

YIS Reopening Guidelines – Updated November 2020

Dear Friends:

It has been beautiful to see more and more of our congregants join minyanim at the shul as we continue to daven together in a safe and meaningful way on a daily basis. Below are our Young Israel of Scarsdale Reopening Guidelines. We recommend all members familiarize themselves with these guidelines in advance of attending all services and programs on the grounds of 1313 Weaver Street and other designated locations under the purview of the Young Israel of Scarsdale.

Minyan Capacity and Required Advance Sign Up

At this time, capacity at both indoor and outdoor minyanim will continue to be capped and advance sign up will be required (no exceptions).

When sign up links are distributed, there will continue to be a designated priority sign up window for those saying kaddish and other chiyuvim. We ask that anyone who is not saying kaddish does not attempt to sign up during this priority window.

Advance sign up remains extremely important to limit capacity to the appropriate numbers and, if necessary, to provide a means for contact tracing. Therefore, attendance will not be permitted at a minyan that you have not signed up for and if you sign up for a minyan it is important to actually attend the specific minyan you registered for.

YIS Sign-Up Link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080b48abaf2aabf94-yisoutdoor>

Friday Night Satellite Minyanim

Friday night satellite minyanim are permitted to take place in their designated areas on a weekly basis provided that ALL SERVICES ARE OUTDOORS and the YIS Safety Protocols are adhered to.

Youth Programming and Minimum Age of Children allowed to attend YIS Services

We welcome children aged 9 and above to join their parents at minyan. Children who attend will be expected to follow the same YIS Safety Protocols as adults and, therefore, should only attend if their parents believe they can follow these procedures (for example, social distancing and wearing a mask). Children should sit with their parents and should not congregate with friends before, during or after minyan. Youth Programming will continue on a weekly basis for 3rd grade children and up. Children are expected to follow all YIS Safety Protocols while attending these programs.

Special Simcha Minyanim

The shul is supportive of assisting and organizing special minyanim in the event of a bris, baby naming, Bar or Bat mitzvah or aufruf either at the shul or outdoors at a family's home provided that all YIS Safety Protocols in effect at the shul (as outlined below) are stringently followed. At this time, we are not allowing kiddishes or food and beverage to be consumed for simchas or non-simchas on shul grounds. However, if a YIS member is celebrating a Bnai Mitzvah or Aufruf ONLY, and would like to arrange for a "To-Go Kiddish" to be consumed off shul grounds for all those attending the specified simcha minyan, please contact the shul office for additional coordination and instruction on what is permissible.

Who May Not Attend Minyan and Who Should Consult with Their Physician

Individuals with COVID-19, Exposure or Symptoms: If, in the past 14 days, you have tested positive for COVID-19, have had exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or have any symptoms of COVID-19 you may not sign up for or attend any minyanim. COVID-19 symptoms include fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, muscle pain, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain and/or loss of taste or smell. If you have questions regarding symptoms or exposure, please consult with your physician.

Individuals over Age 65 or With Underlying Medical Conditions: At this time, individuals above age 65 or those with underlying medical conditions are encouraged to consult with a physician to determine whether or not it would be appropriate for them to attend a communal minyan. Medical conditions that may fall into this category include lung or heart disease, kidney or liver disease, hypertension, diabetes or an immunocompromised condition. In addition, if you live with another person with any of these conditions you are similarly encouraged to consult with a physician regarding these matters.

In addition, regardless of age, physical condition or other circumstances, no congregant should feel compelled or under any obligation (halachic or otherwise) to attend minyanim because they are again being made available. Based on the guidance of our Rabbis, if you feel uncomfortable attending a public minyan for any reason, it is preferable to daven at your own home.

Travel Related Protocols

Visitors from "Red Zone" Focus Areas in New York: Guests visiting from areas that have been identified by New York State as "red zone" COVID-19 focus areas **may not** attend minyanim at the shul at this time.

