

Requirements for B'nai Mitzvah Families (and Guests)
Attending In-Person Services at TI during the COVID Pandemic
Updated December 29, 2020

Mazel tov on your upcoming (bat/bar/kabbalat) 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. 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 experience.

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PEOPLE, GUEST LIST AND SEATING

To be safely distanced, you will have up to nine separate seating areas in the Sanctuary, together totaling a maximum of 25 attendees. Each seating area will be for an individual or a Family Unit that lives together.

Please compile a list of everyone you expect to have present in the Sanctuary and indicate who belongs in each Family Unit. Send this list to Rabbi Werbow (mwerbow@tifereth-israel.org) and Sheri Blonder (sheri@tifereth-israel.org) *at least 2 weeks before your simcha*. A member of the administrative staff will place signs on seats in the Sanctuary for each individual or Family Unit.

In advance of the simcha, a staff member will email additional instructions related to seating assignments and building use. Please be on the lookout for this note, read it carefully when you get it, and share with your family and friends.

TESTING REQUIREMENTS

Because COVID can be asymptomatic, testing is one important way to determine whether or not someone has been infected. Without exception, everyone who will attend services in person must be tested. Anyone testing positive will not be allowed in the synagogue.

Out-of-Town Family and Guests

Anyone coming into Washington, DC should follow the guidelines on testing, quarantining and limiting exposure as laid out by the DC government. This information can be found at <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/>.

Local Family and Guests

People who live locally are asked to avoid any travel outside of DC, Maryland and Virginia within two weeks of the date of the simcha.

Local residents are required to get tested no more than five days before the date of the simcha and far enough in advance to obtain results by Friday, the day before the simcha. PCR tests are preferable and generally take 3-5 days for results. You can find resources for testing in DC and Montgomery County at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/testing.html> and <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/testing>.

All Family and Guests

Everyone in your party is asked to curtail, as much as possible, contact outside their Family Unit between the time of their test and the simcha. This means avoiding public spaces where you may be in close proximity to others. This includes but is not limited to in-person learning, grocery stores and other stores, enclosed spaces

such as restaurants and bars, and enclosed private gatherings—large and small—regardless of how well attendees know one another.

IN CASE OF A POSITIVE TEST OR SYMPTOMS (EVEN MILD)

COVID-19 symptoms can include 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.

During the week before the simcha, if you, a guest, a family member, or anyone in a Family Unit tests positive or has even mild symptoms:

- Neither that individual nor anyone one in the Family Unit (if applicable) may come into the synagogue.
- You must alert Rabbi Werbow right away. He needs to know in order to offer comfort and to discuss appropriate adaptations to the service. He may also need to find someone to substitute for a part in the service or to ensure a minyan.

On the day of the simcha, if anyone receives a positive test result or has even mild symptoms, neither that individual nor anyone in the Family Unit (if applicable) may come into the synagogue.

THE DAY OF THE SIMCHA - STAYING HEALTHY!

We know that you are thrilled to be celebrating with family and friends in person again, and it is challenging to have your simcha during the pandemic. Given the risk to the community, we ask that you take responsibility for following these COVID-19 guidelines extremely seriously. As the person/family hosting the event, your behavior will set a tone for others. Your healthy behaviors will not only make others feel safer and more comfortable, it will also show the importance of prevention activities.

- Everyone will need to remain in the seating area assigned to the Family Unit.
- If you need to leave the area to go to the bimah, use the restroom, etc., please maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from others not in your Family Unit.
- Everyone is required to wear a mask at all times, unless 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. You must 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 and move away as soon as you are able.

AN IMPORTANT CAVEAT

Since the situation regarding COVID-19 can change, please be aware that TI's requirements may also change, even within days of your simcha. If there are changes, the COVID Committee will do our best to convey them to you in a timely manner. Please also check the DC government's website (<https://coronavirus.dc.gov>) to make sure you are aware of the most up-to-date local requirements.

Again, mazel tov on your upcoming simcha. 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.