



Covid Reopening Committee

Report to the Congregation

June 22, 2021 (Changes from previous report highlighted in yellow.)

We are happy to report that improving vaccination rates and a declining infection rate have allowed our synagogue to reopen. The following policies are now in place, subject to change, in the event that conditions improve or worsen. In the event of a sudden decline in community health conditions and the need to make a quick decision about policy for the safety of our community, the committee empowered the 4 physicians on the committee to meet on their own to make a suitable determination. (See Committee members below.)

MASKS WILL BE CONTINUE TO BE REQUIRED FOR THE UNVACCINATED AND IMMUNOCOMPROMISED AT ALL EVENTS DESCRIBED BELOW, WHETHER INSIDE OR OUTSIDE, SMALL GROUP OR LARGE. VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS NEED NOT WEAR MASKS.

*We encourage all who are eligible and able to receive the vaccine to do so as soon as possible. **However, proof of vaccination will not be required at BHT events. Conditions and CDC advice could change that determination in the future.***

***Reservations** will be needed for all services and large group events so that we will have a record of who was present, should contact tracing be necessary. The reservation process will be managed primarily online, through the temple's website. Check the weekly eNews for a link to the reservation form.*

Rabbi Feingold has returned to her office and may hold one-on-one or small meetings with students or families in a space that allows for social distancing. Masks will be required for those not vaccinated or immunocompromised.

Summer Services (Note new rules, including RAISED Capacity Limit and Singing Aloud Outside):

1. Shabbat Services are being held in the backyard, weather permitting, Fridays at 5:45. ALL IN-PERSON SERVICES WILL ALSO BE BROADCAST ONLINE FOR THOSE STILL ATTENDING REMOTELY. There is a sign-up/reservation procedure for those attending in-person. Only those who reserved in advance may attend. Attendance records will be kept in the office to facilitate contact-tracing if needed and to ensure that every member who wants to attend services may do so at some points during the summer.

2. **Services on June 25 and July 2 will be limited 30 people.** Assigned seating in pods, with masks for the unvaccinated and immunocompromised only, based on a precise social distancing plan in the outdoor sanctuary, will be in place all summer. Ideally, the attendance cap will grow as the summer progresses.
3. Use of the restroom inside will be limited to one person at a time, wearing a mask, with sanitizer use on entering and leaving the building.
4. **Singing will be allowed for all attendees at outdoor services,** as long as social distancing is maintained. **Service leaders need not wear masks.**
5. The Torah Study group has decided to continue on Zoom as long as the kitchen is under construction and Founders Hall is not available. Shabbat Morning services will therefore also be online.
6. In case of inclement weather, services can **move into the sanctuary.** Chairs will be cordoned off to facilitate the required seating in socially distant pods. **However, only the service leader will be allowed to sing (no mask needed) aloud at some distance from the congregation. Others may only sing quietly to themselves.**

Other Summer Programming:

1. One-on-one summer Hebrew for youth will be offered as an option, utilizing spaces that allow for social distancing between student and teacher. Masks will be required for children, unless the student is vaccinated.
2. "Mahjong" and other groups of vaccinated adults may meet in the building for meetings, classes, or volunteer work. If there is any doubt about whether a particular gathering is appropriate, it should be cleared with the Covid Reopening Committee.

NEW Rules about Food at BHT Events:

1. "Bring Your Own" food is allowed at all BHT events where social distancing is in place, for example, a picnic where people sit in distanced pods.
2. If all are vaccinated, food may be shared.
3. There will be no Onegs at services or other sharing of food at mixed-group events since we cannot assume all are vaccinated.

Beginning Thoughts about Fall Activities:

1. The plan is to open our BSBH School in-person. It is not yet certain if we will be able to offer a hybrid approach. Details to follow.
2. We also will plan for High Holy Days to be held in-person, with an attendance cap, (as yet to be determined), social distancing, and a reservation process-- so that all who wish to attend in person will be able to do so at some point during the Holy Days. Assuming travel is possible and being abroad is comfortable for her, Orit Perlman will be with us. Services will also be available online.
3. Shabbat Services and Life-Cycle events, including B'nai Mitzvah, will be able to be held in person, with an attendance cap and social distancing.
4. The possibility of holding adult education programs, meetings, and other events in-person in the building is probably realistic, but it will be further discussed at a later date.

For any of the above to continue on an ongoing basis, compliance with health procedures will be necessary. Our highest value in Judaism is Piku'ach Nefesh, the saving of lives and the preservation of health. We all want life to get back to something approaching the normal we used to know, so we ask for everyone's cooperation, even if these processes do not conform to your personal preferences and views.

THANK YOU, IN ADVANCE, FOR YOUR COOPERATION AS WE BEGIN TO COME TOGETHER AS A KEHILLAH KEDOSHAH, A SACRED COMMUNITY, ONCE AGAIN.

BHT Covid Reopening Committee: Rabbi Feingold, Dr. Platina Gershtenson, Dr. Harley Sobin, Dr. Steven Schwimmer, Dr. Mimi Snyderman Platt, Todd Letven, David Domash