



October 15th, 2021/ 8 Cheshvan 5782

## \*\*\*\*\*REOPENING UPDATE\*\*\*\*\*

Judea Reform Congregation continues to do all it can to ensure the welfare of congregants, clergy and staff, as well as our greater community. To accomplish this, the JRC Reopening Team has been meeting weekly to discuss COVID and Judea's response to it. We have determined that the metrics that were in use for the initial outbreak of COVID are not relevant to the Delta variant, as those numbers are vastly different for vaccinated and unvaccinated populations.

Instead, we have been utilizing a COVID-19 Risk Calculator created by the Harvard Healthy Buildings Program. The "Aerosol and Surface Interactive Model for Infectious Diseases" estimates potential infection risk based on a variety of factors and transmission pathways. **Our research has led us to the determination that we are ready to reopen, in phases, for vaccinated and masked congregants.**

Our focus in September was to concentrate on virtual High Holy day services, in-person B'nai Mitzvah celebrations (with strict protocols), and to lay the groundwork for in-person Religious School. There were several opportunities for congregants to be outdoors on our campus during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. A variety of outdoor events allowed Religious School families to gather and reconnect, building excitement toward the reopening of Religious School in early October.

We have seen a successful and exciting opening of Religious School this month (outdoors), and are looking forward to the following being in-person (indoors) as well:

1. **November will see a return to hybrid in-person Shabbat services.** (*Stay tuned for sign-ups*). Our robust virtual experience will continue for congregants who are more comfortable worshipping in their own homes.
2. The next focus will include reopening in-person for Anshei Mitzvah and LEAD JRC (our leadership development program) and select programming.
3. We will then turn our attention to Meetings (Board, Committees) and limited events. The final phase will see the building completely open for congregants.

We are mindful of the extra work involved for hybrid events, including technology and support

staff. We are committed to maintaining hybrid worship services for the foreseeable future--for other events and meetings, groups may need to choose being entirely in-person or entirely virtual.

We are determined to move through these phases in a deliberate manner. We appreciate your continued trust in us as we endeavor to follow the science, reopen in a mindful manner, and keep all of us safe.

Shabbat Shalom,

*Gale Adland & Mark Hainline*  
*JRC Reopening Task Force Chairs*