

A Guide for Zooming Shabbat Services

The Shabbat services that we offer over Zoom help keep us spiritually connected while we are physically distant. Though we normally do not use electronic devices on Shabbat, the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards of the Conservative Movement considers this to be a *hora'at sha'ah*, an extraordinary time, which allows us to make an exception to our normal observance. [You can read the halakahic ruling \(teshuvah\) that comprehensively addresses our situation here.](#) Even though we are using technology to gather for services on Shabbat and holidays, we still try to minimize the use of our devices in honor of Shabbat. Below are tips to guide us. If you have specific questions, please reach out to [Rabbi Peltz](#) or [Rabbi Wexler](#).

Prepare before Shabbat begins

It is said that preparation for Shabbat is just as important as what happens on Shabbat itself. We prepare for Shabbat each week in many ways, such as setting out candles and making delicious food. In this time of social distancing, we can also prepare our computers to help us maintain the spirit of Shabbat in our homes. You can prepare for our Zoom services by doing the following:

- Make sure the Zoom app (for computer, phones or tablets) is downloaded on your device
- Download PDFs of Shabbat and Holiday services by clicking below and print them out in advance. You will need to fill out a brief form and then you can download the texts.
 - [Download PDFs of Shabbat services from the Lev Shalem Siddur and Torah readings from the Etz Hayim Humash](#)
 - [Download PDFs of the Shavuot holiday service.](#)
 - If you prefer, you can also [purchase a Lev Shalem Siddur at a special discounted price by clicking here.](#)
- Log into Zoom before Shabbat starts and leave it active throughout Shabbat. It is possible to set a computer, phone or tablet to “stay awake” over Shabbat. If you do leave your stream active, make sure to log in from a room in your house where activities and noise will not be a disruption to others, and that you are aware will be streaming. We do recommend muting your sound and turning off your video while not using your computer.

Click, don't type

While the ancient rabbis did not have typing on a computer in mind when they discussed writing, it is how we write today, and it is forbidden on Shabbat. Clicking is preferred when it comes to Shabbat observance.

- If you are logging in on Shabbat, then click the link from the weekly email that has the password embedded in it.
- The chat function will be disabled for our Shabbat morning services
- Even when you are clicking, it is suggested that you do so *k'lahar yad*, in an unusual way, such as using the mouse with your non-dominant hand, to show that you are doing it differently on Shabbat.

Zoom in for the service, but remember that it's still Shabbat

[We recommend reading this insightful article by Rabbi Alexander Davis for advice on how to make Zoom davening more meaningful.](#)