



Congregational Letter

Subject: Phased Reopening Plans

Dear Friends,

We hope you are staying safe and well during this challenging time. We write to update you on our plans for a cautious, phased re-opening, including the resumption of in-person services.

A Reopening Task Force has been convened to ensure we follow best practices. As part of the first re-opening phase, we will resume Shabbat morning services beginning July 11th. During the first phase, we will continue to have virtual-only Kabbalat Shabbat and Havdalah services. Changes may be made to our reopening plans, up to and including canceling planned services, based on public health trends and guidance from public health officials.

When we gather again in the temple, the following are some of the modifications that will be in place to minimize the risk to our community's health as much as practically possible:

- We ask that people intending to attend services sign up in advance – either by using the registration form that will be shared by e-mail or by calling the office; if you are unable to sign up in advance, you are still welcome to attend, but we will need to write down your name and contact information for the purposes of contact tracing.
- Attendees are encouraged to bring their own talitot and kippot.
- Masks that cover your nose and mouth will be required to be worn at all times; persons leading the service will be separated from the congregation by a tempered glass shield.
- Entry and egress from the building will be limited to the front doors and the back door by Gary's office; entry to the Sanctuary will be through the doors and exit from the Sanctuary will be through the social hall.
- A temperature check will be made at the entry to the Sanctuary; if you have an elevated temperature, for everyone's safety you will be asked to return home.
- People should observe social distancing of at least six feet while on the premises. To ensure socially-distant seating, books will be set out in clusters – we ask that you please only sit where books have been provided, and to leave the books in place at the end of the service. People who bring their own books will be directed to seating by the ushers.
- The curtain between the sanctuary and the social hall will be kept open, and seating will be limited to 25% of capacity, with the social hall used for overflow seating if necessary.
- Aliyot and other honors will be taken from the seats; only the person reading the Torah will be on the Bimah.
- Neither food nor drink will be provided, except for water bottles; drinking fountains will be turned off and the kitchen will be closed; please feel free to bring your own water.

- Adherence to the above policies and to all instructions provided by staff, clergy, and ushers is required for service attendance.
- The synagogue will be cleaned extensively before and after each service.

We have incorporated accommodations that are in violation of Shabbat only if they are absolutely necessary for the community's safety. The principle of *pikuah nefesh doheh et ha-shabat* – to save a life takes precedence over the observance of the Sabbath – applies. Anyone experiencing the symptoms of Coronavirus or who suspects they may have the virus is asked to perform the Mitzvah of saving a life by staying home. No one should feel obligated to come to services, especially the elderly, immunocompromised, and those who have underlying health conditions. We are developing a plan to stream live services to allow our entire community to attend our services virtually.

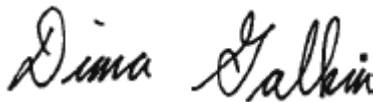
We thank you for your patience and perseverance as we attempt to meet the requirements of Jewish and Civil law while providing an in-person prayer experience that minimizes the risk of Coronavirus transmission. With the understanding that everything can change with little notice, we nevertheless look forward to seeing you again, in person, on Saturday, July 11th, 2020 at 10:00 in the morning.

If you have any suggestions, questions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact either of us.

Sincerely yours,



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