



## SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON LEARNING PLAN

**Updated 8/18/2021**

*Supplement to ESSER III Application*

### OUR CLASSICAL MISSION – NO MATTER THE CIRCUMSTANCE

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, especially in a period of high transmission of COVID-19 variants. This collective effort 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 call 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 under these new conditions and remain open 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Morton", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Miranda Morton**

*Head of School and Executive Director*

## WHAT IS THE SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON LEARNING PLAN REQUIREMENT?

Prior to the enactment of the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Agamim Classical Academy developed its Safe Learning Plan for the 2020-2021 School Year, in accordance with guidelines provided by the Minnesota Departments of Health and Education. The Safe Learning Plan met the statutory requirements of Section 2001(i)(1) and (2) of the ARP. As a condition of accepting the ESSER III award (FIN160 & FIN161), Agamim Classical Academy must develop, with community input, a Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan and post it for public comment within 30 days of receiving the ESSER III award (no later than June 21, 2021).

This **Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan** must address the following:

- I. Health and Safety Strategies
- II. Continuity of Services
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Periodic Review Process
- V. Understandable and Uniform Format

Agamim Classical Academy began the process for returning to in-person learning beginning in January of 2021. This plan will address actions that were taken in the 2020-2021 school year as well as those that will be implemented in the 2021-2022 school year. The plan will be regularly reviewed and updated as needed.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND SUPPORTS

Our school website has an extensive collection of links and resources for families on such topics as County Case Rate data tracking, testing, ways to get help if families are experiencing hardship, vaccination, and more. [The link to these resources is HERE.](#)

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### I. Health and Safety Strategies

Agamim Classical Academy will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and staff in each of the following health and safety areas:

#### Universal Daily Screening

In the 2020-2021 school year, all students and staff were required to perform the Agamim Daily Self-Screening in order to attend school.

- **In the 2021-2022 school year**, this practice will continue. A copy of that screener is located at the end of this Plan.

#### Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks

In the 2020-2021 school year, the Agamim Board of Directors enacted *Buildings and Sites Policy 808: COVID-19 Face Covering Policy*, which mandated the use of face coverings while on school grounds. This policy has been repealed effective June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Summer programming will have its own set of COVID-19 health and safety guidelines.

- For the 2021-2022 school year, to keep our school fully in-person and fully staffed five days per week for the whole year, Agamim Classical Academy strongly recommends masking at all times regardless of vaccination status when indoors for all students, staff, families, and guests. The exception to this is during mealtimes (while maintaining 6 feet of distance at all times) and when outside. Masks may be worn outside if desired.
- By federal mandate nationwide, students and staff must always have face coverings while on school transportation.
- For students and staff who are not properly masked and who are exposed to COVID-19, they are required to follow all required and current quarantine protocols. Additionally, there is not an online school option for students in quarantine. Students in quarantine will receive work packets with check-ins from staff for the period of quarantine. Recommended quarantine length is 14 days, but there are some instances where a 7 to 10 day quarantine may apply. This will be decided with the school's COVID-19 Coordinator. Please see our Safe Return to In-Person Learning Page for full details on the MDH Decision Tree for COVID-19 testing and quarantine guidance.
  - The most recent MDH best practices for schools can be found [HERE](#).
  - The most current MDH Decision Tree can be found [HERE](#).

#### **Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)**

During the 2020-2021 school year, Agamim Classical Academy followed all requirements related to social distancing and updated the *Safe Learning Plan* regularly as new guidance was provided by the Minnesota Departments of Health and Education. In the 2020-2021 school year, efforts were made to keep students within designated cohorts to limit interpersonal interactions and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- For the 2021-2022 school year, Agamim will work hard to maintain, whenever possible, at least three feet of distance between students. To the greatest extent possible, student activities will take place out-of-doors or in the largest spaces possible for their group size to allow for best ventilation and the greatest distancing.

#### **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**

In the 2020-2021 school year, as part of Agamim Classical Academy's *Safe Learning Plan*, staff and students received instruction in handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Signage throughout the school building also promoted these best practices.

- For the 2021-2022 school year: As part of the school's general health and safety practices, Agamim Classical Academy will continue to train staff and students in proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette, following best practices recommended by the Minnesota Department of Health to prevent the spread of illness.

