working hard to address the significant impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on our students, families, and staff and its disruption to daily life, schedules, routines, health, and connection. As a key piece of our value for applying virtue on a person-to-person basis in any kind of year, we believe our students deserve as much daily connection as possible with our caring team of staff members. We are committed to reaching our students on a daily basis (calls, videos, scheduled daily and regular check-ins, etc.) and helping families to support themselves and their children during this time.

Part of our holistic care is providing access to trained school staff such as nurses, psychologists, and social workers for a variety of services including phone or video consultations, wellness check-ins, and therapeutic supports on a one-time or regular basis.

Agamim staff will receive professional development to promote awareness of student mental health and trauma-informed practices during the summer in-service period and throughout the year.

Agamim school leadership will work with staff, students, and families to create a positive school climate that promotes a strong sense of community and virtue.

We acknowledge that this time is stressful for all students and is especially difficult for younger children. We know that they may need group and individual support when transitioning back to school for in-person instruction. We will continue to establish and reinforce routines that foster a sense of security and provide many safe outlets for physical activity, calming breaks, and outdoor time during the school day.

For students with IEPs, the Social Worker, School Psychologist, and the Autism Specialist will conduct direct mental health/holistic wellbeing supports and services. They will work in close collaboration with special education case managers, general education teachers, and school administration.

If You Or Your Child Is Experiencing A Mental Health Emergency Or Crisis

- For a mental health emergency, call 911 immediately.
- For a mental health crisis, call the mental health crisis support team located in your county (see locations and contact numbers below). This team will assess the situation and advise you what to do.

Crisis Response Teams By County

- Anoka County 763-755-3801
- Dakota County 952-891-7171
- Hennepin County 612-348-2233 (child), 612-596-1223 (adult)
- Ramsey County 651-266-7878 (child), 651-266-7900 (adult)
- Washington County 651-777-5222

Crisis Response Team Response Times And Crisis Text Line

During this time, County Crisis Response Teams will be answering voicemails and emails within 24 - 48 business hours of receipt.

- If you need immediate assistance, the **Crisis Text Line** is open 24/7 - text NAMI to 741741.
- **NAMI Helpline:** 1-800-950-NAMI

Online Mental Health Resources For Students

- Go Zen. <https://gozen.com> User Name: tapulver@comcast.net Password: gozen007
- Natural Mental Health: <https://www.naturalmentalhealth.com>
- Mindful videos: <https://www.mindfulschools.org/category/video/>

- Multimedia: <https://www.mindfulschools.org/resources/explore-mindful-resources/>

Minnesota Department Of Education Mental Health Resources For COVID-19

A. Social and Emotional Learning

- Minnesota Department of Education SEL Guidance: <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/safe/social/imp/>
- The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL): <https://casel.org/covid-resources/>
- Panorama Education: <https://www.panoramaed.com/blog/sel-resources-for-educators-school-communities-and-parents-related-to-covid-19>

B. Mental Health Support Resources

- Minnesota Department of Education: <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/safe/res/resp/>
- Minnesota Department of Human Services provides the most up-to-date information for providers, counties, tribes, and members of the public: <https://mn.gov/dhs/covid-19/>
- National Association of School Psychologists:
<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources>
- National Alliance on Mental Illness Minnesota: <https://namimn.org/support/mental-health-support-and-information-on-covid-19/>
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/managing-stress-anxiety.html>
- The Child Mind Institute's Talking to Kids About the Coronavirus: <https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/>
- SAMSHA's Taking Care of Your Behavioral Health: Tips for Social Distancing, Quarantine, and Isolation During an Infectious Disease Outbreak - <https://store.samhsa.gov/system/files/sma14-4894.pdf>
- SAMHA's Coping with Stress During Infectious Disease Outbreaks: <https://store.samhsa.gov/system/files/sma14-4885.pdf>
- American Psychological Association Offers Advice for Mental Health:
<https://www.apa.org/practice/programs/dmhi/research-information/social-distancing>
- Mental Health and COVID-19 – Information and Resources:
<http://takeaction.mentalhealthamerica.net/site/R?i=64G1qLHs-UtD5a8l5T9Mrg>

PARENT PICK UP/DROP OFF PROCEDURES FOR FULL IN-PERSON (AND HYBRID) LEARNING MODEL (*Beginning Fall, 2021-2022)

Pick Up/Drop Off Procedures—Buses And Vans

For Full In-Person Hybrid Learning Models, Agamim buses and vans will use our main Door 4 to drop off students each day and will use Door 2 to pick up students.

