

## B'nai Mitzvah Frequently Asked Questions

Updated October 6, 2020

### What are our options for bnai mitzvah this year?

- Zoom from home
  - One of the clergy will deliver a Torah scroll to your home the week of your simḥa.
  - The cantor can-- over zoom -- help you stage the room.
- Livestreamed from the sanctuary
  - Small group of your family and guests in the sanctuary
  - Everyone in the sanctuary will be masked and maintain social distancing at all times.
- We are not planning any outdoor ceremonies at this time.

### What time will our bar or bat mitzvah start?

- Shabbat morning Zoom and livestream will start at 10am.
- Minḥa bnai mitzvah will begin approximately 1 hour and 10 minutes before sunset. We will send you the exact time.

### Can our family take bima pictures before the big day?

- The short answer is yes!
- Allison Borenstein in the office will reach out to you to schedule pictures to take place on the Thursday prior to your simḥa — at 4pm or 5pm.
- We ask that you wear masks everywhere in the building except when you are alone with your photographer and/or videographer in the sanctuary.
- Your photographer and/or videographer should remain masked.
- Please come ready to take your photos, as you will not have access to the bride's room. You can use the bathroom behind the bima for last-minute touch-ups!
- Clergy can join your family for masked, distanced photos in the beginning of your session.
- The rabbi will practice your child's dvar Torah at that time.

### Can we have an aliyah to the Torah? Can we have honors to give out to our family members?

- Over Zoom
  - Parents will take one aliyah
  - Family members can have one aliyah
    - One "box" will be unmuted to say the blessings.
    - Other people can rise in their homes to be honored.
- In the sanctuary
  - Parents can take one aliyah
  - Family members can have one aliyah
    - Up to four family representatives can come up to the Torah table.
    - Others can rise and take the honor from their seats.
  - No one other than your immediate family will have contact with the Torah.
  - Your immediate family will open the ark.
  - There will be no Torah processions around the room.

- There will be no hagba and gelilah -- lifting and wrapping of the Torah.

**Can family members other than our child read Torah? Can our child read extra Torah?**

- Absolutely and absolutely!
- We will plan on three total aliyot - Torah readings
  - If you and your child are reading more than that, we will combine several to equal three in total.
- If livestreaming, any Torah readers will have to be present in sanctuary.

**How will our guests get the zoom or livestream link?**

- We will send an email containing links to the service as well as a link to the PDF of the siddur - prayerbook - we'll be using during your service.

**Zoom meetings and livestream events can be recorded. Can you record our service?**

- Yes! We will be able to offer livestream or zoom recordings, depending on your service. You will receive information on how to download the file. You might want to have your bar or bat mitzvah child figure out the technology!

**More Sanctuary Bnai Mitzvah Questions**

**How many people can we invite to join us in the sanctuary?**

- As of today, October 2, we are allowing 25 guests, including your family. These numbers are set per our medical professionals taking into consideration current state guidelines as well as other mitigating factors. This number can change. We will update as needed.
- We will ask for your guest list by the Tuesday of the week of your *sim<sup>ha</sup>*.
  - The office will send a medical screening questionnaire that Friday. Guests should print, fill them out, and bring with them. Our security guard will check temperatures when they arrive.
  - Within two weeks of your child's bar or bat mitzvah, we ask that you be mindful of your contacts -- to keep everyone as safe as possible.

**Can someone participate in the sanctuary/livestream service from their home? We have family out of town whom we'd like to have a speaking or singing role.**

- At this time our livestream won't support participation from outside the sanctuary.

**Will my child have a chance to practice in the sanctuary?**

- Yes! If you plan a sanctuary service, the cantor will plan on several sessions with you and your child in the sanctuary.

**If someone in our family shows symptoms as we approach the date, can we pivot to a Zoom service from our home?**

- While we pray that doesn't happen, we can absolutely switch formats for you.

**Those Holiday Heads were pretty fun. Can we have Simḥa Heads in the sanctuary?**

- We can put you in touch with the vendor who made our amazing Holiday Heads. They know the exact specifications needed in order to fit in the seats.

**We look forward to helping make your simḥa special no matter what the format, and we are here to answer your questions. Please see the main bar and bat mitzvah page for all contact information.**

*Mazal Tov!*