



## **Limited Shabbat Reopening**

*Beginning July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021*

*Note: These guidelines are subject to change in response to evolving public health guidance. This document is based on latest guidance available from [Public Health](#), BCCDC, and [WorkSafeBC](#), as of June 15, 2021.*

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Beth Tikvah has been successfully operating an abbreviated online service through Zoom for over a year. With recent positive changes in the state of the COVID-19 pandemic and a recognition that many of our congregants are eager to begin attending services in person, we have developed the following guidelines to allow for a limited number of congregants to be present in our sanctuary during Shabbat services. Also, in recognition of the fact that many congregants feel uncomfortable with or unable to attend services in person at this point in time, we will continue to use Zoom for participation in services for as long as it is feasible.

Since we will now have an on-site minyan, we will begin adding the Torah Service to our current abbreviated service in accordance with the guidelines below.

As the status of the pandemic evolves, we will endeavour to update these guidelines as needed.

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### **Prior to Services (Friday afternoon)**

1. Janitorial staff, as part of their regular maintenance routines, will:
    - a. Disinfect high-touch surfaces (door handles/knobs, light switches, etc).
    - b. Clean and disinfect Torah reading table, ark door handles, microphones, and lecterns.
    - c. Clean and disinfect main bathrooms and accessible bathroom.
    - d. Ensure garbage cans have been emptied.
    - e. Ensure soap and paper towel dispensers are stocked and operational.
  2. Synagogue staff and/or volunteers will
    - a. Ensure full hand sanitizer bottles are available
      - on the front foyer table.
      - on the table inside the sanctuary door.
      - on the Torah reading table.
    - b. Ensure a small supply of disposable masks is available in the foyer.
    - c. Ensure two chairs are available in the sanctuary to prop the outer sanctuary doors open.
    - d. Mark Torah readings with post it notes.
    - e. Ensure a reasonable supply of clean chopsticks is available in the sanctuary to use in place of a yad (for readers who do not have a personal one) as well as a small basket to collect the used chopsticks.
    - f. Ensure disinfectant wipes and a small garbage can are available on the bimah.
    - g. Ensure chairs are clearly marked as not available to allow distancing (see below for details).
    - h. Ensure COVID signage is correctly displayed on the front door and in the entry way (see below).
    - i. Print out the registration list and all other necessary documents for the service to be left in the sanctuary (please also provide coloured dot stickers for sign in).
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## **Shabbat Morning**

### **1. General Protocols**

- a. Only congregants who have pre-registered either online or by calling the office will be permitted to enter the building.
  - The limit for pre-registration will be 20 congregants, in addition to those who are involved with leading the service (davening, reading Torah, gabbai'im, greeter, etc).
  - Ideally, there will be fewer than 35 people present in the sanctuary. At this time, gatherings must not exceed the legal limit of 50 people and must allow for appropriate distancing (minimum 2m/6ft) for all participants. Attendees living in the same household should sit together and do not require distancing amongst themselves. Gatherings over 35 may require the use of the social hall to allow for adequate spacing.
  - Although we believe that attending services under these guidelines is extremely safe, we advise that everyone planning on attending services must consider the risks, assess their own risk tolerance, familiarize themselves with these protocols, and think through extra precautions they may wish to take – particularly individuals at risk of a more severe illness (e.g. if they are over 60 years old, have compromised immune systems, or underlying chronic medical conditions, etc.).
  - Pre-registration will include providing the number of individuals attending, listing a current email address and phone number, and reviewing standard health check questions.
- b. All congregants must stay home if they are sick and/or required to self-isolate.
- c. Entry into the building will be by the back door only. Fobs should be used for entry.
- d. The greeter will use stickers to indicate attendance on the registration list. Congregants who have not pre-registered will be politely asked to leave and encouraged to register for future weeks.
- e. Physical distancing (minimum 2m/6ft) must be observed at all times. Family members living in the same household may sit together, but must ensure adequate space from other groups. Handshakes and hugs while greeting others should be avoided.
- f. [Masks](#) are required for all congregants in attendance, but may be removed by people leading services or speaking in front of the congregation (with appropriate spacing and/or a physical barrier). Masks must be worn by all participants in the Torah reading.
- g. Congregants are asked to clean their hands upon entering the building and upon coming up to the bimah for an honour.
- h. Congregants are asked to bring their own kippah and tallit. The communal kippot and tallitot will also remain available in the hallway should they be needed.
- i. Congregants are asked to pick up and return their own chumashim from the bookshelf.
- j. Congregational singing/chanting is not permitted at this time.
- k. The two sanctuary side doors will be propped open throughout the service to assist with ventilation.
- l. There will be no kiddush lunch served following services until further notice.
- m. Zoom participants will continue to be unmuted for participation in the minyan for Barchu, Kedushah, and all Kaddishes.

