January 6, 2022

Dear PTS Community,

As we start 2022, it is hard to believe that we are still considering the impact of COVID on our community. To borrow comments from Louise Rogers, Chief of San Mateo County Health, we must “continue to summon the resolve we need to adapt to the pandemic’s continuing uncertainties and demands.” Fortunately, as a synagogue community, supporting each other through difficult times is what we do best!

Peninsula Temple Sholom continues to put the health and well-being of our congregants, employees, and visitors at the center of our COVID response. With the fast-spreading Omicron variant in our community, we are once again reassessing protocols for PTS activities. See Quick Summary below.

Shabbat Services and Other Programming
Shabbat Services and other programming will take place only virtually for the month of January. Please see your weekly Schmooze for links.

Youth Education
Youth Education will shift to Zoom only for January 9, and we will make a decision about January 23 and beyond after Martin Luther King Day. Rabbi Alban, Director of Education, is in direct contact with youth education families.

Preschool
Our preschool is continuing to operate in person under strict COVID protocols. Allison Steckley, Director of Early Childhood Education, is in direct contact with preschool families about details.

In-Person Protocols

Vaccinations
Vaccinations are required for everyone who is age-eligible. Booster shots are strongly encouraged, as the effectiveness of the vaccine decreases over time and may not protect against new strains.
Travel
If you plan to travel via shared, enclosed vehicles (e.g., plan, bus, rail) or have hosted out-of-town visitors, we ask that you not visit PTS for 5 days from your return or your visitors’ departure.

Face coverings
Surgical or N/KN95 masks are required at all PTS events. Because Omicron is more transmissible than previous variants, the CDC recommends taking greater precautions, which includes discontinuing the use of cloth masks and instead utilizing surgical or N/KN95 masks.

Food
No food indoors is allowed at this time.

Please remember that our rabbis and cantor are available to assist with care for your family. Do not hesitate to reach out.

My very best,
Karen Wisialowski
Chief Community Officer