Pick Up/Drop Off Procedures—Family Vehicles

Families wishing to drop their children off or pick their children up will follow a **curbside method** at Door 4.

Parent Drop Off By 9 AM

- In order for a student to be dropped off at school, families must ensure that they have **each day performed the required home health screening** for all students wishing to attend school in person. This screening requires that students do not have a cough, shortness of breath, fever of 100.4 or higher, or any two of the following: chills, muscle pain, sore throat, loss of sense of smell or taste, and gastrointestinal symptoms of diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea.
- Staff will follow all required COVID-19 protocols when they meet the student curbside.
- Additional staff will be stationed at the entrances to make a visual inspection of all students for signs of illness which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness.
- Once inside, students will use hand sanitizer stationed at the entryway.

Parent Pick Up At 4 PM

- Pick Up is also a curbside process. Students awaiting family pickup will be escorted to Door 4. Students will wait to the greatest extent possible in an appropriately socially distant line indoors (masking strongly recommended) or outdoors, weather permitting, until their names are called. Families who select parent pickup will be given an Agamim sign with their assigned name and number. This sign will be placed in the passenger side window so staff can see it clearly and call for the student. Staff will be masked and escort the student to the door.
- Agamim staff will not release students to an unknown person or car without the official Agamim sign. Please contact the office at info@agamim.org or by phone at 952-856-2531 no later than 3:00 PM if there is a change in pickup plans. If the driver coming for pick up is not an approved emergency contact in the Infinite Campus system, a parent/guardian must alert the school in writing via email to info@agamim.org to provide the name of the person and give formal approval for pickup. This person must be prepared to show official ID.

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION FOR FULL IN-PERSON (AND HYBRID) LEARNING MODEL (*Beginning Fall, 2021-2022)

BUSING

4mativ: (763) 220-6235

Students who request school transportation during an In-Person or Hybrid Model of Learning must have completed **each day the required home health screening**. This screening requires that students do not have a cough, shortness of breath, fever of 100.4 or higher, or any two of the following: chills, muscle pain, sore throat, loss of sense of smell or taste, and gastrointestinal symptoms of diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea.

As of August 20, 2021: Students must be masked properly before stepping onto the school vehicle and throughout the entire ride to and from school.

Students *may* be grouped in assigned seating by family. Students who come to the bus or van without a mask may be given a disposable one by the driver.

- If the student refuses to wear a mask provided by home or by the bus or van driver, the student may not ride the bus/van. Families should be prepared for their child to return to their car or house if the child refuses to wear a mask.
- Students who refuse to keep their masks on or to remain in an assigned seat (if applicable) may lose their privilege to ride the bus/van for a limited amount of time or permanently for repeated conduct issues.

Bus drivers must perform the same health screening before they are allowed to work, and they will be masked at all times. Some vehicles may have a plastic shield barrier around the driver's compartment.

If drivers are ill, a substitute will be provided. If the driver has COVID-19 symptoms or has exposure to or a confirmed case of COVID-19, the bus company and Agamim will work with the MDH and MDE to determine if any students must be quarantined.

Buses are required to be cleaned and sanitized in accordance with all MN state requirements of transportation providers. Cleaning and sanitizing chemicals must be approved by the CDC and MDH as effective for COVID-19 and safe for children. Bus companies may provide chemical safety sheets to schools as needed.

(In the event of an urgent need, our bus company contracts with various transportation vendors who are equipped to fulfill all MN state requirements for transporting anyone who is suspected of having COVID-19 symptoms and also for fulfilling all MN state requirements for cleaning and disinfecting the vehicle after transport.)

FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES

Breakfast and Lunch Service—Offered In-Person (*Beginning 2021-2022)

For the 2021-2022 School Year, breakfast and lunch service will be served in classrooms and will be paid by state funding for anyone wishing to take breakfast. Orders for meals must be made in advance for students to be given a meal.

Students will eat lunch in their classrooms with hot meals delivered to their rooms. Older students may be given a space protocol that allows them to get their own lunch from the lunchroom. Weather permitting, students will be encouraged to dine outside.

Staff preparing and delivering meals to classrooms will follow all proper sanitation and health and safety procedures outlined in the Minnesota Department of Health's guidance to schools and in accordance with Hennepin County and Edina food safety requirements.

Students eating lunch will practice proper hand hygiene and wash their hands before eating. While eating, students may remove their masks, but they must adhere to any existing social distancing requirements and replace their masks immediately after finishing their meal.

Students bringing meals from home may not use the microwave to reheat their food.

Students bringing meals from home are asked to place all food trash back into their lunchboxes. If necessary, please provide a storage baggie in their lunchbox for trash.

Staff will train students in safe food disposal routines.

After meals, assigned staff will change the trash bins and perform cleaning and sanitizing of all student desks, chairs, and other high-touch surfaces in the room.

To limit interpersonal contact, visitors (such as family members) will not be permitted to join students in person for lunch.

Families also may not drop off lunches for students in the office. For students who forget lunches at home, they will receive a school lunch, which will be charged to the family's lunch account in Infinite Campus.

Snacks

Staff have the option to include a brief, preferably outdoor, and physically distanced snack time during the day. Families will receive more information from their child's teacher if this is an option for their homeroom.

Contact-Less Meal Pickup for Distance Learning Model

Agamim may provide bagged meals as an option for students in Distance Learning. When available, meals may be delivered to homes. Families requesting pickup service will work with our Food Services Coordinator to schedule specific dates and time for their family's contactless meal pickup at the school. Meals will be served in bulk with multiple days of meals included.

ESSENTIAL WORKER CHILDCARE—Offered only by mandate for Distance and Hybrid learning models

School Day Tier 1 Essential Worker Childcare

When mandated by the state, School Day Tier I Essential Worker Childcare programming is available for currently enrolled Agamim students ages 5-12 who are the children of critical workers in the Tier I state critical worker list. This care program is provided at no cost for the hours of 9 AM to 4 PM on all-school Distance Learning Days only.

To be eligible for School Day Tier I Essential Worker Childcare, the child's parents/guardians must show proof of employment in these eligible fields. Please email info@agamim.org with any questions.

Students enrolled in the In-Person Model do not attend Childcare. Students in a Hybrid Model may attend School Day Essential Worker Childcare only on Distance Learning days for the whole school.

To register for the School Day Tier 1 Essential Worker Childcare, use the form [HERE](#).

BEFORE & AFTER CARE, CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Before & After Care—Full In-Person Learning Model (*Beginning 2021-2022)

In a Full In-Person Learning Model, the morning session will run 8:00 AM to 8:40 AM, and the PM session will run from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM. The fee for each morning or afternoon session is \$5 or \$10/day for AM and PM.

Before & After Care—Hybrid Learning Model

In the Hybrid A and B Models, Agamim will offer limited before and after school care programming Monday through Thursday in the Hybrid B Model or Monday and Tuesday for Group I and Wednesday and Thursday for Group II in the Hybrid A Model.

Before and After Care in the Hybrid Learning Model may organize in pods of no more than 9 students to 1 adult, and programming may take place in the same location in the building each day. Any in-place masking and social distancing rules would apply to this program. Staff will take advantage of outdoor time whenever feasible.

Food may not be served in the Hybrid Learning Model care program.

Extracurricular Activities

In-person clubs and sports will be held at the school in the 2021-2022 school year. Information about clubs is listed in the Friday Bulletin newsletter. Indoor clubs and sports will mask during times of universal mask mandates unless a student has an official medical exemption.