

COVID Update May 19, 2021

From the beginning of the Pandemic, Temple Beth Tikvah's covid task force in partnership with the synagogue leadership has used the CDC's guidelines as the basis for its safety protocols. As you are aware, this past week the CDC issued revised its guidelines concerning mask and gathering protocols.

As a result of the new guidelines, and in consideration of the needs and comfort level of our entire congregation, we are making the following policy modifications effective beginning Monday May 24, 2021. These new procedures will be in place for the remainder of May, June and July and will be reevaluated in August.

Temple Beth Tikvah is committed to being a place where ALL congregants feel welcome and we are relying upon you, our members, to follow our Jewish tradition's ethical commitment of *Kol Aravim Zeh l'zeh*- "all in the community are responsible for one another". As such we ask you to honor the guidelines that have been established for our community, it's true that they may vary from the practices of other synagogues, yet we feel these are the correct measures at this time to best steward our House of Hope.

- 1) In keeping with the value of *Pikuach Nefesh*, "safeguarding the soul", we strongly urge all our congregants who are eligible, to get vaccinated if you have not already done so.
- 2) **Beginning on May 30th** *anyone who is fully vaccinated may choose to attend services without donning a mask. **Those who are unvaccinated for any reason ARE required to wear masks at all times while inside our building.** (*All B. Mitzvah service attendees regardless of vaccination status must continue wearing masks due to the low vaccination rate among the children under 14).
Please keep in mind that many congregants who are fully vaccinated have compromised immune systems or may simply be more comfortable wearing a mask. Please respect their choices. Because of the sacred partnership we have with one another here at Temple Beth Tikvah, we will not be asking for proof of vaccine.
- 3) Beginning on May 30th, groups of **up to 100 persons** may gather in the sanctuary/social hall areas at any one time for worship services. Social distancing is to be respected. For everyone's comfort, we encourage you to leave an empty space between your family group and the groups around you. RSVPs will no longer be required to attend services unless it is needed for programmatic purposes. For safety reasons we ask that all who enter the building sign-in at the welcome table.
- 4) Food: Since masks cannot be worn while eating or drinking, all food events will be setup **outdoors** to ensure the safest environment possible for everyone.
- 5) Worship services will continue to be available on-line as well as in-person for those more comfortable with the digital option.
- 6) Some congregants may feel a strong desire to hug or shake hands with friends and clergy. We ask that you be extremely sensitive to the fact that those around you may not welcome the physical contact. Let's all proceed with loving kindness and an understanding heart.

In August, these protocols will be revisited and modified if deemed necessary. If you have questions, please call the office at 770-642-0434. Keep an eye out in the weekly Kol Clickvah e-blast for any clarifications. Thank you for your patience as we navigate these times together.



Joe Dunn, President