



Updated COVID-19 Protocols as of July 9, 2021

We are excited to expand our on-campus, in-person prayer services, programming and learning opportunities. As of June 15, 2021, Governor Newsom ended or phased out many of the executive orders that constituted the state's COVID safety program. Here is a link to the new California [public health order](#). Among the restrictions that were lifted on June 15 were physical distancing, capacity limitations and the state's county-by-county color-coded tier system. With the state's new health order in place, VBS has updated its campus protocols and the protocols outlined here are effective immediately.

The VBS Pandemic Response Team continuously monitors the latest COVID-19 developments and recommendations, and reserves the right to make changes to these protocols at any time. VBS has strived to meet or exceed the public health recommendations of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control during the pandemic and will continue to do so in the coming weeks and months.

Although the state order eased many of the prior COVID-related safety measures on June 15, more recently, with respect to the growing spread of the highly contagious Delta variant, the LACDPH has strongly recommended that all residents wear masks in public indoor spaces -- regardless of whether they have been vaccinated for COVID-19.

We would also like to clarify that while many of the protocols included in this update also apply to our VBS Schools and Camps, those groups are required to follow additional published LACDPH protocols for schools and camps and may differ, to some degree, with what is included in this update.

As part of this new reopening plan and in light of the LACDPH recommendation, we at Valley Beth Shalom would like to clarify the following updated masking, travel and attendance policies, effective immediately:

1. Masking While at VBS --

VBS will align with the LACDPH recommendation and will continue to require that all staff, members and guests who enter our campus remain masked in all public indoor spaces at VBS, *regardless of vaccination status* (except while actively eating). This masking requirement applies to all worship services and applies in all public spaces at VBS.

There are two exceptions to the above requirement:

- a. Fully vaccinated synagogue staff, meeting in private offices with other fully vaccinated individuals only, may conduct such meetings without masks.



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- b. Leaders of worship services (clergy, lay leaders or b'nai mitzvah) may be maskless during the time that they are leading the service -- but will appropriately distance themselves from worshippers.

VBS expects members, staff and guests to adhere to this masking policy while on campus to protect the vulnerable and the unvaccinated among us, including children. Those not adhering to the policy will be asked to put on an appropriate mask; if that individual refuses, they are subject to removal from the VBS premises by our security team.

We are hopeful that the masking requirement will be eased or lifted in the near future, but VBS will follow the LACDPH recommendations.

2. Updated Travel Policy

Valley Beth Shalom is relaxing certain aspects of its previous travel policy effective immediately, as follows:

- Fully vaccinated people do not need to quarantine or test after return from either domestic or international travel in order to come onsite.
- Unvaccinated people (including children or those who have not completed vaccinations and waiting periods) returning onsite at VBS after travel (domestic travel by plane, train or other public mode; and all international travel) must wait 72 hours upon arrival from such travel and then take a PCR test for COVID-19. If they achieve a negative PCR test result, they may return to campus the following day without further quarantine. Proof of negative test must be submitted to the proper HR representative or school/camp administrator. Members unaffiliated with the school or staff who are unvaccinated and travel are expected to follow these travel protocols on the "honor system."

3. Stay Home If You Are Sick --

Despite the easing of certain restrictions, we remind our members and guests to please **STAY HOME IF YOU ARE SICK** with a cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fever or chills or if you are currently under quarantine or isolation.



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4. Registrations and Consent Forms --

In light of the changes in the state, local and VBS protocols, registration and/or signed consent forms are no longer required to attend VBS Shabbat services or other programs. In conjunction with the loosened state restrictions, VBS is not maintaining capacity limitations or mandating social distancing between households. Please be aware of these important changes as you make plans to attend VBS events in the foreseeable future. VBS will continue to stream our services on our Facebook and YouTube channels for those who are more comfortable connecting with us from home.

5. Attendance Limits

Per the state protocols, VBS is no longer limiting the number of attendees at our services and programs. In addition, capacity limitations in the restrooms and elevators have been lifted.

6. Entry Requirements

VBS will no longer conduct temperature checks but may conduct modified health screenings for those attending our schools, camps, services and other programs.

7. Vulnerable Attendees

As has been well publicized, adults over 65 years of age and individuals with certain underlying health conditions or co-morbidities (such as, but not limited to, hypertension, obesity, uncontrolled asthma, and diabetes), or with immunosuppression conditions have shown the greatest susceptibility to the COVID-19 virus. Given those risks, we strongly recommend that anyone with such underlying health conditions regularly consult with their physician to see if it is advisable to attend the service or event on site.

8. Parking

All parking will remain in the Sinder (main) Parking Lot. There will still be no parking attendant on duty. For those who may have difficulty walking the distance from the lot to the service, we recommend dropping off on Densmore Avenue at the Glaser Hall gray ramp. Drop off and pick up for VBS' Camp Shelanu (our early childhood center's camp) will continue in the Reznik Lot.



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9. Food and Hand Washing

At this time, we are not resuming Oneg, Kiddush or other public food service at VBS minyan and Shabbat services. VBS will provide water bottles. The drinking fountains will still be turned off, however the bottle refilling stations will be available. We will continue to monitor current protocols and hope we can resume food service in the coming months.

We continue to recommend hand hygiene and to continuously **CLEAN YOUR HANDS** with soap and water or use hand sanitizer after contact with frequently touched surfaces.

We look forward to welcoming our community back to Valley Beth Shalom. As we have done throughout the pandemic, our VBS Pandemic Response Team, in conjunction with our medical and legal committees, expects to follow CDC, State and LACDPH recommendations and requirements and so we reserve the right to make changes to these protocols at any time.