

Dear Members and Friends of the Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue,

The Government gave the go ahead to reopen houses of worship, with a limit of 50 people. We are eager to reconvene in person and are committed to providing a safe environment that follows all relevant health guidelines. To that end, we will reopen gradually – for **Shabbat, July 11th, Service will be at 9:00 AM and end at 11:00 AM** in the Mashaal Sanctuary (Lemieux entrance). We plan to subsequently convene for Shaharit and Shabbat services.

We have established a task force to review the plans for reopening, and we ask the membership to please read the following notes as we must do everything possible to ensure a safe space for all.

Guidelines Rules and Regulations for Attending Services

- To attend the Spanish's services, one must **a)** be entirely free of any COVID-19 symptoms; **b)** have not been in close contact with someone who has recently or currently displays upper respiratory or flu-like symptoms or has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 14 days; or **c)** have not traveled outside of Canada within the last 14 days.
- Anyone with any of the following symptoms may not attend:
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Sore throat
 - Sudden loss of taste or smell
 - Anyone who does not feel well, even without any of the above symptoms
- **Those who attend our services affirm that they are completely healthy and have done everything possible to minimize exposure to COVID-19.**
- The unfortunate reality is that we must protect our most vulnerable by limiting attendance by age demographic. *Those over the age of 70 or in a high-risk group (i.e. diabetic, high blood pressure, heart or lung disease etc.) must consult with their physician in order to attend.* Additionally, only those **over the age of bar/bat mitzvah may attend.** We look forward to the day when we can again welcome all ages into our synagogue.
- Those attending the Spanish's services agree to inform the clergy if you are subsequently diagnosed with COVID-19. This is imperative, so that other attendees of that minyan can be properly informed and respond accordingly. Your anonymity will be absolutely maintained.
- At the entrance, we will be doing temperature checks. All attendees must wear masks. Please bring your own mask.
- We will take numerous precautions to ensure physical distancing, and an avoidance of physical contact with shared surfaces. To this end:
 - A security official will only allow entry to the synagogue to those on a list provided by the administration, **without exception. To do this, we ask you to send us a registration request at: support@thespanish.org.**
 - Doors will be propped open to avoid having to touch the handles.
 - At the entrance, we will be doing temperature checks.
 - Please walk directly to your seat, remain there for the duration of the service, and exit immediately at its conclusion without socializing or touching anyone and anything.
 - Please sit only at a designated seat. Seats will be placed at a minimum of two meters distance from each other and will be disinfected after each service.
 - Unfortunately, there can be no socializing before or after services. This will help reduce the amount of time that we are spending together in the same room.
 - No food or drinks on the premises.
 - We will do everything possible to keep our service brief, to minimize possible exposure.
 - The current government regulations encourage us to minimize the amount of singing.
 - Please bring your own siddur, tallit and tefillin. Should you wish to obtain a copy of the Spanish's siddur, please be in touch with a clergy member.
 - Mourners will recite Kaddish from their seats; there will be no advancing to the front of the room for Kaddish.

PLEASE NOTE THAT IF ONLY ONE PARTICIPANT IN ATTENDANCE HAS COVID-19, WE WILL BE FORCED TO CLOSE THE SYNAGOGUE AND ALL KAHAL MEMBERS WILL HAVE TO QUARANTINE.

We are eager to pray together and see you in person. We ask for your patience as we will do everything in our power to preserve the health of our community. This new reality will continue to test us in many ways; our vigilance and faith will keep us safe and propel us forward. We will keep you posted as this new reality progresses, as we will continually reassess when new directives and guidelines are issued by the government.

Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue Reopening Committee