

Brit L’Kinus:

Shir Tikvah Community Covenant for In-Person Gathering

The Jewish story begins in Genesis with the *brit*-covenant-between God, Abraham, and Sarah that established the Jewish people. A *brit* is a moral and spiritual commitment to show up with trust and integrity.

These past 16 months of COVID have been devastating for so many—from those who have died from the virus, to those whose mental health has suffered from isolation and loneliness, to those who lost jobs and children who missed school, we’ve all been impacted by this wretched disease.

As we emerge back into community together, we must remain committed to one another, to show up as our best selves with each other. Our values of “*pikuach nefesh*”—protecting life, “*kavod habriyut*”—protecting our health, and “*tzorchei tzibur*”—attending the needs of the community frame our work as a synagogue community and spiritual home.

We know that different people in our community have different levels of comfort as we re-emerge. We are following CDC guidelines as well as moving a bit more slowly so that more people in the community are able to participate.

By signing this covenant, I am making a commitment, for myself and on behalf of those for whom I sign up today, that we each support the community and our commitment to each other in these ways:

1. By entering this space, I am entering into a *brit*—a covenant—with everyone else who is present. I am mindful of other people’s health, safety, and wellbeing as well as my own. I recognize that in doing so I am trusting my community and my community is trusting me. I am showing up with honesty and integrity.

2. I will not attend in-person gatherings until two weeks have passed since full vaccination (unless I am not eligible to be vaccinated because of a serious medical condition or age).
3. Because Shir Tikvah welcomes people who are not eligible to be vaccinated, I will wear face masks, properly covering my mouth and nose. I will do this because I want to keep others healthy and to keep myself healthy.
4. I will wash and/or sanitize our hands frequently. I will do this because I want to keep others healthy and to keep myself healthy.
5. I will not attend any gathering if I have potential COVID symptoms, which include a fever, cough, runny nose, body aches, etc. I will do this because I want to keep others healthy and to keep myself healthy.
6. I will inform Shir Tikvah if any member of our household tests positive for COVID following attendance at a Shir Tikvah service or event. I will do this because I want others to know if they may have been exposed.
7. I recognize that different people have different levels of comfort touching because of the pandemic or otherwise; I agree to ask for consent before taking someone's hand to shake or beginning a hug.
8. I will support our family and community in following these guidelines.