

Re-Opening Plan for Congregation Or Atid (revised August 6th, 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 several B'nai Mitzvot, while retaining remote contact with our members through Zoom and YouTube streaming. Now, as COVID vaccinations accelerate and limits on public gatherings start to relax, we are planning to partially reopen our doors. In order 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

- Being vaccinated against Covid is not an attendance requirement. If you are fully vaccinated (full dosing plus two weeks), we are again respectfully requiring that you wear a mask while in the building.
- If you are not feeling well and especially if you have symptoms of the virus, please stay home. Even if you cannot attend a service in person, it is available via Zoom or live stream.

Arrival at the Synagogue

- Hand sanitizer will be available at check-in.

Health Guidelines Inside the Sanctuary

- Seating is set up to allow adequate physical distancing between rows. Feel free to seat yourself at a distance if you prefer.
 - Mingling before and after the service is welcome, but please be mindful of your fellow congregants' concerns.
 - Feel free to use gestures such as elbow bumps or handshakes at your discretion.
- Both the women's and men's restrooms will be open, but we request usage to be limited to one individual at a time.
- Friday night Oneg Shabbat and Saturday Kiddush luncheon, along with other 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

- Each service may be attended by those who are physically present and those viewing it on Zoom. 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 policy. Stay tuned.