

Requirements for Attending In-Person Services at TI During COVID Pandemic Updated November 11, 2020

Mazel tov on your upcoming (bat/bar/kabalat) mitzvah!

As part of an effort to keep all of us as safe as possible during the pandemic, the TI COVID Committee established the following requirements for those attending services in the Sanctuary so that services can occur in person in the synagogue. Please note these requirements when making decisions regarding your simcha. We expect you to share these requirements with your family and guests well in advance so that everyone who comes to the Sanctuary has a happy and healthy simcha.

Maximum Number of People

To be safely distanced, we will be able to have up to 9 separated seating areas in the Sanctuary for a maximum of 30 people, whichever is less. Each seating area will be for an individual or a family unit that lives together (“family unit”). This includes any congregants who will be participating in the service, as well as your family and guests.

The seating arrangements will be made in consultation with the Rabbi. Administrative staff will send you a seating chart. Please provide a list of those you want to have present in the Sanctuary and indicate who is in a family unit to Rabbi Werbow (mwerbow@tifereth-israel.org) and Sheri Blonder (sheri@tifereth-israel.org) at least 2 weeks before your simcha.

Out-of-Town and Local Guests

Out of Town Guests: Anyone* coming into Washington, DC from other than a “low-risk jurisdiction” needs to have proof a negative test taken within 72 hours of arrival, and if staying for more than 3 days, they should obtain a second test within 3-5 days of arrival.

*Visitors from Maryland, Virginia, Hawaii and Vermont are currently exempt. See <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/phasetwo> for the latest guidance from the District of Columbia. The Mayor’s Order of November 6, 2020 can be found here: https://coronavirus.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/coronavirus/page_content/attachments/MO%202020-110%20%20Modified%20Requirements%20Regarding%20Self-Quarantines%2C%20Testing%2C%20and%20Travel%20During%20the%20COVID-19%20Public%20Health%20Emergency%20%2811-6-2020%29.pdf

For those coming to this area from out of town, it is preferred that testing happen in the DC region.

Any guest from the DC region should be tested five days of the date of the simcha.

Once the testing has occurred, the visitors should NOT interact with others until the simcha.

Resources for testing in DC and Montgomery County, MD:

<https://coronavirus.dc.gov/testing>

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/testing.html>

Same-day tests are available by appointment at Medical access in Germantown: <https://www.medicalaccessmd.com/>

Any guest testing positive or who experiences any of the symptoms listed below (see “In case you test positive or develop symptoms”) will not be allowed to enter the synagogue.

Prior to your Simcha, please do the following:

- Avoid any travel out-of-town within two weeks of the date of your simcha.
- Get tested for COVID-19 five days before you will be in the Sanctuary. Five days will allow you to get your results. Do NOT come into the Sanctuary if you haven't received your results. (See resources for testing above)
- Between your test and the simcha, minimize contact with others not in your family unit and avoid public spaces where you may be in close proximity to others.
- **In case you test positive or develop symptoms:**
Do not enter the Sanctuary and alert Rabbi Werbow if your test results are positive or if you experience any of the following symptoms, even in mild form, **in the week before or day of** the simcha:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea

The Day of the Simcha

We know that you are thrilled to be celebrating with family and friends in person again, but given the risk to the community, you must take the responsibility of being part of this service extremely seriously. As the person/family hosting the event, you must model healthy behavior. This will not only make others feel safer and more comfortable, it will also show the importance of prevention activities. Mistakes and slip-ups can have very dire circumstances.

- A member of the TI staff will send you additional instructions about entering the building, seating assignments, and building use in advance of the simcha. Please be on the lookout for this note, read it carefully when you get it, and share with relevant family and friends.
- Remain in your assigned area, as distant as you can from others, with the exception of those in your family unit who will be seated in your area.
- Wear a mask at all times, except when leading a part of the service. NO EXCEPTIONS.

One caveat: The situation regarding COVID19 can change. Please be aware that these requirements may change (even within days of your simcha). Please check the DC government's website to make sure you are aware of the latest requirements. <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/phasetwo>

It is truly a group effort to keep us all as healthy as we can. Thanks in advance to everyone for observing these guidelines. Please do not hesitate to contact Rabbi Werbow if you have any questions or concerns.

Jevera Temsky
Executive Director

Sylvia Horwitz
President