



Dear Members,

We've heard from many members that you would feel more comfortable, as well as more inclined, to attend Shabbat services, without a mask requirement.

After much consideration, the Reopening Task Force has decided to implement the next phase of our in-person Shabbat services by adhering to protocols issued by the Los Angeles County Department of Health for private gatherings so masks will not be required.

Beginning May 22, attendance at Shabbat on the Patio will be limited to members who are fully vaccinated, thereby allowing the flexibility to wear, or not wear, a mask during services. We welcome children 16 years old or younger who are unvaccinated, or not fully vaccinated, to attend services with a mask wearing requirement.

This decision by the Task Force takes into consideration a cross section of information, including the improving situation in Los Angeles County, moving to the yellow tier and reopening of businesses, the increase in the LA County vaccination rate, the expanded availability of the vaccine across demographics, and the increasing feedback from our community expressing the desire to attend services without wearing masks.

Another consideration to this decision is the latest changes at LA Dept of Public Health. In the past few weeks, the LADPH has released several new protocols for various venue settings, including Live Events – Indoors vs Outdoors and Private Gatherings – Indoor vs Outdoor. After several briefings as well as private conversations with LADPH explaining the nature of Jewish services, LADPH agreed that Houses of Worship could follow the Private Gatherings protocol. This understanding enables Adat Shalom to follow Private Gathering protocols which enables gathering of fully vaccinated people outdoors, without masking.

Under this protocol, we are able to hold outdoor services, limiting attendance to fully vaccinated members, without masking. The distancing guidelines are also reduced, expanding the overall attendance capacity. Advanced registration is required as outlined in the protocol, so that we can adhere to capacity limitations and contact-tracing protocol should the need arise.

While our ultimate goal is to get everyone back into the sanctuary, we see this as a transition step towards that goal.

Renalee Pflug
Executive Director