

## **HEALTH POLICY STATEMENT**

### **Academic Year 2017-2018**

Based on both Jewish values, and public health evidence, Temple Emanuel believes strongly that all members of the congregation (including children, adolescents, and adults) as well as all teachers, staff, children of the Early Childhood Center, and others who regularly frequent the Temple, should be vaccinated.

The only exception to this policy is on medical grounds. To receive a medical exemption, the parents must submit a doctor's note to Temple Emanuel's Director of Congregation Learning. For further questions on this policy or to consult with a Temple officiant, please contact the Director of Congregational Learning.

Influenza H1N1 has infected more than one million people in the United States, and experts at the Center for Disease Control are expecting a sharp upsurge in cases as the school year begins this fall. It is recommended that, through your health care provider, you get immunized for both H1N1, as it becomes available, and the seasonal flu.

Temple Emanuel has been developing plans to keep our students and congregants as free from infection as possible. Our preliminary plans for minimizing our students' and teachers' risks for infection with the H1N1 virus will reflect the established policies in our local public school districts, the Montgomery County Health Department, the Maryland Department of State Health Services, and the CDC:

- Individuals, who are ill, especially with fever, should stay home.
- Personal hygiene, including **frequent hand washing** and proper attention to those pesky runny noses and wet coughs, will be encouraged.
- Students and teachers who become ill after they arrive at Religious School will receive care and attention away from their classmates while they wait for transportation home.
- **Those who have become ill should stay home for at least 7 days, to include at least 24 hours without fever.**

### **STATEMENT TO PARENTS**

#### **ILLNESS/COMMUNICABLE DISEASES:**

Students are expected to be free of fever (temperature less than 100.4 F) and free of communicable diseases in order to attend Religious School. Parents/Guardians are required to pick up their children as soon as possible if they develop a fever (temperature greater than 100.4 F) or otherwise become ill at Religious School.

Parents/Guardians should keep their child home for a minimum of 7 days or until the child is fever-free for 24 hours without anti-fever medication, whichever is longer. This helps minimize the spread of potentially contagious illnesses at Religious School and encourages adequate rest and recuperation before the student returns to school.

We ask that you call the Religious School Office (301-942-6011) when a child is going to be absent, especially if the absence is due to illness, so that we can help monitor the health and safety of our all students and families.

**EMERGENCY CONTACTS:**

**Emergency telephone numbers are vitally important.** Current cell, work, and home telephone numbers for Parents/Guardians, or other adults who are authorized to pick up your child, must be listed with the Religious School Office. Changes in cell, work or home telephone numbers are to be sent immediately to the office so that contact information is always current.

***STUDENTS WILL NOT BE RELEASED TO ANY PERSON  
WHO IS NOT LISTED AS AN EMERGENCY CONTACT.***