

## TEMPLE SINAI'S PLAN FOR THE HIGH HOLY DAYS 5782/2021

As you know, cases of COVID-19 have been rising over the last month, due mainly to the delta variant. As of August 4, Norfolk County officially moved into the “substantial” level of coronavirus transmission. While the vast majority of Sharon residents and Temple Sinai members are vaccinated, there is still a risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19, even among vaccinated people (although the risk remains much lower than for unvaccinated people).

For this reason, the Medical Advisory Committee met last week to revise the Temple’s policies for the High Holy Days. These policies were designed to prioritize the safety of our congregation while balancing our desire to be together as a community and our sense of comfort being together during these challenging times. We therefore decided on the following:

1. High Holy Day services will still take place in person, at Temple Sinai, for those who wish to attend, provided proof of vaccination.
2. We will maintain our usual number of services, including two on the first day of Rosh Hashanah and two on Yom Kippur morning.
3. For in-person services, we will require wearing masks, physical distancing between households, and proof of vaccination (e.g., vaccine card, other proof from the Massachusetts state-wide database). Unvaccinated children will not be permitted to attend our services in the sanctuary this year.
4. Our programming for Grades K-6 (youth programs and Camp HiHo) and Babysitting (ages 3-5) will take place at Everwood Day Camp this year.
5. Congregants will be required to bring proof of vaccination to the first service they attend in person. We will place a sticker on their High Holiday ticket that they can use for future services without having to show proof again.
6. Anyone having trouble locating proof of vaccination should call the Temple office as soon as possible so that this issue can be resolved in advance.
7. The Rabbi and Cantor will be tested for COVID-19 prior to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur so they can lead services without wearing masks. Soloists will be tested for COVID-19 and wear masks during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services
8. Shofar sounders will play on the patio of the outdoor sanctuary so they can be heard.
9. For those who do not feel comfortable attending services in person for any reason or are unvaccinated, we will offer live streaming of these services, as we have been doing for Friday night services and will continue to do indefinitely.

These were not easy decisions to make, and we wish we didn’t have to make them. We hope these new policies allow as many congregants as possible to be safe and to feel safe attending services in person while allowing the option to participate remotely for those who prefer to do so.

Please do not hesitate to contact me via email with any questions: [jschnipper@bwh.harvard.edu](mailto:jschnipper@bwh.harvard.edu)

We thank you for your understanding and hope that you still plan to attend services in person, assuming you feel comfortable doing so.

We want to wish you a happy and healthy New Year.

L’Shalom,

Jeff Schnipper, MD, MPH

on behalf of the Temple Sinai Board of Trustees and the Medical Advisory Committee