



Limited Shabbat/Holiday Reopening

Beginning September 5th, 2020

Note: These guidelines are subject to change in response to evolving public health guidance. This document is based on latest guidance available from [BCCDC](#), [WorkSafeBC](#), and the Rabbinical Association of Vancouver as of August 13, 2020.

Beth Tikvah has been successfully operating an abbreviated online service through Zoom since early June. We recognize that many of our congregants prefer attending services in person and, therefore, have developed the following guidelines to allow for a limited number of congregants to be present in our sanctuary during Shabbat and Holiday services. Also, in recognition of the fact that many congregants feel uncomfortable with or unable to attend services in person, we will continue to use Zoom for participation in services for the foreseeable future.

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 guidance below.

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

Prior to Services (Friday afternoon)

1. Janitorial staff 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, Rabbi, 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 non-medical masks is available in the foyer.
 - c. Ensure two folding chairs are available in the sanctuary to prop the outer 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).

Shabbat/Holiday 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 on 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 30 people present in the sanctuary. Gatherings must not exceed the legal limit of 50 people and must allow for appropriate distancing (minimum 2m/6ft) for all participants. Gatherings over 35 will require the use of the social hall to allow for adequate spacing.
 - Everyone planning on attending services must properly inform themselves of 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 declaration 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 front 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.
- e. Physical distancing (minimum 2m/6ft) must be observed at all times. Seats will be marked as not in use to guide congregants in selecting seats. 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. The use of [non-medical masks](#) is strongly recommended for all congregants and is required for anyone participating in the Torah service.
- 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 remain available in the hallway, but should not be returned to the rack after use; they should be left draped over a sanctuary chair.
- i. Congregants are asked to pick up and return their own chumashim from the bookshelf. If there will be another service within the next seven days, chumashim should be left on the seats so that they may be set aside.
- j. Loud congregational singing is discouraged. Congregants may join in singing, but are recommended to wear a non-medical mask.
- k. The two sanctuary side doors will be propped open throughout the service to assist with ventilation. In colder weather, congregants should be mindful of this and dress appropriately.
- l. There will be no kiddush lunch served following services until further notice.

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.

- b. Non-medical masks are recommended for service leaders, and 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 complexity of the Torah Service, all participants are required wear a non-medical 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.
- c. During the Torah procession, touching or kissing the Torah is not permitted and congregants must provide a minimum 2m/6ft of space for the Torah carrier.
- d. The congregant honoured with carrying the Torah will also fulfill the role of hagbah and carrying the Torah at the end of the service. It is preferable that this person take the Torah out of the ark and return it without assistance. If possible, the gelilah should be from the same household as the Torah carrier.
- e. The congregants honoured with opening the ark should also close the ark.
- f. During the Torah reading, only one person should be standing at the shulchan at a time in order to maintain distance:
 - The gabbai rishon will step forward to call each aliyah and then step back.
 - The gabbai sheni will stand at the side lectern to announce page numbers from the microphone and make corrections as needed.
 - The oleh will step forward to say the blessings without touching or kissing the Torah, then step back. After each aliyah, the oleh will step back and to the side during the next aliyah.
 - The Torah reader will stand back during the blessings and only step forward to read Torah.
- g. Each Torah reader must use their own yad. For readers who do not have their own yad, clean chopsticks will be available. Used chopsticks should be placed in the designated basket.
- h. Any items that are touched (e.g. microphone stem, Eitz Chaiim of the Torah, etc) should be wiped with disinfectant wipes by the Gabbai Rishon between congregants.
- i. All participants in the Torah Service must be present in the sanctuary, with the exception of the following, which can be led over Zoom by prior arrangement:
 - Haftarah reading
 - Prayer for Israel
 - Prayer for Peace
- j. Zoom participants will continue to be unmuted for participation in the minyan for Barchu, Kedushah, and any Kaddish.

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 by:
 - Limiting the number of people in the washroom to a maximum of two; please wait outside the washroom if there are already two people inside.
 - In the men's washroom, the middle urinal will be unavailable.
 - Everyone must practice good hand hygiene and thoroughly wash hands after using the washroom.

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.

2. Synagogue staff, Rabbi, and/or volunteers will
 - a. Replace all used books, tallitot, and kippot that have been left out in the sanctuary.
 - b. Return used chopsticks to the clean basket.
 - c. If the next service is within seven days, used items should be either wiped with disinfectant or set aside and out of circulation for the remainder of the week if they can't be disinfected.

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 door.
 6. Main bathroom doors: Sign indicating "Maximum of 2 people in this washroom."
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