

Pikuach Nefesh, A Phased Approach to Opening and TS COVID Policy

Pikuach nefesh, the Jewish value of to preserve a life, is considered above all other obligations. With an abundance of love and concern for the health of our community, the Temple Shalom leadership determined our High Holy Day Services 5781 will occur virtually. It is our decision that in-person services and events will not resume until after October 31st.

The limitations of our building entrances, restroom access, physical distancing requirements that would reduce our capacity, health survey and screening, temperature checks and restrictions on use of ritual objects, prayer books and texts complicate things even further. We take comfort in our collaborative conversation with neighboring religious organizations and the larger Jewish community who in overwhelming numbers have also decided to remain closed for High Holy Days.

We know that this may be disappointing for some to hear. We want to reassure you that we are dedicated to continuing to offer online opportunities for prayer, learning, and connection. The increase in congregational engagement through online services, classes and variety of programming is truly inspiring and we hope many of you will continue to connect digitally to Temple Shalom as new experiences are offered.

-Temple Shalom Board and Staff

Temple Shalom has taken a Phased Approach to re-opening.

- ⇒ **Phase 1**—Temple Shalom is CLOSED. Essential staff only. Virtual Services, NO in-person services or large gathering events.
- ⇒ **Phase 2**—Office is open for essential business. Re-opening in some aspect for small gatherings with advance registration, health checklists, physical distancing, wearing protective masks and following recommendations from CDC, El Paso County, CO Dept of Public Health & Environment. Virtual services continue.
- ⇒ **Phase 3**—Office is open, staff permitted on-site. In-process of returning to full operations with new protocols for COVID protection including as recommended by CDPHE: In-person services may resume, and virtual options will be considered as a hybrid option for those unable to attend.

We are currently in Phase 2 of our approach to open and this will continue thru October 31st. Schools and Adult Education will continue virtually thru the first semester.

At the August Meeting, the Temple Shalom Board of Directors passed COVID Policy. All Members are urged to review the COVID Policy document. Log into your member account on the TS Website to view the member-only files under '**My Account**'-COVID Policy Letter.

As such, our Board has approved a **Phase 3 approach for October 2-4, 2020**. As we celebrate Sukkot our plan is to host scheduled, sign-up events in the Sukkah and host outdoor services for the first two weeks October 1-11, 2020 (weather permitting). Please review the COVID Policy Letter and adhere to the requirements to participate with us this fall. Masks are required at all times on property, both outdoors and indoors and participants should maintain physical distancing.

Due to the fluidity of the situation, all plans are subject to change. Thank you for your understanding as we do our best to navigate this difficult situation and follow the value of *pikuach nefesh*, to preserve a life and keep our community safe.