

## **Requirements for Attendees at In-Person Services at TI during COVID-19 Pandemic Effective August 27, 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**

In accordance with our vaccine policy, all individuals over the age of 12 attending in-person services at Tifereth Israel must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19. Unvaccinated children under 12 are allowed to attend under the supervision of a parent or guardian and must remain masked while inside the building. If you are eligible for the vaccine, but have medical reasons for not being able to receive a Covid-19 vaccination, please discuss with Rabbi Werbow before attending in-person services. As of July 31, the District of Columbia has mandated that all individuals over the age of two wear a mask while indoors.

### **PRE-REGISTRATION**

While it is not required for regular services, we encourage attendees to pre-register for Shabbat morning services via the TI website. This will assist in the process of contact tracing should that information be needed. When there is a *b'nai mitzvah*, the family will participate in determining whether the service will be open to the congregation as a whole and whether pre-registration will be required.

### **SIZE OF GATHERINGS**

Effective August 30, the maximum number of individuals in the Wolman Sanctuary is capped at 200. The maximum for the Cherner Auditorium is 100.

### **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 protect you, they will make others feel safer and more comfortable, and they will show the importance of prevention activities.

- Everyone is encouraged to remain in their seating area during services.
- If you need to leave the area to go to the bimah, use the restroom, etc., please maintain a distance of six feet from others.
- Everyone (including children age 2+) is required to wear a mask at all times, except when leading services.
- If you are leading services, you must wear your mask when not at your lectern or on the bimah.
- While on the bimah, if you need to approach within six 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 six feet or more as soon as possible.

### **ROOM CLOSURES**

TI recently had a ventilation study conducted to ensure proper airflow in our building and use of a MERV-13 filtration. As a result of the study, we will discontinue use of the Brides Room and the upstairs classrooms until ventilation in those areas can be improved.

### **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](mailto:mwerbow@tifereth-israel.org) if you have any questions or concerns.