

Guidelines for Reopening TBT **6/11/2020**

For the foreseeable future, we anticipate our lives to be shaped by the timeline set by COVID-19. We will face difficult choices between our religious needs and communal desires and what is safe and sound.

The way forward will not necessarily be a matter of following a timetable, but of faithfully discerning the signs of the times, and responding accordingly. *“Pikuach Nefesh”* – saving lives – is always held above all else in our tradition.

For some time now we have been consulting with local and state officials and following closely the guidelines of our Reform Movement and other Atlanta area synagogues and agencies to help us come up with a plan for resuming our spiritual life at TBT. *This is not at the exclusion of our increased online presence. We will continue our Streaming and ZOOM meetings and opportunities for people to connect – especially if they are not yet comfortable or able to come back into the building.*

Note: We may have to move back and forth between phases if second and third waves of infections emerge. The advice of public health officials may change as more becomes known about COVID-19. We expect that all guidelines outlined below will be modified over time to reflect the latest scientific and governmental information, guidelines and recommendations. We reserve the right to make such changes as needed.

Based upon the recommendations of our congregational COVID-19 task force the following steps will take place:

- Continue holding online worship services via LiveStream, Zoom and FBLive.
- We will continue recording in the sanctuary, while maintaining at least 6 ft of space between the Rabbi and the Cantor.
- We will continue to keep office functions as limited as possible to ensure essential operations.
- Those working in the building and those coming into the building for essential business must wear masks; we will continue to make sure that surfaces, including the phone, are regularly sanitized.
- All who enter the building will have temperature checked and be asked to use hand sanitizer.
- High risk individuals (people over 60 and those with underlying conditions), whether staff or volunteers, should continue to shelter in place.

Assuming there is no major spike in contagion, beginning in mid-July the following, in the way of a soft opening, will occur:

- Parking Lot programs, such as *Drive-In Havdallah* may begin
- The early childhood ECEC department will offer some small group camp-style activities and programs for their enrolled population only.
- Weddings and Funerals: The clergy will conduct limited small group ceremonies in-person. As with funerals, these ceremonies will take place in out-door settings only and follow the guidelines as determined by the Atlanta Rabbinical Association. Careful attention to guest lists in order to keep under the recommended limit, and physical distancing plans will be required. No receptions may take place in the synagogue building during this time.
- Britot and Simchat Bat ceremonies will be discussed on an as needed basis.
- B'nai Mitzvah Services. Families have the option of: a) rescheduling their child's date, b) Zoom-style private service or c)* in person worship on Saturday mornings in the sanctuary.
 - *If option c is selected, the following criteria will be in effect:
 - There will be a 30 person guest limit, limited to immediate and extended family only. The service will be Live-streamed from the sanctuary for others to share in the simcha.
 - Prior to the event, the host family will provide a list of attendees on a form that will include a liability waiver and a consent to contact tracing. All who enter the building will have temperature checked and be asked to use hand sanitizer.
 - Pews will be designated for use based upon social distancing criteria and chairs will be spread out to allow for 6 feet of distance between worshipers.
 - There will be **NO** Oneg Shabbat or Kiddush lunch in the building.
 - We recommend that persons bring their own personal Siddur. There are a limited number of Mishkan Tefillah available for check-out.
 - We will limit volunteer participation and handling of ritual objects and the like. Therefore:
 - There will be no Torah procession
 - Only the Rabbi will handle the Torah, dress and undress the Torah and open the ark.
 - There will be no shared tallitot or other ritual items. Families may choose to provide special ritual items for their guests, but none may be left at the synagogue at the conclusion of their service.

- **General requirements for worship**

- Face masks must be worn at all times while at TBT
- Signs marking the flow of access and egress will be posted in the building and should be followed.
- Seating in the sanctuary should be filled from front to back upon entrance and exiting should occur from back to front.
- Distancing: Pews will be marked for use and/or chairs will be set in such a way that only 30 are in the room and they are spread out 6 feet apart
- Singing is among the riskier behaviors when it comes to spreading droplets/aerosols which can carry the virus a significant distance and remain suspended in the air. Thus there will be no choir or house band until further notice.

The synagogue COVID-19 committee will continue to assess and make recommendations on the next phase of operation.

Approved 6/11/2020