



Temple Sinai: Important Updates

Dear Amy,

"If you save one life, you save an entire world" (Y. Talmud 23a).

As you are certainly aware, Governor Baker outlined his [plan for a phased reopening across the Commonwealth](#). In addition to certain important industries, this first phase includes houses of worship, which includes our Temple Sinai community.

Though "houses of worship" are part of Governor Baker's phased "reopening," in-person worship remains unsafe at this time.

Please know that Rabbi Meszler, Cantor Khitrik, Rabbi Goodman (Executive Director), Cindi Crutchfield (President), David Shore (Chair, Safety & Security), Barry Fritz (Chair, Building & Grounds) and our entire leadership are having robust conversations about what this means for us at Temple Sinai. We are planning for our building to **remain closed through at least June 30th as previously announced**. We need to be responsible, thoughtful and compliant for any "reopening" and it will take time for us to determine the right course for us.

Central to our conversations will be science, Jewish values and our mission. We ask for your patience and trust as we determine what responsibly and safely "reopening" means for our Temple Sinai community.

Some Specific Information about Gov. Baker's Phased Reopening

Governor Baker's administration has adopted a "data-driven approach to reopening" which seeks to consider the "public health risk and the economic benefit of reopening each of the closed sectors of our economy."

Included in this first phase are recommendations that high-risk people (those over 65 and those with underlying health conditions) should remain home. This phase continues to limit gatherings to fewer than 10 people. There remains a "safer at home" advisory regarding travel and all travelers to MA are still encouraged to self-quarantine for 14 days.

Governor Baker's guidelines and phased approach to reopening relates more to keeping the infection curve flat so healthcare system capacity is not overwhelmed. It does not mean people will remain free from infection. These measures are intended to limit exposure and spread of infection as well as to protect those individuals at higher risk of serious illness.

Governor Baker's allowance of houses of worship to open comes with very **strict mandatory safety standards and best practices** of what "reopening" means.

In the absence of treatments or a vaccine and as they apply to our synagogue's worship, programming and operations, these guidelines include:

- People must remain at least 6 feet apart in predesignated spaces whether standing or sitting

- Wearing of masks at all times is mandatory. Taking temperatures at the door is highly advisable.
- No food can be prepared or served
- No gathering permitted before or after a worship service.
- No communal touching of objects, which includes use of *kippot and siddurim* (prayerbooks).
- No touching or passing of communal objects to more than one person, which would mean there is no passing of the Torah scroll.
- No sharing of microphones or instruments
- Staggered entrance and exits as well as staggered use of restrooms
- Mandatory RSVPs to ensure compliance with building capacities.
- Constant and thorough cleansing, disinfecting, and hand-washing.

Included in recommendations from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the medical director of [Chorus America](#), no singing, which would include chanting of Torah and Haftarah, because of the ineffectiveness of singing in a mask at containing droplets. Sadly, group singing is a "super-spreader." This is consistent with recommendations from the [Massachusetts Board of Rabbis](#).

Among our central values, as stated in our mission, are inclusivity, honoring tradition, and community. Opening under these guidelines would require compromising people's safety as well as these values.

As the information available continues to evolve by the minute, we appreciate your patience as we keep you up-to-date with the most current information we have. We will share any further updates as soon as they are available. **We are here for you. We will support and guide our congregation through this process. We will persevere and we will succeed.**

We will continue to have vibrant online services and learning through the summer. See below for the schedule and links.

A congregation isn't a building; it's a group of people connected in holiness.

Thank you for your commitment, support, participation and faith in our Temple Sinai community



Rabbi Joseph B. Meszler



Cindi Crutchfield, President

Worship and Study Continue

Cantor Khitrik and I will lead Shabbat services on Friday nights at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. via [Facebook Live on Temple Sinai's Facebook Page](#).

- Join us on [Facebook Live: www.facebook.com/temple sinaisharon](https://www.facebook.com/temple sinaisharon).

Torah study class will take place on Shabbat mornings at 8:30 a.m. and Rabbi's Study will take place on Thursday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom

1. <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3697230846>
2. **Meeting ID:** 369 723 0846
3. **Password:** Bagels



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