

REOPENING GUIDELINES

We are so happy that you are joining our minyanim!

We will begin reopening in phases, starting with Shabbat services. To comply with City mandates, services will be limited to 50 participants who have registered at least 24 hours in advance of each service and are symptom-free at the time of services. The parents of children under the age of 18 must also attest that their children have been isolated and are currently symptom free. Services will be for members only. Because of the need for contact tracing, non-members and walk-ins will not be allowed in the building. The guard will have a list to verify who can attend and there will be no exceptions.

Anyone at risk or immunosuppressed should not put others at risk by joining us. Anyone who is experiencing or has recently experienced symptoms of illness i.e. fever, sore throat or other flu like symptoms should not participate. Anyone who receives a diagnosis of Covid 19 or has been exposed to someone who received a diagnosis should contact the synagogue office immediately so we can begin notifying people who may have been exposed.

Masks covering the nose and mouth must be worn to enter the building and must remain on at all times while in the building. Masks will be available for those who do not bring their own.

Hand sanitizer will be provided. Please use it immediately upon entering the building and again before entering the Main Sanctuary or Balcony.

Tallit will not be provided, so please bring your own. If you want to store your tallis or other personal items in the synagogue, sanitized and locked storage boxes are available for \$50/year.

The first-floor lobby, Main Sanctuary and Balcony levels will be open. All other areas of the building will be closed. The Men's room on the Main Sanctuary level and the Ladies' Room on the Balcony level will be available for use. To reduce the risk of exposure, only one person should be in the bathroom at a time. When you are finished using the bathroom, prop the door open to indicate it is available for someone else.

The building entry door will be frequently sanitized while congregants are in the building. Doors to the Main Sanctuary and Balcony will be propped open to avoid the need to touch the handles. The entire building will be cleaned every week on Friday.

Participants must maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet at all times, including when leaving the Sanctuary. Please leave the building immediately after davening with as little social interaction as possible – no hugs, handshakes, fist bumps or removing your mask.

The handrails on the ramp have been marked with blue painter's tape every six feet so you can gauge how much distance to maintain between you and your fellow congregants as you enter and leave the building. The floor in the lobby has been marked six feet away from the guard's desk. Please respect this boundary.

The seats in the Main Sanctuary and Balcony have been marked with blue painter's tape to indicate where you can sit to maintain proper social distancing. Please do not sit in an unmarked seat. Siddurim have been provided at each available seat; all other siddurim have been removed. Because there will be a week between uses, the siddurim will not be sanitized after use.

There will be no Kiddush, but a water pitcher will be available at the front desk. The guard is the only person who will be allowed to touch the pitcher; he will pour for you and leave it on the desk, then move to a safe distance while you pick up the cup. To maintain our kashrut, please do not bring water or food into the building.

Like many synagogues, we are shortening our formal service to reduce everyone's risk of exposure. Our services will start with Yishtabach at 10:00 and are expected to last 75-90 minutes. For those who wish to daven pseukei d'zimra with others, Frank will lead that portion of the service in the Sanctuary starting at 9:30; but please feel free to daven it at home on your own before joining us for Yishtabach at 10:00.

Because singing increases the risk of transmission, minimal singing will be done and participants are asked to not project their voices unnecessarily to avoid spreading respiratory droplets.

There will be no Torah processional. No congregant will be called to the Torah; the person who leyns will have all the aliyot. There will be one person on the bima at a time.

For your protection, please do not kiss the Torah, mezuzahs or books.

Misha Berachs will be collected beforehand and recited aloud by the Gabbai. If you have a name that is not on the list, please say it in an undertone instead of walking to the bima or shouting it from your seat.

These guidelines have been developed based on best practices we have collected from Chicago-area shuls that have already reopened. Our practices may be modified from time to time depending on health guidelines, city and state mandates and the consensus of the participants involved.