#### **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation**

As outlined in the *Safe Learning Plan*, the 2020-2021 school year Agamim Classical Academy observed strict cleaning and sanitation procedures following the most up-to-date guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health.

- **In the 2021-2022 school year**, Agamim will continue to observe rigorous daily cleaning and sanitation practices, following the most up-to-date guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health's recommendations for schools and childcare programs. Areas where students or staff have been ill will be deep cleaned and sanitized.
- In the 2020-2021 school year, Agamim's landlord improved the ventilation system for the property, and classrooms and other student and staff spaces used HEPA filter air purifying units. Ventilation upgrades will **continue throughout the 2021-2022 school year**, and the use of HEPA filter units in each room will be maintained.

**Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments**

In the 2020-2021 school year, Agamim Classical Academy followed the contact tracing and quarantine requirements laid out for schools by the Minnesota Departments of Health and Education. The school's COVID-19 coordinator liaised with a regional support team and the state agencies to monitor cases and identify close contacts of individuals with confirmed positive cases of COVID-19.

- **In the 2021-2022 school year**, Agamim's COVID-19 coordinator will continue to work with state agencies and, if applicable, a regional support team to follow all current requirements regarding contact tracing and quarantine of individuals with confirmed cases of COVID-19.

**Diagnostic and screening testing**

When Agamim Classical Academy students and staff began the return to in-person learning in the winter of 2021, the school, as required by the state, conducted bi-weekly COVID-19 saliva tests for all staff members. Staff members were encouraged, but not required, to participate in these screenings. In the final quarter of the year, at-home saliva test kits were made available to students in the middle school grades.

- **In the 2021-2022 school year**, Agamim will observe and comply with testing requirements that are mandated by the Minnesota Departments of Health and Education. **Staff will be encouraged, regardless of vaccination status, to be tested through the school on a weekly or bi-monthly basis.**

**Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities**

As the COVID-19 vaccine became available to adults, and, later, to students aged 12 and older, Agamim Classical Academy's COVID-19 coordinator worked with school administrators to provide information about vaccinations to the school community.

- **In the 2021-2022 school year**, the school will continue to follow the guidance from state agencies and provide the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 vaccinations to the school community.

**Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies**

As outlined in the school's *Safe Learning Plan*, in the 2021-2022 school year, appropriate accommodations were made for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.

- **In the 2021-2022 school year**, special education case managers will continue to work with school administration and the school's COVID-19 coordinator to determine which accommodations are necessary and appropriate for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.

## Coordination with State and local health officials

In the 2020-2021 school year, the school had a designated COVID-19 coordinator who liaised with State and local health officials and agencies.

- **In the 2021-2022 school year**, Agamim Classical Academy will continue to have a designated COVID-19 coordinator who will work with State and local health officials to ensure that the school is following the most-up-to-date requirements and guidelines.
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## II. Continuity of Services

Agamim Classical Academy has taken and will continue to take actions to ensure continuity of services, including, but not limited to, services to address students' academic needs, as well as the social and emotional wellbeing of students and staff members.

Agamim Classical Academy began bringing students back to in-person learning as part of a phased approach beginning in January of 2021. By February of 2021, students at all levels had the opportunity to return to in person learning for at least four days per week for the middle school grades (5-8) and five days per week for elementary (K-4).

- **At the time of this update, Agamim Classical Academy is providing full-time, in-person learning as the sole learning model offered for all students for in the 2021-2022 school year.**
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## III. Public Comment

Public comment is a key element of stakeholder engagement. Along with this plan, the general public is encouraged to email [info@agamim.org](mailto:info@agamim.org) to give feedback on the plan. This feedback will be reviewed on a monthly basis by the school administration and COVID-19 coordinator.

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## IV. Periodic Review Process

Agamim will review, and, as appropriate, revise this *Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan* at least once every six months through September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Each review must include seeking public comment on the plan and revising the plan, if needed, after taking into account the public comment.

At a minimum, this plan will be reviewed at the start of each academic quarter. Public comment will be assessed and taken into account during each review period.

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## V. Understandable and Uniform Format

Federal regulations require that this plan be in an understandable and uniform format. Upon request, this plan is available to families via written or oral translation in a language that they can understand. Upon request by a family member who is an individual with a disability, this plan will be provided in an alternative format accessible to that individual.



## 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.



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