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JRC COVID-19 Covenant 8/24/2020

At JRC, the COVID-19 pandemic has created challenges that compel us to balance multiple concerns: (1) our need to avoid infecting ourselves or others with the dangerous novel coronavirus, (2) our need for social connection with, and often physical proximity to, one another, and (3) our need to attend responsibly to the diverse needs of our fellow community members.

We approach this balance keeping in mind several guiding principles which include: (a) pikuach nefesh (saving lives), (b) tzorchei tzibur (community needs), (c) respecting varied individual needs, and (d) balancing the risks and benefits of physical gatherings.

We therefore commit one to the other to uphold the following obligations if and when there is a physical gathering of JRC community members until the COVID-19 pandemic subsides to the point where public health authorities are no longer recommending caution:

1. We will wear face masks, properly covering our mouth and nose, keeping them on throughout the entire time that we are gathered, whether indoors or outdoors. We understand that official JRC gatherings will not involve eating, drinking or singing together.
2. We will maintain a physical distance of at least six feet from people who are not part of our household or in a shared “bubble” with members of our household.
3. We will wash or sanitize our hands frequently and before arriving at any gathering.
4. We will not attend any such gathering if we have symptoms - even if very mild - that might indicate an infection, which include but are not limited to fever, headache, sore throat, a new cough, congestion, loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, unexplained fatigue.
5. We will not attend any such gathering if we or any member of our household has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the preceding 14 days, is awaiting COVID-19 test results, is considered a “person under investigation,” or has traveled to a COVID-19 “hot spot” or state on the Chicago or Cook County quarantine list in the preceding 14 days
6. We will be certain to inform JRC and fellow attendees if we or our household members are diagnosed with COVID-19 within 14 days following any gathering we attended.



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7. We will help ensure that an accurate list is made of the names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of all individuals in attendance, and that if it is an official JRC gathering, that list is shared with JRC at info@jrc-evanston.org before the end of the day. This is so that we can assist public health authorities in contact tracing efforts when requested; we will follow their recommendations if contacted, and we will use this information only to support contact tracing.
8. We will help and guide our children and other relatives when needed to uphold these obligations, and we will teach them why they are important. We will remind those in attendance of these obligations if it appears that anyone is not upholding them, and we will welcome such reminders from others without reproach.
9. We will respect the choices made by congregants, clergy, staff and guests to attend in-person events or remote options. We will support everyone's decisions to do what is best for them and their families without repercussion.

JRC's leadership will work to provide comparable remote options for in-person JRC gatherings. JRC will also continue to monitor public health conditions and recommendations, and this covenant and other guidance will be updated and discussed as needed.

We all look forward to the day when we can gather in person in our building again. Together, we commit to learning and following recommended best practices to hasten that day's arrival.