## 2. Leading Services

- a. All service leaders must maintain a minimum of 2m/6ft of physical distance from each other and 3m/10ft from the congregation and/or be behind a physical barrier.
- b. Services leaders and speakers may remove their masks when they are 3m/10ft from the congregation and/or be behind a physical barrier. However, masks are required for participation in the Torah service.
- c. Hand sanitizer should be used prior to coming up to the bimah.
- d. Disinfectant wipes should be used between service leaders on microphones, table edges, lecterns, etc. as needed.

## 3. Torah Service

- a. Due to the number of people required to participate in and the complexity of the Torah Service, all participants are required wear a mask while on the bimah/at the shulchan.
- b. All congregants approaching the bimah or shulchan for an honour must clean their hands with hand sanitizer prior to their honour and should avoid touching their face while on the bimah. Physical distancing of 2m/6ft must be maintained by all participants on the bimah.
- c. Touching or kissing the Torah is discouraged.
- d. The congregants honoured with hagbah and gelilah should be from the same household.
- e. During the Torah reading, only one person should be standing at the shulchan at a time to maintain distance:
  - The gabbai rishon will call each aliyah from a microphone off to the side and will also announce the page numbers.
  - The gabbai sheni will sit/stand be a minimum of 2m/6ft away from the shulchan.
  - The oleh/olah will step forward to say the blessings without touching or kissing the Torah, then step back. After each aliyah, the oleh/olah will return to their seat, but remain standing during the following aliyah.
  - The Torah reader will stand back during the blessings and only step forward to read Torah.
- f. Each Torah reader must use a separate yad. For readers who do not have their own yad, clean chopsticks will be available. Used chopsticks should be placed in the designated basket.
- g. Any items that are touched (e.g. microphone stem, Eitz Chaiim of the Torah, etc) should be wiped with disinfectant wipes between congregants.
- h. All participants in the Torah Service must be present in the sanctuary, with the exception of those leading the following, who may choose to either lead them in person OR over Zoom by prior arrangement:
  - Haftarah reading
  - Prayer for Israel
  - Prayer for Peace
  - Ashrei

## 4. Hallways and Washrooms

- a. Congregants are asked to avoid gathering in the hallways if possible.
  - b. Physical distancing must be observed in the washrooms. Please wait outside the washroom if there is not adequate space.
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### **Following Services (Saturday afternoon through Monday)**

1. Janitorial staff will
    - a. Wipe down high-touch surfaces (door handles/knobs, light switches, etc).
    - b. Clean and disinfect Torah reading table, ark door handles, microphones, and lecterns.
    - c. Clean and disinfect main bathrooms and accessible bathroom.
    - d. Ensure garbage cans have been emptied.
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### **Signage**

1. [Handwashing poster](#): front foyer by hand sanitizer and all bathroom mirrors.
2. [Coughs and sneezes poster](#): front foyer.
3. [Physical distancing poster](#): front foyer, sanctuary door, bathroom doors.
4. [Cleaning and Disinfecting](#): janitorial closet.
5. [Do not enter poster](#): outside of front and back door.