



**Pine Brook Jewish Center**  
*Chevra Agudas Achim Anshy Pine Brook*  
*Established in 1896*

*Pine Brook Jewish Center Est. 1896*  
*Lake Hiawatha Jewish Center Est. 1945*  
*Affiliated 1995*  
*Congregation Beth Shalom Est. 1935*  
*Affiliated 2019*

August 16, 2021

Dear PBJC Community,

We have been carefully monitoring the latest information regarding the spread of Covid and are writing to update you on changes to our plans for operations for the High Holy Days, weekly Shabbat services, and all programs and events. The health and safety of everyone in our building is our first priority. While we will not be able to eliminate all risk during the pandemic, we are committed to mitigating risk of exposure as much as possible. We are balancing this with our desire to provide in-person opportunities for those who want to come into the building for services, especially for the High Holy Days. Thus, after consulting with our medical advisors, the PBJC Covid Task Force had recommended, and the PBJC Executive Board has approved, the following protocols, which are effective immediately:

- Proof of vaccination will be required when entering the synagogue building for services, including High Holy Day services, and programs. Those who do not have proof of Covid vaccination will not be admitted into the building to attend services at the present time and until further notice. While we recognize that this means that children under the age of 12 will not be able to attend High Holy Day services in-person, there will be a variety of virtual options available and we are committed to providing engaging and meaningful services to all.
- We will be keeping track of attendance at High Holy Day services and B'nai Mitzvah services once again in the event that contact tracing becomes necessary.
- Masks will continue to be required for everyone in the building at all times. Those who are leading services may remove their masks when they are speaking, leading prayers, or chanting if they would like when they are behind the plexiglass shields.
- With the exception of High Holy Days, attendance at weekly Shabbat services on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings will be limited to 100 people.
- Social distancing is encouraged. We ask that people use the space in the sanctuary and in Scheinman Hall during the High Holy Days to observe social distancing as much as possible.
- Note that this does NOT change our plans to have in-person school for both the Nursery School and Religious School. Parents will receive detailed information from the school directors regarding protocols.

Please note the following with regard to modifications to the High Holy Day schedule this year:

- Preliminary prayers and shacharit on both days of *Rosh HaShanah* and *Yom Kippur* will be held outside in the tent in the PBJC backyard.
- The main service on both days of *Rosh HaShanah*, *Kol Nidre*, and *Yom Kippur* will be held in Scheinman Hall. In addition, the services will be live streamed onto the television in the sanctuary. This will provide additional seating for people to attend services in our building while also being able to spread out with more social distancing.
- The teen service will be held on the first day of *Rosh HaShanah* and on *Yom Kippur* only. It will take place concurrently with the main service and will be held outside in the tent in the PBJC backyard.
- The family service will be via Zoom and live stream only. It will be led by Roz Lipa and Jeffrey Weiss as it has been in years past.
- The tot service will be held via Zoom and live stream only. It will be led by Sandy Gonzalez as it has been in years past.
- Concluding services, minhah, and ne'ilah on *Yom Kippur* will be held outside in the PBJC parking lot.

Additional information will be forthcoming with details about entry procedures for services with proof of vaccination.

PBJC will continue to be guided by the United States Center for Disease Prevention and Control (the CDC), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), New Jersey State, local authorities and public health officials regarding the best protocols to operate the synagogue during these times. The situation is fluid and there may be changes to the applicable laws and our protocols. You will be provided notice of any such changes.

While we had hoped that this year's High Holy Day services would feel more normal, we believe these precautions are appropriate given the continued risk of Covid transmission. We hope that whether you choose to join in-person or virtually, that these High Holy Days will be a meaningful beginning to a year of life and good health for all of us. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

Respectfully,

Michael Weinstein, President, on behalf of the PBJC Executive Board  
 Michelle Zuckerman, Executive Director, on behalf of the PBJC Covid Task Force  
 Glenn Fox and Barry Weinreb, Ritual Committee Co-Chairs  
 Rabbi Mark Finkel  
 Cantor Menachem Toren

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