



June 10, 2020

Dear YIOP Member,

We are glad to finally announce the first stage to reopen our beloved shul building. As we've emphasized before, this initial stage will look very different than what we're used to. Along with our reopening committee, we are guided by a simple rule, to start: Minimize our in-person gathering to the bare necessities. Much of the following outline has been formed with that thought in mind. We hope, as we go forward, that we will be able to reintroduce more and more of our normal routine back into the building. At the same time, however, we unfortunately also remind everyone that this is contingent on local COVID-19 data also staying generally under control.

1) Minyan

We will resume most of our daily minyanim at their regularly scheduled times:

Shacharit*: Sunday - 8:00 am
Mon - Fri - 6:15 am; 7:00 am
Shabbos - 8:15 am; 9:00 am

Mincha/Ma'ariv: Sun - Fri - Before/after Plag
Shabbos - Mincha Gedolah, Ma'ariv at Tzeit**

* See *Changes of Service* to understand what these times really mean.

** *Seudah Shlishit* should be eaten at one's home and people should return to shul for Maariv.

2) Changes to Service

Again, in the spirit of the bare necessity, there will be some substantial modifications to davening as we begin. All Shacharit minyanim will begin at "Barchu". Please daven everything up to and including Yishtabach before coming to shul (weekdays & Shabbos). The building will be accessible through the main entrance only, 15 minutes before minyan begins (and not before), to allow men to enter and put on their tefillin. Please stay in your cars and do not congregate around the door before that time. Please be on time so the minyan can stay within the desired time frame and limit in-person congregating.

Singing will be limited. Torah reading will be handled exclusively by one individual- retrieving the Torah, opening the Torah, reading from the Torah, getting all aliyot, and wrapping and returning the Torah. We are well aware of the restrictions this poses for kibbudim and general practice. We hope we can reinstate what we're used to soon. There will be no formal speaking- Rabbi nor President.

We will recite Tehillim and have a short Dvar Torah after weekday minyan for the sake of saying another kaddish, but we will not have our usual extended learning. All classes remain on Zoom.

3) Capacity

We are blessed with two spacious rooms in our building- the Saltsman Social Hall and the Main Sanctuary. Each of these rooms allow us to spread out and maintain safe distance while allowing significant attendance of ~60-75 people at once, men and women included.

If necessary based on demand, we may use the Beit Midrash. Otherwise, it will remain closed and locked, along with all other unused rooms. Please do not attempt entering them.

3) Registration

Anyone who wishes to attend a minyan must first register on a weekly basis. Through a Google form, you can sign up for whichever minyan you plan to attend. Please do not sign up just to “keep your options open”. As we are limiting the capacity of the room, a sign up means a commitment. We, of course, understand unforeseen circumstances. The form will also ask you a series of health-screening questions to be answered on the honor system. Anyone in attendance is subject to being checked by a non-touch thermometer.

- Anyone who is above the age of 65 is highly discouraged from attending, unless granted permission by their physician.
- As the OU has set forth: anyone who is severely obese, those with lung disease, diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, severe kidney or liver disease, neurological disorders, and those who are immuno-compromised are at high risk of the virus and should not attend.
- Anyone with any symptoms of illness or who lives without restriction with someone who seems to have the virus should not attend.
- Additionally, one who feels uncomfortable attending at this time is absolutely justified to continue davening individually at home.
- Unfortunately, anyone younger than bar or bat mitzvah age cannot attend shul at this time.

The main minyanim will be broadcast on Rabbi Katz’s Zoom channel. This is not considered tefillah betzibbur. However, one may feel connected by doing so, and they are allowed to answer to barchu, kaddish, kedusha, and brachot, so it is advisable if one cannot attend.

[SIGN UP FOR MINYANIM FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 14 - 20 BY CLICKING HERE](#)

Those who would like assistance in signing up can call R Katz directly: 443-514-5553

4) Precautions in the Building

Anyone attending must adhere to social-distancing of 8 feet and wear a mask over the mouth and nose at all times. NO EXCEPTIONS, no matter what you read on the news or heard from your third cousin twice-removed who knows a doctor that says it’s probably fine. We will enforce these policies. Please bring your own mask from home.

Seats will be in designated areas in the Social Hall and should not be moved. Seats on the end of each row, skipping every other row, will be available in the main sanctuary. People may sit in or near their usual places, but there is a good chance that you cannot. Please respect these restrictions, no matter how few seats away your normal place is. Family (or “in-bubble”) members can sit next to each other, as long as there are at least 3 seats between them and the next closest non-family individual.

For the sake of security, the doors must still be opened, and hand sanitizer will be available and should be used immediately afterwards. The door will be consistently sanitized and cleaned as well. Outside of minyan times, the shul building will remain locked and inaccessible.

May Hashem see our desire to re-enter the shul, and allow this to be the first step of others soon to come.

YIOP Reopening Committee