New York State Testing and Quarantine Rules: Effective as of November 4th, New York State has implemented new travel related testing and quarantine rules. As under the prior rules, our shul attendance rules will be consistent with the New York rules. Unless an individual completes the testing regime below, an individual who has been out of state for more than 24 hours (with the exception of travel to New Jersey, Connecticut or Pennsylvania) **may not** attend minyanim at the shul until 14 days have elapsed from entry into New York and the individual is symptom free. However, the quarantine period may end early and the individual may attend minyanim at the shul if:

1. The traveler obtained a COVID test within three prior to departure;
2. The traveler quarantined for three days upon entry into New York; and
3. On day 4 of the quarantine, the traveler obtained another COVID-19 test.

Once both test come back negative, the traveler may exit quarantine.

Further details of the new rules can be found at:

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>

Finally, community members should take into account any personal facts and circumstances that fall short of a prohibition on attendance in deciding whether or not it is appropriate to attend minyanim and should err on the side of caution per Torah obligation of “וְנִשְׁמַרְתֶּם מְאֹד לְנַפְשֵׁיכֶם – And you shall very much guard your lives” (Devarim 4:15) and our obligations to respect and safeguard our fellow community members.

YIS Safety Protocols

All safety protocols remain in effect as follows:

- **Taking Your Temperature and Feeling Well:** We ask that all attendees take their temperature at home prior to attending minyan to ensure they do not have a fever. In addition, if you are not feeling well, you should not attend minyan.
- **Wearing Masks:** Minyan attendees must wear a mask at all times in the shul building and while in the davening area of the parking lot. This applies to all attendees even the Chazzan while davening and Baal Koreh while laining. This also applies regardless of temperature or other weather conditions. The mask must cover your nose and mouth at all times.
- **Doors:** The front doors to the shul and the doors to the Main Sanctuary will be left open to allow to entry and exit without the touching of the doors or door handles.

- **Social Distancing:** Minyan attendees must continue to sit or stand at least 8 feet apart at all times. This applies even to members of the same family. Within the main sanctuary, distance between seats will be measured and those seats available for seating will be marked. At the outdoor minyanim, attendees should continue to sit in the seats as they have been arranged by the shul. We ask that there is no congregating or loitering before or after minyanim. There should also be no shaking of hands, sharing of food or drinks or kiddushes.
- **Siddurim and Chumashim:** Minyan attendees must continue to bring their own siddur and/or chumash to minyan. The shul will not be providing communal siddurim or chumashim at this time and the communal siddurim and chumashim will be taped off. On Shabbat, the shul will provide printed copies of the Parashat HaShavua at each available seat.
- **Sanitizing Between Minyanim:** Shul staff will be on site to clean chairs and/or other surfaces between minyanim.
- **Bathroom Use:** The downstairs Shul bathrooms will be available for use and will be sanitized on a frequent basis by our maintenance staff. The exterior doors of the bathrooms will be left open to minimize communal touch points. Bathroom use should be limited to one at a time.
- **Contact Tracing:** If after attending a minyan you test positive for COVID-19, become aware that you had exposure to someone with COVID-19 or develop symptoms of COVID-19, it is important that you contact the shul office so that appropriate notifications and/or quarantine procedures can be implemented.

Treating Community Members with Respect and Being Forthcoming Regarding Virus Cases:

At this point over 10 million Americans and over 51 million individuals worldwide have been diagnosed with the virus since the pandemic began. We would like to state unequivocally that nobody should feel or be viewed with any stigma if they or a family member is diagnosed with the virus. We encourage any community member who contracts the virus to inform us if they have been in attendance at the shul (and to inform others in the community who may have been exposed) so that appropriate measures and/or notifications can be undertaken if necessary. Any such reports will remain anonymous. Together we can work to mitigate the spread of any cases if they develop within the community.

We thank you in advance for your continued cooperation.

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