

Dear Temple Beth Tzedek Family,

We Are Together Again Once More.

It is with eager anticipation that we share with you our current plans for the High Holidays of 2021/5782. As I write this letter, this year we will be having two in-person services, as well as offering the option of watching services live from the comfort of your own home. You may also join us at Camp Centerland for a family/non-traditional service. Understand that this situation is evolving and might change before the holidays begin. Please be on the lookout for any further changes.

Our services this year will be like they have been in previous years, prior to the pandemic. We are going to have in-person services in both our Sanctuary and Social Hall, however, they will be shorter than they have been in the past to minimize exposure. There will be a maximum of 150 people in each room in order to keep everyone as safe as possible. On the first day of Rosh Hashanah, in the afternoon, we will gather for Tashlich, which will be held directly across the street from the synagogue. Our neighbor has allowed us to use his property that borders the creek for this ritual. This is a good option for those most comfortable attending an outdoor service. Yom Kippur evening and morning services will follow the traditional order. We look forward to welcoming you back to stand before the ark to offer your own personal prayers for Yom Kippur Neilah.

In light of recent developments with the Delta variant, and in an effort to keep everyone as safe as possible, we will offer the following seating options for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur:

For the safety of our members, clergy and staff, Temple Beth Tzedek will **mandate vaccination for those that are eligible for vaccination**. This means that you should understand that there will possibly be unvaccinated children in the building. We encourage families with children to attend the outdoor service at the Camp Centerland pavilion. Masks will be required in all areas of the building. This decision has been made with respect to local, state, federal consideration, and our Covid Task Force. If you find yourself in a demographic that puts you at greater risk for contracting this virus, we ask that you watch services on our Livestream to protect yourself.

Those that are ineligible for vaccination may enter the building but must be always masked. The only exemptions for vaccination will be age and medical exemption. We would appreciate it very much if you would send in a picture or copy of your vaccination card to the office (kjones@btzbuffalo.org or mlynch@btzbuffalo.org) so that we can document your status which will be used for entrance on the holidays.

We know that there is a lot of information to absorb and with COVID, we know information can change rapidly. Please watch the website and your email for possible changes.

Wishing you and your family a happy, healthy new year.

L'Shana Tovah

Marcia Goldstein – President
Harvey Sanders and Ed Case – Chairs of Covid Task Force