

Contagious Virus Contingency Plan

1. General: Historically, a number of highly contagious viruses have presented public health challenges. SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), H1N1 Influenza, MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) and most recently, Coronavirus COVID-19.

These viruses present significant danger to the affected populations.

In some circumstances a congregation may need to act to protect themselves, their families, and their communities.

Not to alarm but rather as a prudent precaution, this contingency plan is adopted to help provide guidance to protect and guard against the contracting and spread of a virus within the Temple Israel community, its members, and their families.

2. Virus Information: As policy, the Board of Trustees and the clergy will affirmatively seek and maintain current information about a current virus outbreak, especially if locally identified in Tallahassee and the surrounding area.

Regular and concise communication with the congregation is a priority to ensure that protective measures are understood, and we work to minimize risks to our staff, congregants and visitors.

3. Synagogue Operations: In the event that a potentially serious hazardous condition is imminent, appears likely, or is experienced, the Board, upon recommendation of the President and the Rabbi, may alter or suspend customary synagogue operations as outlined further in this plan, below.

4. Early Actions: As a general guideline, congregants and their family members are encouraged to:

If you have symptoms:

- Stay home and away from others when you are ill.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with tissues or your arm/sleeve. Dispose of tissues in the trash.
- If you have symptoms of fever, cough, flu-like symptoms, or shortness of breath, call your medical provider and report your symptoms and any recent travel.

If you are healthy and symptom-free:

- If you have not already, consider contacting your health care provider about getting a flu shot, pneumonia shot or whatever other preventive measures recommended by the CDC and local public health officials.
- Keep your hands clean by washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or using a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Avoid people who are ill.
- Keep surfaces clean using disinfectants.

5. Longer Term Conditions and Possible Added Precautions

Level 1 – When the spread of a potential contagious virus begins to become a realistic risk and when public awareness of the danger becomes widespread:

- Remind Congregants and Staff:
 - Wash hands more frequently
 - Use hand sanitizer in public spaces
 - Coughing/sneezing into tissue or elbow
 - If you experience symptoms consistent with the virus, stay home
- Continue to clean daily using disinfectant, pay close attention to cleaning areas where people put their hands.
- Keep sanctuary and social hall doors open during and after services.
- Use elbows to open doors with push bars.
- When it becomes available, message to congregation to seek your doctor's advice on how/when to take the vaccine.
- Pay close attention to the CDC website and local health department for updates.
 - CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
 - Florida DOH: [COVID-19 webpage](#)

Level 2 – When the spread of the potential virus is reported in Tallahassee and the surrounding area:

- Post signs: We elbow bump or use the Priestley blessing symbol here –Thank you for your cooperation.
- Participants at services will not be instructed to put their arms around neighbors.
- Extra hand sanitizer in public spaces.
- Challah will be pre-sliced and placed in social hall for serving using tongs.
- Pay attention to CDC and local health department recommendation for instances occurring in our community.
- Consider rescheduling noncritical programs and facility rentals.

Level 3 – In the event first case(s) are actually experienced in our community:

- Congregants experiencing symptoms consistent with the virus or have been in contact with anyone diagnosed with the virus should refrain from coming to the building and watch services live via Facebook.
- Ask congregants 70 and over or who have a weakened immune system to consider not coming to the building and watch services live via Facebook.

- Ask congregants and students (both youth and adult) to leave an empty seat next to each family group. Do our best to rope off every other row.
- Modify Oneg and Kiddush setups to avoid buffet-style self-service and instead pre-plate items.
- Modify Religious School activities to avoid close contact.
- Pay attention to CDC and local health department recommendation for instances occurring in our community.

Level 4 – Based on guidance from Leon County Health Department/CDC.

- Cancel religious school classes.
- Cancel adult education classes.
- Cancel programs and outside rentals.
- Conduct services via online only if they become available.
- Any employees with high-risk medical conditions are encouraged to work from home, excused from Shiva and other areas where congregants still need to be in close proximity.
- B'nai Mitzvahs either cancelled or restricted to family-only.
- Pay attention to CDC and local health department recommendation for instances occurring in our building.