

# Tikvat Israel Congregation

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תקוות ישראל

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Marc D. Israel, Rabbi  
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*With the understanding that no amount of restrictions can guarantee a 100% risk-free environment, the following health and safety regulations are in effect for all religious services and events inside Tikvat Israel's building as of December 30, 2021:*

- To prevent the spread of communicable disease—such as COVID-19—you should always follow routine hygiene practices such as handwashing and staying home when you don't feel well.
- All persons 12 years old and older must be vaccinated against COVID-19 to attend indoor services or other events in the synagogue building.
- We request that people social distance and vulnerable and unvaccinated adults and children remain at home.
- We strongly encourage parents to vaccinate 5-11-year-old children (we are discussing if and when this will become a requirement).
- We strongly encourage boosters (we are discussing if this will become a requirement).
- Masks **MUST** be worn at all times by all persons 2 years old and older inside the synagogue building, except service leaders and Torah/Haftarah readers. (ECC teachers and students will continue to follow their COVID-19 protocols.)
  - Masks should fit properly – covering your nose, mouth, and chin. If you are not wearing your mask properly, someone will politely remind you and we expect that you will make the necessary adjustments.
- Chairs in the back of the Sanctuary will be arranged in small groupings to allow for distancing between family groups.
- We will continue to open windows and doors in the Sanctuary to provide better ventilation (even in Winter, though it may be cold in parts of the room). For the same reason, the furnace fans will be running constantly during the service.
- During the Shabbat Torah service, the Torah/Haftarah reader may remove their mask. To maintain appropriate social distancing:
  - Those with an Aliyah will stand and say the blessings from a music stand in front of the bimah.
  - Those with an Aliyah should return to their seats after their closing blessing.
- We will not have kiddushim, we may arrange a "to go" kiddush on occasion.

*We are aware of the increasing rates of communal spread in the area due to the Omicron variant, and though the high rate of vaccination in the county could lessen the impact, we encourage members to be vigilant and reduce their risk of exposure and infection. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and update these guidelines as conditions warrant.*

Additional useful information from a Washington Post article titled "With omicron, many vaccinated Americans will at some point test positive. Here's what to do," can be found [here](https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/with-omicron-many-vaccinated-americans-will-at-some-point-test-positive-heres-what-to-do/2021/12/30/).

Updated December 30, 2021