

Requirements for Attendees at In-Person Services at TI during COVID-19 Pandemic Effective May 20, 2021

As part of an effort to keep all of us as safe as possible during the pandemic, the Tifereth Israel (TI) COVID Committee established the following requirements for those attending services in the sanctuary. While neither we nor any organization can guarantee individuals' health and safety, and ultimately individuals must make individual decisions about whether to assume the risk of attending services, we offer the following requirements, which will also apply if services are held indoors in another part of the synagogue.

GUIDING JEWISH VALUES AND TEACHINGS (adapted from Congregation Bet Haverim of Atlanta, GA)

- *Pikuah nefesh*/ saving a life - safety of both staff and congregants, as well as the general public health
- Equity - we strive for fair access to our offerings for all community members
- *Lifnei iver lo titen mich'shol* / Do not put a stumbling block before the blind - we recognize our hunger to be together, and are mindful of crafting environments that support safe individual behaviors. If we find that when we gather, individuals are unable to adhere to safety guidelines, we will return to virtual gatherings, removing the proverbial stumbling block
- *Kol Yisrael arevim zeh l'zeh* - We are all responsible for one another

TI POLICY

It is the policy of TI that all who enter receive all vaccinations listed in the CDC recommendations for vaccinations. Those who may not receive certain vaccinations for medical reasons should follow the CDC vaccination guidance for "special situations." **We strongly encourage all who are eligible to get vaccinated for COVID-19.** We also strongly recommend testing before attending services if you may have come into contact with someone who was ill with Covid recently or traveled from an area with ongoing community transmission (<14 days).

PRE-REGISTRATION

For weeks when there is no *b'nai mitzvah*, all those wishing to attend a service in the sanctuary will be required to pre-register via the TI website. This will ensure that we do not exceed our maximum numbers and to assist in the process of contact tracing should that information be needed. When there is a *b'nai mitzvah*, the family will provide a list of their guests, with contact information, and registration will not be open to the congregation as a whole.

SIZE OF GATHERINGS

The maximum number in the sanctuary is 32 households or 'pods' with a maximum of 50 total attendees. That number will be reassessed periodically by the COVID Committee. The sanctuary will include up to 32 designated seating areas, one for each individual or household/"pod." Please note that these limits are much stricter than the District of Columbia's guidance for places of worship and may be revised, depending on conditions.

ELIGIBILITY

Do not enter the synagogue building if you or anyone in your household are experiencing: 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, and diarrhea. Unless you have a current negative COVID test, you should also not enter the synagogue if you have had close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19. In addition, do not enter the synagogue if you have been contacted by the Health Department about a possible COVID exposure, or are awaiting results of a COVID test.

GUIDELINES FOR BEING IN THE SANCTUARY

Given the risk to the community, we ask that you take the responsibility for following these COVID guidelines extremely seriously. Your healthy behaviors will not only make others feel safer and more comfortable, they will also show the importance of prevention activities.

- Everyone must remain in their seating area during services
- If you need to leave the area to go to the bimah, use the restroom, etc., you must maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from others
- Everyone is required to wear a mask at all times, except when leading services
- If you are leading services, you must wear your mask until you are at your lectern or on the bimah and at least 6 feet from others. Replace your mask before you leave your station
- While on the bimah, if you need to approach within 6 feet of someone (i.e., to help them find their place in the Torah), you must first put on your mask. Please try to move to a distance of 6 feet or more as soon as possible.

THESE GUIDELINES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

We are continuing to monitor the situation regarding COVID-19 on an ongoing basis. Since the situation can change, please be aware that TI's requirements may also change, even within days of the service. If there are changes, the COVID Committee will do our best to convey them to you in a timely manner.

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 at mwerbow@tifereth-israel.org if you have any questions or concerns.