

Dear members,

As many of you know, COVID-19 cases are rising again in New York City and around the US, largely due to increases in the more contagious delta variant and to the large number of people who are still unvaccinated. As a result, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) now recommends indoor masking in schools regardless of vaccination status, and New York City will begin to require people to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination for many indoor activities. Many of you have inquired as to changes to LSS's attendance guidelines, both in the short term and for the High Holidays.

Earlier this week, Rabbi Dr. Aaron Glatt, an Infectious Disease Specialist, under the auspices of the Rabbinical Council of America, provided his recommendations for synagogues leading up to the High Holidays. According to Rabbi Glatt, rules need to be appropriate and adjusted to the actual level of risk, and masking is not necessary in large, high-ceilinged sanctuaries, especially when they are not crowded with people and virtually everyone is vaccinated. Nevertheless, we are aware that many of you are nervous and/or cautious, and for good reason.

In view of the increases in infection rates and recent changed guidelines and recommendations, the LSS Moveback Committee met this week to review the various options for LSS, and, after a lengthy and lively discussion, decided as follows:

- For the next few weeks (during the month of Elul and until Labor Day), because attendance at services on Friday night and Shabbat morning is expected to be somewhat lighter during the month of August and there will be room to spread out, wearing masks at indoor services will not be required but is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED**, for all those who are vaccinated (this applies less so on weekdays, when attendance is sparse). However, anyone who is **NOT** vaccinated **MUST** wear a mask and, in the sanctuary, should sit in the grey seats along the back wall.
- The main service will not have a Kiddush indoors for the foreseeable future. This means that, on any weeks when the terrace is rented for a private luncheon after Shabbat services, there will not be a communal kiddush. The Hashkama and Beginners kiddushes will remain for vaccinated individuals only.
- During the High Holidays, wearing masks covering the nose and mouth will be **REQUIRED** at all indoor services by all attendees. Mask wearing will continue to be optional at outdoor services.
- In addition, anyone attending services at LSS during the High Holidays, whether indoor or outdoor, will be **REQUIRED** to submit proof of vaccination in order to get confirmation of a seat. This means that anyone who has not provided such proof of vaccination status will **NOT** receive a seat assignment and will **NOT** be permitted to enter LSS to attend services over the High Holidays (even walk-ins for Neilah will be required to show their vaccination cards). Within the next week, LSS will provide details of how such proof can be submitted in a manner that strictly maintains everyone's privacy. (For the small minority of you who are not comfortable submitting such proof to LSS, an alternative way of assuring vaccination status will be provided.)

I remind everyone that, during the High Holidays, we will have three large services, one in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary, one on The Spira Family Terrace, and one in the ballroom -- space is filling up quickly, so please be sure to make your reservations

through <https://www.lss.org/form/hhseats2021> as soon as possible. (The Kollel minyan on the third floor is already full, and seats at the beginners service in the Beit Medrash are available here: <https://www.lss.org/form/beginners-hh-seats3.html>) If anyone has already made reservations and would like to change them due to the above changes in the COVID attendance guidelines, please contact the LSS office, and we will do our best to accommodate you..

The Moveback Committee will continue to monitor the situation to determine if any changes need to be made, in order to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all of our congregants.

Please feel free to reach out to Rabbi Robinson, Tamar Fix or me with any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Morey Wildes', written in a cursive style.

*Morey Wildes*  
*President*  
*Lincoln Square Synagogue*  
[president@lss.org](mailto:president@lss.org)