

Reopening Temple Beth Am

The Temple Beth Am Board of Directors endorses the following set of principles to govern the reopening of Temple Beth Am. The specifics of operationalizing these principles will fall to Temple Beth Am's professionals, with final decisions resting with the Executive Director and Senior Rabbi, who will consult with the President and Executive Committee as needed.

The Jewish mitzvah of *pekuach nefesh* / preservation of human life will take precedence over all other considerations. Accordingly, where appropriate, decisions shall be made with consultation of a Community Task Force including medical and scientific professionals. Further, even as Temple Beth Am is guided by these principles, we recognize that it is incumbent upon every community member to act responsibly, and in a way that protects the health and well-being of themselves, their family, and the community.

1. **We will comply with the law at a minimum** --> Where the law requires us to do something, we will do it, even if it is inconvenient or costly.
2. **We are guided by science, even if it is more restrictive than the legal minimum** --> We will prioritize best practices even when they are more conservative than what is legally permitted.
3. **We will consider risk globally** --> When evaluating whether an in-person experience is appropriate, we will consider not just the individual activity in isolation, but the cumulative effect of that activity with all other activities (whether on staff, clergy, the building, etc.). We recognize that additional limitations and restrictions may be appropriate given the limitations in our physical infrastructure (especially given the age and physical limitations of our building).
4. **We will prioritize creating powerful Jewish experiences and building relationships in our community** --> We recognize that our mission is central to everything we do, and is essential in the pandemic and post-pandemic world. Our professionals will identify and prioritize experiences that most effectively create powerful Jewish experience or building relationships in our community in person. In the spirit of sacred partnership, the Board will continue to support our professionals prioritizing their own relationship-building work, even if it is done remotely.
5. **We will seek input and feedback so that we can learn and improve** --> We may move slowly; as we reopen, we commit to learning (including by seeking feedback where appropriate) and adjusting our approach. We will consider the needs and preferences of our community. We will also take what we have learned since the onset of the pandemic, and use it to improve our ongoing reopening efforts and, where applicable, our post-pandemic activities.
6. **We recognize that some community members may not be comfortable or able to return as soon as others, and we commit to strive for inclusion.** --> This means that as we reopen, we will find ways for our entire community to participate in events where possible. At the same time, we recognize that this will not always be possible and that different members of our community will have different risk tolerances, preferences, and concerns.

7. **We will communicate with care.** --> This means we recognize that these are stressful and uncertain times, and we will continue to be transparent and strategic in our communication of our decisions.