Introduction

As we approach a New Year, we recognize the need to remain vigilant with respect to the possible transmission of the Covid-19 virus at Or Atid’s services and events. Our Covid-19 Task Force continues to monitor public health measures in the Commonwealth and in our local towns and schools.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health urges all eligible residents to get vaccinated and stay up to date on COVID vaccinations and boosters. Vaccination remains the most effective protection against serious illness, hospitalization, and death.

We strongly encourage eligible Congregants and their children to be vaccinated and to obtain boosters as indicated by their medical professionals and the recommendations of the CDC. Vaccination is critical to mitigate transmission and protect those vaccinated from the most severe consequences of the virus. We encourage those attending our High Holiday events to perform at-home rapid tests on days they come to Or Atid for services.

Attending Congregational Events

Individuals who have Covid-19 symptoms, including congestion or a runny nose, coughing, sore throat, fatigue, fever, headache, shortness of breath, muscle or body aches, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea, may not attend Or Atid events at any time. Those who have tested positive for Covid-19 or have been in close contact with others who have tested Covid positive may only attend Or Atid events within 10 days of exposure if rapid antigen testing is performed and negative. Testing for return to events should be performed no earlier than 5 days after and up to 10 days post exposure. Asymptomatic individuals may return 10 days after exposure.

Respecting Differences

Our tradition teaches that every human being is created b’tzlem elohim, in God’s image, and that pikuach nefesh, the preservation of life, is our greatest responsibility. We also embrace inclusiveness, grounding all our interactions with members, their families, and friends, with respect for individual identities and needs, while modeling hachnasat orchim, welcoming visitors. Some members of our community may experience removing a mask requirement as a relief and a cause for celebration; for others, it is a source of anxiety. Or Atid will model respect for differences we have, accepting people as they are without judgment, and without questioning their personal choice of wearing or not wearing a mask.
Masks Inside Building

- Masks are optional inside our building.
- Masks are strongly recommended for individuals who:
  - are unvaccinated,
  - immunocompromised or otherwise considered at-risk, or
  - caring for children or elderly who may be unvaccinated or at risk.
- Anyone who wishes to remain masked is strongly encouraged to do so.
- Individuals involved in food preparation in our kitchen and serving food from our kitchen must be masked.
- Families celebrating a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, aufruf (announcement of a wedding), baby naming, Brit Milah (circumcision), or planning a funeral may work with Rabbi Polisson to establish whether they wish to have stricter vaccination and masking policies for their events.
- Events for specific populations (for example, programs including children under the age of 5) may require stricter measures, including masking. Restrictions will be included in publicity for those activities.

Physical Distancing Inside Building

We seek to ensure that those who choose to remain masked and/or prefer to maintain physical distancing are respected.

- When in the sanctuary for services or other events, we will provide space for those wishing to remain physically distanced to actively participate in services and to remain at a physical distance from others.
- During meetings and other gatherings, people inside the building should create space for those wishing to be physically distanced to do so.

Air Purification

To help reduce the spread of viruses, we have installed multiple HEPA filter systems throughout the building.

Cleaning and Hand Sanitizing

- Or Atid will continue to maintain high levels of cleaning and sanitizing, including the use of electrostatic sprayers, throughout our building and its surfaces.
- Or Atid encourages the use of hand sanitizers which are located inside front doors, outside bathrooms in the main building, inside classrooms, by doors to Sanctuary and Social Hall, and at the food serving station/oneg area in the Social Hall.

Bathrooms

- Bathrooms for individual use are located in the school wing.
- A spray bottle of disinfectant is on the counter/sink in individual and group bathrooms to provide a means of disinfecting bathroom surfaces.
Vaccinations
All Congregants and members of their families, staff (including those preparing food), students, contractors, and all visitors are strongly encouraged but not required to be fully vaccinated and boosted against Covid-19.

Food Preparation and Service
- Anyone preparing, packaging, or serving food must be masked and wearing disposable gloves.
- Food, food containers, utensils, etc. shall not be shared.
- Food from a buffet in the Social Hall shall be served only by servers who are masked and gloved serving to individuals.
- Eating in the building shall permit those who wish to remain physically distanced to do so.

Outdoor Activities
- Masks are not required outside the building.
- Those individuals who prefer to be masked are strongly encouraged to do so.
- Food preparation and service will be consistent with guidelines above.

JLCMW School Covid-19 Protocols
Parents of students who test positive for Covid-19 within 5 days after attending a JLCMW class session or event are strongly encouraged to report their child’s status to Orna Sonnenschein. This will enable her to contact others who may have been exposed to consider testing for the virus.

Additional JLCMW policies will be established by the JLCMW Advisory Group in consultation with staff and parents, and input from congregations involved in the Collaborative. They will be consistent with Or Atid policies and those of collaborating synagogues and area school districts.