



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

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August 5, 2021

Dear PBJC Community,

We are writing with some important updates regarding Covid protocols at PBJC. The Covid Task Force met last night and determined that we needed to update our protocols based on recent changes from the CDC and other health officials. Please note all of the following, which are effective immediately:

Mark David Finkel
Rabbi

Menachem Toren
Cantor

Dr. Asher Krief
Rabbi Emeritus

Michelle Zuckerman
Executive Director

Mary Sheydwasser
Educational Director

Lisa Lerman
Jill Buckler
Nursery School Co-Directors

Face masks will be required at all times for everyone inside, regardless of vaccination status. Masks are optional outside. *Note: During services, those who are vaccinated on the bimah may remove their mask when reading, singing, or chanting from behind the plastic dividers.*

Inside food service is put on hold until further notice. We have put a tent in our backyard area behind the atrium that will be used for Friday night's dinner, Oneg Shabbat, and Saturday's Kiddush. We are currently evaluating the practicality and financial feasibility of keeping a tent out there through August and possibly September.

The NJ Division of Children and Families (the department that certifies our Nursery School) came out with an updated and comprehensive list of guidelines and protocols this week regarding the operation of our Nursery School. We are up for re-certification this year (as we are every three years). There will be many announced and unannounced inspections of the school throughout the year because of this and we must ensure that we are in full compliance at all times in order to maintain our school certification.

The PBJC Religious School remains committed to in-person instruction for the upcoming school year as long as it is safe to do so. However, the school will follow synagogue protocols regarding masking rather than automatically following the public schools. The Religious School will open in September with full in-person instruction with masks required for all students and staff.

We are in the process of evaluating our options for in-person High Holy Day services and expect to have an updated announcement regarding this next week. Thank you for your patience as we work diligently to meet all of our wishes to gather together in-person this year in the safest way possible.

Please also note that we will continue to be guided by the United States Center for Disease Prevention and Control ("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.

Thank you again for understanding the complexity of this situation. Please rest assured that the clergy, leadership and staff are committed to facilitating the engagement and interaction of our community while also ensuring our safety and security.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

B'Shalom,
Michael Weinstein, President
Michelle Zuckerman, Executive Director and Task Force Chair

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