

March 1, 2021

Dear Friends:

We are pleased to announce that beginning **Saturday, March 6th**, we will restart limited in-person Shabbat services.

As of February 11th, Suburban Cook County is in Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois plan. This allows for limited indoor gatherings, with continued social distancing and face masks. The COVID-19 Task Force, in conjunction with clergy, senior staff and senior leadership, have made the decision that our initial capacity for Shabbat services will be set at 25 participants. As we move into the spring and summer months, this number of attendees will be continually re-evaluated in keeping with health and safety guidelines.

We are thrilled that this re-opening coincides with many upcoming B'nai Mitzvah celebrations and other simchas in our community. With the still-limited capacity at these simchas, we will first accommodate the family of the celebrant before then opening up remaining seats to our congregation.

We will again use a sign up system to register for Shabbat services while under these restrictions. **Due to several such upcoming simchas, the first week for which you will be able to sign up for Shabbat services will be March 20th.**

We will send another email when registration is open. Before signing up, please review the updated BHBE guidelines for attending services on our [homepage](#).

As a Jewish community, we have an obligation to place supreme value on preserving human life. *Pikuah nefesh*, protecting human life, overrides almost every other Jewish value. It is this value that has guided our decisions over the past year. We thank you for your patience, understanding, and continued support of BHBE.

We look forward to welcoming you back to our sacred spaces in the coming months.

Rabbi Nate Crane
Cantor Pavel Roytman
Michael Kahn, Executive Director
Keri Bahar, President
Jay Goldstein, EVP
Cynthia Lerner, Ritual VP

By attending events, individuals agree to abide by the rules of the synagogue. BHBE cannot guarantee safety in light of the pandemic. BHBE is not liable for injuries or sickness as a result of the pandemic. Questions should be directed to [Michael Kahn](#).