

December 23, 2021

Dear Friends,

Sadly, we have all been watching the COVID numbers in our area, around the country, and around the world, climbing. Needless to say, we take safety at the JCCH very seriously. We are particularly concerned about the period following the upcoming holiday weeks when many in our community will be travelling and gathering with friends and family.

As a proactive measure, we will be closing the JCCH to all onsite activities starting today, December 23rd, and continuing at least through Sunday, January 16, at which point we will review conditions and infection rates in our community. Here is what this means for you:

1. All services, programs, and events will be held virtually on Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube. Services will remain spirited and soulful and you can participate from the comfort of your home!
2. The Kehilah School and B'nei Mitzvah preparation will be conducted virtually on Zoom.
3. We will be open by appointment only for pastoral emergencies, spiritual care, or if you need to meet with one of our staff. Anyone entering our building will need to have a confirmed appointment and show proof of vaccination. Masks are required at all times.
4. Cantor Marcos will maintain a high level of accessibility and can be reached at 347-537-9612 or [cantormarcos@jcch.org](mailto:cantormarcos@jcch.org)

Please read the following for detailed information regarding all of our programming.

### **Religious Services**

Our weekday Minyan will continue virtually.

Starting tomorrow, our Friday evening Kabbalat Shabbat service and our Saturday Shabbat morning service will be held virtually on Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube only.

Friday evening services will continue to be musical and joyful and will be broadcast from the Sanctuary by Cantor Marcos. The Yahrtzeit list and Mourner's Kaddish will be included as usual.

Saturday morning services will also be broadcast from the Sanctuary by Cantor Marcos and will last 90 minutes. One aliyah of Torah and the Haftarah will be chanted. The Sermon will be delivered by Cantor Marcos. The Yahrzeit list Mourner's Kaddish and Misheberach list, along with the prayer for the sick will be recited.

You may access all our services [here](#).

### **Kehilah School**

Kehilah School classes will resume ONLINE on Tuesday, January 4. Classes will continue online at least through Sunday, January 16. Ronit will be in touch with the school community with details.

### **Other Activities**

All other activities at the JCCH, such as basketball (including the Westchester Jewish Basketball League) and pickleball will be suspended during this period. Programs that typically use our space have been notified of our plans. We do ask that JCCH committees not schedule meetings at the synagogue during this period.

### **Synagogue Office**

During this period, the office will remain open, however, much as we love to see and connect with our members, we do ask that members not "drop in." We welcome you by appointment only and you must be vaccinated and masked.

A note to upcoming B'nai Mitzvah families – We will be reaching out to you so we can prepare together and ensure a safe and joyful experience. If you have an upcoming Bar/Bat mitzvah please know that we will work diligently to make your milestone special and meaningful within the boundaries of what is possible at the given time. We will work with you to make the best possible arrangements for your family within the guidelines our COVID task force has established in support of the overall best health and safety interests of our community.

Wishing all of us good health in the new year,

Matt Benson, COVID Task Force  
Heather Schwartz, COVID Task Force  
Minna Brown, COVID Task Force  
Heather Ross, School Board Chair  
Marcos Askenazi, Cantor  
Ronit Razinovsky, Education Director  
Eric Nussbaum, Executive Director