

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

### **Updated January 2021**

*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 that in-person services and events will not resume until after January 31<sup>st</sup>. Temple Shalom Phased Opening Status is determined by the Board of Directors at the monthly meeting.

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 continue our collaborative conversation with neighboring religious organizations and the larger Jewish community who in overwhelming numbers have also decided upon a phased approach to reopening.

As the vaccine becomes more widely available. 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 until further notice. Schools and Adult Education will continue virtually thru the first half of our second semester.

At the August 2020 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 **Phased approach for selected activities as noted in weekly emails and monthly bulletins**. Please review the COVID Policy Letter and adhere to the requirements to participate with us this winter. Masks are required at all times on property, both outdoors and indoors. Participants should maintain 6 feet of 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.**