

## **Re-Opening Plan for Congregation Or Atid As of April 22, 2021**

Since March of 2020, Congregation Or Atid has been physically closed for religious services and special events, except for limited High Holiday services and one B'nai Mitzvah, while retaining remote contact with our members through Zoom and YouTube streaming. Now, as COVID vaccinations accelerate and limitations on public gatherings start to relax, we are planning to partially reopen our doors. Our first reopening event will be Shavuot services on Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, and our first regular Shabbat services will be on June 11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>. To manage this reopening with the utmost safety and confidence, we have developed the guidelines set forth in this document. We are excited about turning the corner on this pandemic that has held everyone in its grip but realize the need to proceed with caution.

### **Preparing to Attend Synagogue**

- Please call the Or Atid office 804 740-4747 by Friday at Noon before the next service that you and whoever is accompanying you are planning to attend.
- Being vaccinated against Covid is not an attendance requirement. We do, however, require that everyone who plans to come to services, including fully vaccinated individuals, should come prepared to wear a mask in the synagogue and observe social distancing guidelines, as described in the Health Guidelines Inside the Sanctuary section of this document.
- If you are not feeling well and especially if you have symptoms of the virus, please stay at home. Even if you cannot attend a service In person, it is available via Zoom or live stream.

### **Arrival/Check-in at the Synagogue**

- Arrivals need to wear a mask on entering the building.
- Arrivals will check in at the desk set up in the entrance hall, where they will undergo a mandatory temperature check and be signed in.
- A list of self-screening questions will be displayed at check-in:
  - Is your temperature 100.4 or higher?
  - Have you been exposed in the past 14 days to anyone known to or suspected to have COVID-19?
  - Have you traveled in the past 14 days to an area with a high concentration of COVID-19 infections?
  - Do you have any symptoms of the virus—fever, loss of smell and taste, cough, shortness of breath?

You will not be required to answer these questions out loud but please be mindful of others, especially if you have not yet been fully vaccinated.

- Hand sanitizer will be available at check-in. It is strongly recommended you use it before entering the sanctuary.
- If an attendee's temperature reading is 100.4 or higher, he or she will not be permitted to enter the sanctuary.

### **Health Guidelines Inside the Sanctuary**

- A maximum of 30 individuals, including the Rabbi, is permitted in the sanctuary.
- Seating is set up to allow adequate physical distancing between rows. Members/families residing in the same household may sit together in the same row. Everyone else should sit allowing at least six feet of space between themselves and others.
- Fan(s) will be put in place and, weather permitting, doors from the sanctuary to the outside will be open to enhance air circulation.

- Although some in attendance will have been fully vaccinated, we require that everyone wear a mask during the service. Only attendees called to the Bimah to lead a part of the service or to chant Torah or Haftarah may do so while unmasked.
- Singing during the service is encouraged, so long as a mask is worn.
- Mingling before and after a service is welcome but interactions should be governed by these recommendations:
  - Maintain at least six feet of distance between attendees, except for same household members.
  - Use elbow bumps instead of handshakes or fist bumps as a congratulatory gesture.
  - Wear a mask.
- Both the women's and men's restrooms will be open but use of each restroom will be limited to one individual at a time. Sanitizing wipes will be available inside each restroom. We encourage each restroom user to wipe down whatever has been touched before exiting the restroom.
  - Friday night Oneg Shabbat and Saturday kiddush luncheon, along with other ritual post-service repasts, will be suspended until further notice. Once we deem it safe enough to serve food, we will work with the Oneg and Kiddush Committee to make it happen.

### **Ritual Guidelines During the Partial Reopening**

- We will try to maintain physical distancing at the Bimah as is feasible. A separate lectern below the raised platform will be provided for members called up for an Aliyah and for those chanting the Haftarah or leading a part of the service.
- There will be no Torah processional or recessional. During the Torah Service, the Torah will be taken out of the ark and placed on the Bimah. After chanting of the Haftarah, the Torah will be returned to the ark. In other words, the Torah never leaves the Bimah.
- Each service may be attended by those who are physically present and those viewing it on the live stream, and both groups will be counted as "attending" the service. A total of at least 10 attendees, whether virtually or in person, will count towards a minyan for the purpose of saying Kaddish and Bar'khu. However, for the purpose of conducting a Torah service, there must be 10 attendees present in the sanctuary. If less than 10 are physically present, then:
  - The Torah will remain in the ark.
  - There will be no aliyot.
  - Both the Torah and Haftarah will be chanted from the Chumash or similar written source without the opening and closing blessings.

### **What's Next**

We will continue to follow recommended guidelines in the interest of protecting our congregants. The congregation will be informed of any updates to our re-opening policy. Stay tuned.