

May 2, 2021

Dear KJBS,

When our Shul reopened this past June, our goal was to continuously evaluate and assess as the COVID-19 pandemic went through its stages and waves. From our initial reopening to the Yomim Noraim to our latest updates, this has all been done with a focus on safety and health. When the vaccine began to be used in December, the unknown was the volume of which it could be produced and efficacy of the vaccine. B"H, the studies have shown that the vaccine is very effective in shielding one from contracting COVID and even if a person tests positive after vaccination, the viral load of the virus seems to be much less. Of course, this is not 100% effective but it has proven strong enough to lower the positivity rate within the country in general and Illinois in particular. Furthermore, the R rate, the amount of people that one with COVID can transmit to others is significantly lower.

There are two additional factors unique to our city and our Shul. The first is that through Refuah 311 and the COVID Vaccine Alliance and with tremendous hakaras hatov to Hatzalah, the Agudath and the OU, the Chicago Orthodox community has vaccinated many of its constituents. Second, in the recent survey sent out to KJBS, over 100 responses were collected, totaling about 130 people. Of these 130 people, only a few children were the only ones not vaccinated. B"H and bli ayin hara, with these good numbers and all trending in the right direction, the cRc reopening committee met recently and shared a number of updates in the letter attached. Additionally, our medical and reopening committee met to assess our next steps. Due to the size and overall vaccination rate of our members, the following policies will be updated. Of course, we daven and hope that this trend continues and if chas v'shalom it does not, we will once again re-evaluate.

Effective immediately, the following policies will be updated.

- **Distancing:**
 - Based on the recent CDC and IDPH updates, 6 feet of distance is no longer required. We are asking members to leave 3 feet in between one another. We will leave a section in the back for those who would like more space.
- **Masks:**
 - Masks will no longer be required for fully vaccinated members. Fully vaccinated is 2 weeks post the second vaccination . This will apply to all Minyanim- both weekday and Shabbos.
 - Those who have had COVID but aren't vaccinated should contact their personal physical as to the necessity of wearing a mask.
 - Those who have not had COVID and are not vaccinated will be required to wear a mask.
 - All guests and non-members must wear masks until their vaccination or antibody status can be confirmed by Rabbi Leibtag and Dr. Schreiber.
- **Kiddush:** We are looking into ways to have outdoor Kiddushes in the near future.
- **Shavuos:**

- We are planning an in-person Leil Shavous learning:
- As stated above, fully vaccinated members will not be required to wear masks while sitting at their tables. Those who have had COVID but aren't vaccinated should contact their personal physical as to the necessity of wearing a mask.
- Food will be served and should be eaten at one's table.
- All guests and non-members must wear masks until their vaccination or antibody status can be confirmed by Rabbi Leibtag and Dr. Schreiber.

Let us hope and Daven that the pandemic keeps trending in the right direction and we can continue to be able to Daven and learn together.

Rabbi Leibtag