



## COVID-19 Safe Services Update

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Congregation Dor Tikvah temporarily closed its doors in mid-March to ensure the health and safety of our congregants and the community at large. Over the past few weeks, the Dor Tikvah Committee for Safe Congregational Services (comprised of Slade Gleaton, Rabbi Davies, Jimi Horne and Peter Rosenthal) has been working on a plan that includes a proposed schedule for the gradual, safe re-engagement of our congregation and eventual re-opening of the Synagogue building.

The committee has assessed information from the CDC, Orthodox Union, and federal, state and local governments. In addition, the committee reached out to MUSC for further, localized guidance.

Since mid-May, the Charleston community began a gradual reopening of businesses. The COVID infection levels due to this reopening are not yet fully understood as it is best to wait for several weeks beyond general community re-engagement to assess whether the COVID infection levels have gone up or stabilized.

Given this uncertainty, community COVID statistics will continue to be assessed weekly in order to proceed to each stage. In addition, it is of the utmost importance that once we begin Stage 1, each of our congregants willingly accepts and follows the Dor Tikvah COVID safety rules.

To ensure a safe re-engagement of the Dor Tikvah congregation we plan to have a 3-stage opening:

**Stage 1: Outdoor Evening Minyans (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday)**

**Stage 2: Indoor Evening Minyans (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday)**

**Stage 3: Indoor Shabbat Services (Saturday Morning and Evening)**

**Stage 1:** For the initial stage, the committee will continue to monitor the weekly CDC and MUSC COVID updates prior to the resumption of services. Stage 1 will include the following protocols:

- **A resumption of Mincha-Maariv services on Monday, June 15th** (if conditions warrant a change to this date it will be communicated to the congregation)
- Services will be conducted outside with **no entry allowed into the Shul building**.

- **Congregants will need to supply their own facial coverings, and they will be required to be worn at all times while on the Shul premises.**
- **Congregants will need to bring their own siddurim** and, if desired, folding chairs. None will be provided by Dor Tikvah.
- In the event of rain, **services will be cancelled.** This will be determined based on the weather conditions at Dor Tikvah 15 minutes prior to service time and communicated through the **Dor Tikvah Minyan Whatsapp Group.**
- A **congregant sign-up system** will be employed to ensure we have adequate numbers for a minyan and to capture who is present at each minyan in the case of an outbreak. This will include filling out a **brief pre-registration safety screening questionnaire** prior to attending each service.
- **Congregants that are in higher risk categories**, including those with existing health conditions and immunocompromised are discouraged from attending services until conditions have stabilized. Those aged 65 and older should use their own discretion in attending services. We request that children under the age of 10 refrain from attending services at this time.
- Congregants **travelling outside of the Charleston area will need to wait for a 2 week period** prior to attending minyan services. **Visitors to Charleston** will be subject to the same waiting period upon their arrival.

**Stage 2:** The second stage (Indoor Evening Minyan) will follow with a target date based on the completion of rules and processes regarding a safe re-entry into the facility. This will be communicated and agreed to by all congregants in order to protect each other.

**Stage 3:** Once the second stage has been reached, a tentative opening date for the Dor Tikvah facility for Shabbat services will be communicated to the congregation well ahead of time along with the safety requirements for entering and participating in services while in the facility.

There will be more information communicated to each of you in the days ahead as we move carefully through this crisis. Keep in mind that new COVID-19 cases in the Charleston area will be assessed weekly, which may result in dates being pushed back if it is in the best interest of keeping our congregants safe.

We truly appreciate your patience during this difficult time and we all look forward to being together again in the weeks ahead. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Slade Gleaton via email or phone.