



## **Updated Reopening Protocols for Services**

*Effective July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

The past year has been one of grief and loss as well as innovation. COVID-19 has forced us to continually rethink all aspects of what we do. As we continue to move forward, we will use our learning from the past year to inform our next steps. At this point in time, the province has signaled that we can ease many of the restrictions we have had in place. The board of directors has reviewed the current public health guidance (stage 3) and we would like to communicate the following updated guidelines to our community.

### **Masks**

Masks continue to be required in Beth Tikvah. In particular, we believe that our sanctuary, by definition, should be a place where all should feel comfortable and safe. All of us have varying comfort levels with group settings due to the ongoing health risks. We also recognize that many of our members are not yet fully vaccinated, and that vaccination is not yet an option for everyone. Therefore, we continue to require masks in the building for all except for a person who is leading services or speaking behind a plexiglass divider. At the same time, we also recognize that some individuals are unable to wear a mask for medical reasons and ask that all be respectful of this.

### **Services (Shabbat and Tuesday Morning)**

Services will continue to be held in-person in the sanctuary and virtually. For in-person attendance, we are limiting attendance to 50 individuals, including those leading services, so that we can maintain distancing as below. We continue to ask that congregants [pre-register online](#) so that we can adequately plan for your attendance.

### **Singing**

Singing is now allowed during services.

### **Socializing**

Socializing is now allowed before and after services.

### **Physical Distancing**

Everyone is encouraged to maintain a reasonable physical distance from others when choosing seats and while connecting socially. During the Torah Service, only one person should be at the Torah reading table at a time. Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes will be available.

### **Food**

At this time, we will not be offering a full kiddush lunch. However, we recognize that food is important to the Jewish people. In the coming months, we will provide a variety of opportunities for congregants to share a bite to eat together. Stay tuned for more details as they are available.

**Health Checks**

We ask that anyone who isn't feeling well or has any COVID-related symptoms, refrain from coming to services/events. For a list of symptoms, [click here](#).

**Final Thoughts**

We ask that you be patient and understanding while we re-enter our sacred space. Each of us are at a different stage of vaccination and comfort in communal settings. We are aware that some of you wish for us to open up even more quickly, and we feel this approach is in line with our core beliefs in *chesed* (kindness), *kavod* (respect), *pikuach nefesh* (saving lives), and caring for all members of our *kehilla kedosha* (holy community).

Please know we will continue monitoring the situation and review our processes regularly. We will provide an update prior to the High Holidays. In the meantime, we are working hard to create a variety of in-person and virtual opportunities for our members to connect with our tradition and each other. We look forward to the days when we can all come together, elevating one another!