

Judea Reform Congregation

Building Reopening Plan

Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating effect on the world, the United States, and North Carolina. Sadly, we now know that participating indoors in a religious service is one of the most dangerous activities in which people can engage. To maintain the safety of Judea Reform Congregation's congregants, staff, visitors and vendors, synagogue leadership shut down our buildings in March, 2020 and moved services, education, and business operations on-line.

In November, 2020, the President of Judea Reform Congregation formed the Reopening Task Force to prepare a plan for reopening the synagogue safely. This plan is summarized below.

Reopening phases

Judea Reform Congregation will reopen in four phases:

- **Phase 1: Building Shutdown**
At the time of writing, Judea Reform Congregation is in this phase. All services, educational activities, and business operations are on-line with few exceptions. There will be limited outdoor gatherings in Phase 1.
- **Phase 2: Initial Building Reopening**
In this phase, we will resume some activities inside, with strict limits on the number of participants and strict requirements for behavior. Above all, everyone entering the building will be required to wear an adequate mask at all times and to fill out a health questionnaire. Congregants who wish to participate on-line will be able to do so. There will be an increase in limited outdoor gatherings in Phase 2.
- **Phase 3: Partial Building Reopening**
In this phase, we will continue to relax limitations on activities inside, while continuing to control the number of participants and behavior. All people entering the building will continue to be required to wear an adequate mask at all times and to fill out a health questionnaire. Congregants who wish to participate on-line will be able to do so.
- **Phase 4: Full Building Reopening**
In this phase, we will resume all activities in-doors with virtually no restrictions in place.

Metrics

Synagogue leadership will decide when to move to a new reopening phase -- or to return to an older one -- based on science-based metrics summarized here. Those metrics include

- New cases/100,000 people/day. This measures community spread
- PCR test positivity, which provides a backstop when an outbreak overwhelms testing capacity.

The counties that we measure are those in which the majority of our congregants live and work: Durham, Chapel Hill, Wake, Alamance and Chatham.

If the two indicators suggest that Judea Reform Congregation should be in two different phases, leadership should choose to remain (or return) to the more restrictive phase.

The table below summarizes the metrics:

Move to this phase when metrics are:	New cases/100,000 people/day	PCR test positivity
1. Shutdown	11 or more	7% or more
2. Initial reopening	< 11 and ≥ 3	< 7% and $\geq 5\%$
3. Partial reopening	< 3 and ≥ 1	< 5% and $\geq 3\%$
4. Full reopening	< 1	< 3%

In addition to these two primary metrics, leadership will consider the preparedness of the synagogue's buildings for reopening.

Staffing

Administering this plan will require additional work. In particular, each event at Judea Reform Congregation and Judea Reform Cemetery will require an Event Safety Officer. These ESOs will be trained volunteers.

In addition to the Event Safety Officers, the plan calls for the Building Manager to serve as the Principal COVID Safety Officer. The PCSO will have lead responsibility for implementing the plan and for notifying the Reopening Task Force of the need to update it.

The decision to move from one phase in the plan to another will be made by the President, Rabbi, and Executive Director. Prior to doing so, they will consult with the Health Advisory Task Force, which the President created at the start of the pandemic to advise on closing the synagogue.